DECLARATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

1. At the generous invitation of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Second meeting of the Roundtable for a Sustainable Cocoa Economy (RSCE2) took place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago from 24-26 March 2009.

2. The second Roundtable meeting was sponsored and facilitated by the Governments of Côte d’Ivoire, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Trinidad and Tobago and by the International Cocoa Organization.

3. The Roundtable brought together almost 300 participants from 29 countries spanning the five continents of the world. They included representatives from the Cocoa Producers’ Alliance and its Member governments, cocoa farmers, co-operatives, traders, exporters, processors, chocolate manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

4. The meetings were conducted over three days in seven plenary sessions and three focus groups. Each focus group meeting discussed the way forward, building on the Accra Agenda from a different perspective: one from the perspective of farmers, one from the perspective of governments and one from the perspective of the industry and civil society. Delegates were allowed to participate in whichever Focus Group was of most interest to them.

5. Participants reviewed the progress achieved in the implementation of the Accra Agenda and discussed major issues contained in a number of presentations. It was recognized that the Accra Agenda had raised awareness on the need to work towards a sustainable cocoa economy and had made considerable progress in that direction by establishing priority areas of action towards a sustainable cocoa economy. Participants in the second Roundtable expressed the strong wish to reach agreement on the way forward to better implement the priority areas of action contained in the Accra Agenda.

6. The presentations stimulated active and useful discussions amongst the different stakeholders, facilitated by the Chair. From the brainstorming sessions, each group developed a list of recommendations/areas for priority actions seen from their group’s perspective. The Roundtable arrived at the following conclusions:

On Key Elements to Enhance the Implementation of the Accra Agenda

7. The Roundtable agreed on a working document containing ten key elements to be further discussed at future meetings.
On the Guidelines on Best Known Practices in the Cocoa Value Chain

8. The Roundtable noted with appreciation the document presented and encouraged its authors to further improve it by widening its scope to include all stages such as processing, manufacturing, retailing and consumption.

Modus Operandi of the RSCE

9. The Roundtable agreed to continue its work as a Coalition of Stakeholders hosted and facilitated by ICCO. The negotiations on the new International Cocoa Agreement provide Members with the opportunity to examine the ways and means of providing the appropriate legal framework for the Roundtable.

On the Creation of a Cocoa Sustainability Fund

10. The Roundtable agreed to set up an Expert Working Group to thoroughly study the feasibility of establishing a Cocoa Sustainability Fund to provide additional direct and timely financing of relevant projects and programmes in the cocoa sector, primarily for the benefit of producers. This Fund should also support the use of non-financial measures to support producers. It was further agreed that there should be closer cooperation and coordination at national level between the public sector and private sector stakeholders to enhance the development of the cocoa sector.

Next Steps

11. Participants expressed their resolve to continue working together in a spirit of cooperation and respect for the roles to be played by the different stakeholders. Action on the way forward suggested by many participants included support and encouragement for producing and consuming countries to develop and implement national plans for achieving a sustainable cocoa economy. Among others, it was also suggested to develop a system of monitoring of activities aimed at achieving sustainability in the cocoa sector.

12. Participants agreed to continue the process initiated in Accra and to hold a Third Roundtable for a Sustainable Cocoa Economy (RSCE3) in the Netherlands, at a time to be determined.

13. Participants would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the Government and to the people of Trinidad and Tobago for their warm hospitality and for the perfect organization of the Roundtable, thus contributing to making it a resounding success.

Port of Spain, 26 March 2009