



**INTERNATIONAL COCOA ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU CACAO
МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ПО КАКАО
ORGANIZACION INTERNACIONAL DEL CACAO**

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CONSULTATIVE BOARD ON THE WORLD COCOA ECONOMY

Thirty-ninth meeting

Heden Golf Hotel, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

**REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE BOARD ON THE WORLD COCOA ECONOMY
AT ITS THIRTY-NINTH MEETING**

(09 SEPTEMBER 2019)

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OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The thirty-ninth meeting of the Consultative Board on the World Cocoa Economy was opened by its Chairman, Dr. Victor Iyama, National President of the Federation of Agricultural Commodity Associations of Nigeria (FACAN).

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2. The Executive Director presented the draft agenda as contained in document CB/39/1. The Board adopted the agenda, requesting the ICCO Secretariat to provide an update on the ongoing revision of the ICA, 2010 under other business.

3. Furthermore, the ICCO Secretariat suggested discussing agenda item 8 after agenda item 4.

STATE OF PLAY REGARDING THE ICCO STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION

4. The Executive Director updated the Board on the current situation regarding the 5-year Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) for the ICCO Secretariat.

5. Members congratulated the Secretariat for revising and submitting this improved version. They also suggested considering the use of trade associations and sustainability platforms to access and share information with cocoa stakeholders.

6. The spokesperson for cocoa producing countries highlighted the need to reformulate the specific objectives 15 and 16 of the revised Strategic Plan of Action, and asked for these objectives to be put on hold until the Group of producing countries provides the ICCO Secretariat with revised proposals.

ISSUE PAPER ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY COCOA COMMUNITIES AND FARMERS

7. The Secretariat presented document EC/14/5 outlining a roadmap to increase the income of cocoa farmers and their communities. The Board agreed on the importance of this topic and encouraged the Secretariat to engage with cocoa stakeholders who have already successfully implemented such programs in order to develop concrete proposals under section C of the SPA.

8. The spokesperson for cocoa producing countries highlighted the need to reformulate paragraph 8 of the document which states “... *the effective implementation of these programmes requires governance reforms and capacity strengthening in tropical forest countries*”, and mentioned that the Group of producing countries will provide the ICCO Secretariat with a revised paragraph.

PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE THE STATISTICS PUBLISHED BY THE ICCO SECRETARIAT

9. The Secretariat presented document EC/14/6, assessing the reliability of the ICCO Secretariat's cocoa statistics as well as the ongoing and planned actions for improvement.

10. The Board welcomed the initiatives, recalling the importance of enhancing market transparency; and suggested to the Secretariat to engage with UNCTAD and FAO so as to fill any eventual gap in cocoa statistics.

IMPROVING ICCO COMMUNICATION STRATEGY AND VISIBILITY: PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS, PROPOSED ACTIONS AND BUDGET FOR THE 2019/2020 COCOA YEAR

11. The Secretariat presented document EC/14/7 which outlines a preliminary analysis and actions aiming at improving the communication and visibility of the ICCO Secretariat.

12. The Board commended the ICCO Secretariat's proposal to improve the visibility of the organization by adopting a proper communication strategy focusing on digital social media.

MEASURES TO INCREASE THE ICCO SECRETARIAT PORTFOLIO OF PROJECTS

13. The ICCO Secretariat provided the Board with an oral presentation on measures to increase its portfolio of projects, with reference to document EC/14/13.

14. Members stressed the importance of projects and research for the world cocoa economy. They additionally suggested a stronger engagement with the private sector and donors to ensure the implementation and financing of projects.

CONCEPT NOTE ON THE GENERIC PROMOTION OF COCOA PRODUCTS CONSUMPTION

15. The Board received an oral update on the current outlook for the cocoa products market, as contained in document EC/14/8.

16. After discussions among Members, the ICCO Secretariat stressed the link between increasing cocoa consumption and higher world cocoa prices and assured the Board that a decision will be taken at the upcoming Economics Committee on the best strategy to be adopted.

PREPARATIONS TO HOLD THE FIFTH EDITION OF THE WORLD COCOA CONFERENCE (WCC5)

17. The Executive Director updated the Board on the preparations for the 5th edition of the World Cocoa Conference which will be held at the *Bali Nusa Dua Convention Center* (BNDCC), Bali, Indonesia, on 20-23 September 2020.

18. Members of the Board agreed on the new methodology proposed by the ICCO Secretariat to develop the conference programme and would welcome the opportunity to provide feedback.

19. The Board suggested to the ICCO Secretariat to share the draft program by mid-October 2019 so as to have ample time for revisions and comments and, if possible, to present the programme via video-conference.

20. Furthermore, the Board agreed on the importance of the proposed theme for the WCC5, "***Living Income for Cocoa farmers – a Bottom Line***". The Board also suggested considering the following possible themes:

- Cocoa farming as a prosperous livelihood;
- Value distribution within the cocoa value chain

21. Lastly, the Members stressed the importance of a participatory process when drafting the conference declaration.

22. The Board suggested increasing the number of sponsored farmers from 30 to 50 and ensuring smooth visa application and issuance procedures for cocoa farmers to attend the conference.

23. Furthermore, Members suggested to the ICCO Secretariat to carry out an assessment of the impact of the previous World Cocoa Conferences on cocoa farmers and producing countries.

OTHER BUSINESS

24. *Progress on the revision of the ICA, 2010:* The Executive Director provided a summary of the progress achieved by the Working Group on the revision of the Agreement. He recalled that the final document would be submitted for approval in March 2020 during the next ICCO statutory meetings.

RECORD OF DECISIONS

25. The Board took its record of decisions as read.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Mr François Ruf, CIRAD, France

Mr Antonie Fountain, Voice Network, Netherlands

Mr Benyi K. Johnson, Gracias - Togo, Togo

Mr Edmond Konan, Global Business Consulting, Côte d'Ivoire

Mr Jean-Yves Couloud, Mars, Côte d'Ivoire

Mrs Valérie Reboud, IDH, Côte d'Ivoire

Mr Alex Assanvo, Mars, Belgium

Mrs Anne-Marie Yao, Fairtrade Africa, Côte d'Ivoire

Mr Siriki Diakité, Rainforest Alliance, Côte d'Ivoire

Mr Michiel Hendriksz, Farmstrong Foundation, Switzerland

Mr Richard Scobey, World Cocoa Foundation, USA

Mr Timothy Mccoy, World Cocoa Foundation, USA

Mrs Beate Weiskopf, GISCO, Germany

Mrs Cathy Pieters, Mondelez, Switzerland

Mrs Laurence Moh, Conseil du Café-Cacao, Côte d'Ivoire

Mrs Rosemarie Tanoé, Conseil du Café-Cacao, Côte d'Ivoire

Mrs Elena Stoyanova, Ministry of Economic Development, Russian Federation

Mrs Christine Mueller, Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa, Switzerland

Mr Emanuele Biraghi, UNICEF, Côte d'Ivoire

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Mr Boussamba Chrisanthe, CAISTAB, Gabon

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Mr Stephen Boafo, Ghana Cocoa Board, Ghana

Hon Joseph Boahen-Aidoo, Ghana Cocoa Board, Ghana

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