



UTRECTH: 20-07-2020

SUBJECT: CQE Nr. 001/2020

COMMUNIQUE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COCOA FARMERS ORGANIZATION (ICCFO).

After three years of collaboration with the World Cocoa Farmers Organization (WCFO), Members of the International Cocoa Farmers Organization (ICCFO) decided to discontinue their collaboration with WCFO. Since, the creation of the International Cocoa Farmers Organization in 2014, members of the organization have always stand firm with the principal OBJECTIVES of the ICCFO to: 1) Defend the Interest of Members, and 2) advocate RECOGNITION of Cocoa Farmers as Independent Cocoa Entrepreneurs. Reluctance by some members countries to implement these values during the last three years, brought the end to our collaboration with WCFO.

The International Cocoa Farmers Organization (ICCFO) held its General Assembly Meeting (GAM) on the 4 to 7, of June 2020. The GAM was held through video access and brought together the organization members from 15 countries from the following growing regions: Africa, South America, and the Caribbean Community.

Meeting Conclusion:

Members attending the GAM voted to approve implementation of the following:

1. Election of New Governing Board (GB) and Management Team for (5) five years;
 2. To establish two offices for the organization: in Côte d'Ivoire, and in the Netherlands and the;
 3. Suspension of membership from Ghana.
- New Governing Board (GB) Members elected the below persons to manage the affairs of the organization for the coming (5) five years:

Mr. Jorge E. SARMIENTO – Global President;
Mr. Patrick Enyong ESAPA - First V.P - Africa;
Mr. Luis Mendoza - Vice-President - South America
Mr. Vicente Gutierrez - Vice-President - Central America
Mr. Isidoro de LAROSA (Dominican Republic) V.P - Caribbean Community;
Mr. Christophe Auguste DOUKA (Côte d'Ivoire) - Secretary General;
Mr. Warren SAKO (Netherlands) - Executive Director.

Working Committees

In order to better serve our members and to effectively involve and contribute in sector action as a major stakeholder, the Members of the Governing Board voted and approved the establishment of nine (9) Working Committees, to support and to provide exclusive insight and progressive know-how based on the activity of the Committee.



Committees include:

1. Members Affairs – Committee.	6. Market and Innovation – Committee.
2. Finance and Budget – Committee.	7. Standards and Certification – Committee.
3. Cocoa Sale and Price – Committee.	8. Gender and Child Labour – Committee.
4. Production and Consumption – Committee.	9. Climate change and Deforestation – Committee.
5. Cocoa Sustainability – Committee.	

Our Demands:

It is undeniable that for decades stakeholders in the cocoa sector have discussed and make decisions regarding to impact our lives, business and community. These decisions affect and influence us-daily in our livelihoods, our business and our communities worldwide, that is why we demand that:

1. Cocoa producing government (particularly) in West and Central Africa, should cease from playing the role of our members. We remain ready to meaningfully engage with governments of the countries, to discuss and find a way forward to address challenges that are negatively impacting the lives of our members, and cocoa profession.
2. Côte d'Ivoire government regulatory body Conseil Café Cacao (CCC) to revisit its decision dated 14 September 2017 with **Ref: CCC 125.17 YBK/DGA-FD/DV-KIEK/Kp**, specifically points: **7, 8 and 9**. It VIOLATES and RESTRICT the RIGHTS of members (cocoa farmers) as COCOA ENTREPRENEURS. We understand decision was for a period of three years, 2017 – 2020. ICCFO therefore, urges the CCC to not reintroduce this decision.
3. International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) must invite ICCFO to be part of its Consultative Board. So, the voices of our members (cocoa farmers) are part of debate and decisions making procedures on cocoa farming business and members livelihoods.
4. NGO's and civil societies should reframe from speaking on behalf and recognize and work with ICCFO as a global representative cocoa farmer, that its groups worldwide. We hereby invite NGO's and civil societies working in the cocoa sector, for a dialog in order to find ways to better understand each other's role and minimize misrepresentation.
5. Stakeholders should see the need for them to support our members (cocoa farmers) worldwide at this difficult period of COVID-19 PANDEMIC. Therefore, we invite all stakeholders to come together to support our members, in order to secure the future of coca farming entrepreneurship and the supply of sustainable cocoa beans.

ICCFO have as responsibility, to protect the interest and wellbeing of its members worldwide. Using our members who are based in producing countries, we can



effectively distribute supports directly to members especially those who mostly need support the (unorganized smallholder cocoa farmers).

Cc:

- International Cocoa Organization (ICCO);
- Côte d'ivoire, government (CCC);
- Ghana government (Cocoa Bod);
- European Union;
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- Ecuador government;
- Dutch government;
- Indonesia government;
- German government;
- Cameroon government (NCCB);
- Swiss government;
- Government of Nigeria;
- International Labour Organization (ILO);
- Barry Callebaut, Cargill, Mars Wrigley, Nestle, Olam, Touton;
- Federation of Cocoa Commerce (FCC), World Cocoa Foundation (WCF).

NOTE:

ICCFO INVITES STAKEHOLDERS TO UNITE AND SUPPORT ITS MEMBERS WORLDWIDE, IN ORDER FOR THEM TO SURVIVE FROM THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

YOU CAN CONTACT US, TO SUPPORT OUR WORK OR TO MAKE A DONATION, PLEASE KINDLY VISIT OUR WEBSITE: INFO@ICCFO.ORG - WWW.ICCFO.ORG.

BELOW ARE SOME OF THE COUNTRIES OUR MEMBERS ARE BASED IN: BRAZIL, VENEZUELA, MEXICO, ECUADOR, NIGERIA, IVOR COAST, COLOMBIA, CAMEROON, MEXICO, PERU, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, BOLIVIA, SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA, UGANDA AND DRC. CONGO.

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO BUILD A MORE ROBUST, THRIVING AND SUSTAINABLE COCOA FUTURE, THAT BENEFITS PEOPLE, BUSINESS AND ENVIRONMENT.