

**WORLD
COFFEE
PRODUCERS
FORUM**



Third World Coffee Producers Forum Kigali Declaration

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The third edition of the World Coffee Producers Forum was held in the city of Kigali, Rwanda, on February 13 and 14, 2023.

Considering

1. That the first Forum that was held in Colombia in 2017 raised worldwide awareness to the need for economic sustainability in global coffee supply. However, there has not been effective engagement from the other sectors in the coffee value chain to improve coffee producers' remuneration.
2. That the second Forum that was held in Brazil in 2019 highlighted the need for interaction among all agents in the value chain for the development of global actions in addition to those already carried out in each country, with co-responsibility of all public and private agents in the coffee trade to guarantee the implementation of sustainability in its economic, environmental and social dimensions.
3. That such interactions should include all the links in the value chain in a systematic manner including all stakeholders in Producing Countries.
4. That designing and implementing National Coffee Sustainability Plans is necessary to achieve prosperity for coffee producers.
5. That the meeting in Kigali was hosted by the Government of Rwanda through the National Agricultural Export Development Board, and officially opened by Hon. Dr. Gerardine Mukeshimana, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources.
6. That the opening ceremony had high level speakers including HE Hailemariam Desalegn, Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Dr. Jamie Coats, Dr. Vanusia Nogueira, Amb. Solomon Rutega, Mr. Claude Bizimana, CEO of the National Agricultural Export Development Board and Dr. Juan Esteban Orduz, Chairman of the Forum.
7. That the meeting in Kigali gathered 1,020 attendees from 43 Countries who discussed the most relevant topics for coffee producers and came to the following conclusions and made the following recommendations:

Does living income lead to prosperity?

Deliberations and Conclusions

- Living Income means survival income and it is not enough.
- The cost of production is not always covered and paying farmers below the cost of production is an injustice.
- The cost of production is increasing due to price of inputs and additional requirements of industry like certification, transition to regenerative agriculture etc.
- Farmers should be compensated by good prices and also for their efforts to increase productivity leading to the improvement on income generation, thus contributing to prosperity.
- Living Income alone does not allow farmers to have disposable income and savings, the ability to invest, deal with crisis such as COVID-19, and environmental stresses and pressure.

Recommendations

- The coffee value chain should pursue the prosperity and sustainability of coffee farmers.
- The coffee value chain should change its mind set from Living Income as a final goal and make Prosperity and Sustainability the final goal.

Is climate change the end of coffee?

Deliberations and Conclusions

- Climate change is happening already: it is affecting the livelihoods of coffee farmers who are becoming even more vulnerable and impacting the quality and quantity of coffee produced.

Recommendations

- There is a continuous need for:
 - Knowledge transfer and capacity building on Good Agricultural Practices including diversification, regenerative agriculture and agroforestry to farmers.
 - Research on climate resilient varieties.
 - Alternative strategies in integrated farm management.
- The world needs to value the service of coffee to the environment by rewarding the farmers for their current positive contribution. The current models of Payment for Environmental Services and/or carbon credits should consider the reality of the coffee landscapes.
- Additional private and public impact investment is critical and should be collaborative.
- The role and voice of the youth and women are key.

Will increased environmental regulations in consuming countries save the planet or ruin farmers?

Deliberations and Conclusions

- The climate crisis has been primarily caused by Developed Countries and not Developing Countries.
- Environmental legislations are important but in order for their effective implementation they should be inclusive of the entire coffee value chain. As the laws stand now and those being proposed, they are consumer-driven and non-inclusive of the coffee farmer who is the basic link of the coffee value chain, and instrumental for the protection of the environment.
- International environmental and agricultural related regulations in Consuming Countries can be well intentioned, but can have very negative impact on farmers unless they are informed and engaged.

Recommendations

- Legislators and regulators should educate themselves well and visit Producing Countries to understand the reality on the ground.
- Clear information regarding the laws should be provided.
- Consider coffee trees cultivation as afforestation and carbon credit inclusive.
- Avail support through funding and other compensating mechanisms to achieve the expected practical results from the regulations/laws.
- Adequate transition time should be given for the implementation of the laws and regulations.
- The cost of implementation of regulations imposed by Consuming Countries should be borne by such Countries.

Mandate

Considering the above highlighted points, the attendees at this meeting request the World Coffee Producers Forum to continue the work proposed to deliver the guidelines for Producing Countries to develop “SDG-based National Coffee Sustainability Plans to Achieve Farmers’ Prosperity” together with relevant stakeholders and partners.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place in July 2025.

This declaration was made in Kigali on 14 February 2023.