



BRIEF REPORT ON THE WORLD COCOA CONFERENCE

19-23 NOVEMBER 2012 – ABIDJAN, CÔTE D'IVOIRE

1. The first-ever edition of the World Cocoa Conference successfully concluded on Friday, 23 November 2012 with participants adopting a *Global Cocoa Agenda*, outlining the key issues facing the cocoa sector and the best strategy and players to tackle them, with specific actions to be implemented at national and international levels. The Conference climaxed with the signing, by representatives of the cocoa sector stakeholders, including governments, producers, processors, exporters, traders, chocolate manufacturers and civil society, of the *Abidjan Cocoa Declaration*, outlining a course of action to bring about major changes in the cocoa sector. The Agenda and the Declaration aim to move the entire sector onto a path of sustainable development that will benefit all stakeholders along the cocoa value chain.

2. The Conference was organized by the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) and held at the *Hôtel Ivoire* in Abidjan from 19-23 November 2012, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic Côte d'Ivoire. It was attended by in excess of 1,200 delegates from 46 countries from all over the world. Sponsorship was generously provided by the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and of the Netherlands, by the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, the Dutch Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (IDH), Afreximbank, Ecobank and 22 other sponsors.

3. The Conference was officially opened by the President of Côte d'Ivoire, His Excellency Dr. Alassane Ouattara, with the Ivorian Prime Minister inaugurating the Exhibition. In addition, the First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire, Madame Dominique Ouattara delivered an address on the subject of child labour, in her capacity as leader of the country's programme to eliminate the practice.

4. The other key topics debated by over 90 speakers and panelists at the Conference include increasing cocoa productivity and quality, improving farmer incomes, cocoa certification, development of a sustainable cocoa industry and promotion of cocoa consumption. The diverse range of presentations also informed delegates about the latest developments in the sector, including from producer representatives originating from West Africa, Latin America and Asia, and attendees considered the various initiatives under way to help the development of the sector and the millions of stakeholders that depend on it worldwide.

Signatories to the Abidjan Cocoa Declaration

5. As at 30 November 2012, some 29 organizations and countries operating across the spectrum of the international cocoa sector had signed the ground-breaking Abidjan Cocoa Declaration. They include: Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Cameroon, Ecuador, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Togo, Papua New Guinea, the ACP Group of States, IDH, CAOBISCO, ECA, WCF, ICI, FCC, HCCO, Talants, Mars, Mondelēz International, Nestlé, Ferrero Trading, CEMOI, Petra Foods, Barry Callebaut, Cargill, ADM, Armajaro Trading Ltd, Touton, Olam International /Outspan Ivoire and Amtrada/Continaf.

6. The cocoa sector stakeholders, ranging from cocoa growers, through their governments, to civil society and most of the world's largest cocoa traders and processors as well as manufacturers of chocolate, began the signing procedure at a special ceremony that concluded the World Cocoa Conference. A number of additional stakeholders were able to sign the Declaration after the Conference.

7. **It should be noted that the Abidjan Declaration remains open to enable more cocoa stakeholders to sign it. All interested parties are invited to contact the ICCO Secretariat via one of the following e-mails: exec.dir@icco.org or dir.econ@icco.org**

8. The Abidjan Cocoa Declaration, which recommends specific and measurable actions to achieve a sustainable cocoa economy, reflects the more detailed proposals of the Global Cocoa Agenda. The important issues highlighted by the Agenda formed the basis of many of the presentations, discussions and panel sessions that took place at the World Cocoa Conference.

9. The Agenda and the Declaration are to be the first step in an ongoing process aimed at creating a sustainable future for the cocoa sector and helping to ensure that its benefits are shared along the entire chain, starting with the growers.

10. The texts of the Abidjan Cocoa Declaration, the Global Cocoa Agenda, the presentations and all other relevant material are downloadable from the ICCO website www.icco.org.

11. The next edition of the Conference, which will track the progress of the initiatives agreed under the Global Cocoa Agenda, is due to take place in the Netherlands in 2014.