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SWA
12/8/26*

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT- FIFTH SESSION - 2026
DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK**

**REPORT ON:
THE CONSIDERATION OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE INTER-AFRICAN
COFFEE ORGANIZATION (IACO) NEW AGREEMENT (2020)**

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 13 AUG 2026	
DAY: THUR	
TABLED BY:	CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:	OBIERO



**CLERK'S CHAMBERS
DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES
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NAIROBI**

AUGUST 2026

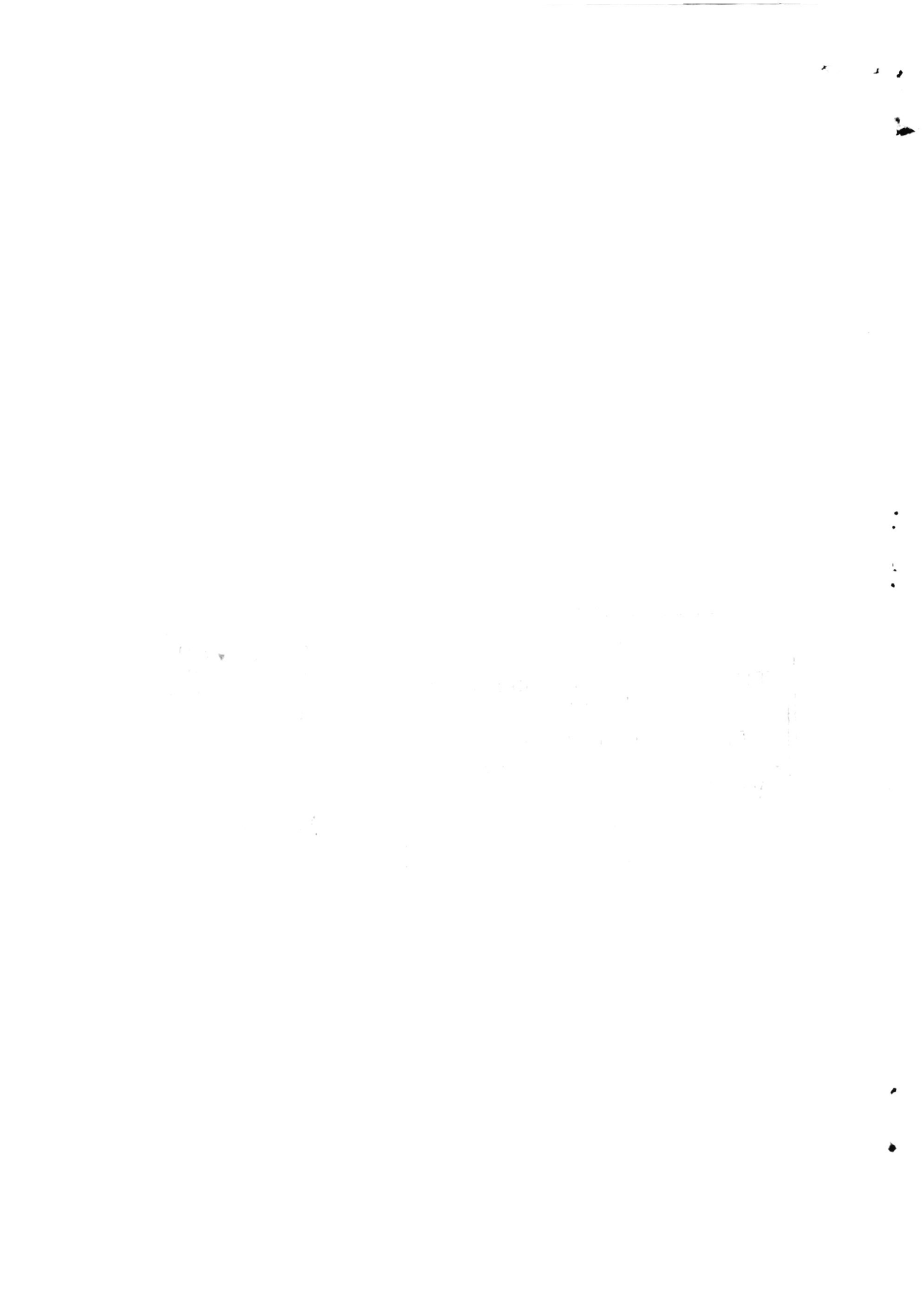


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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFA	– Agriculture and Food Authority
AfCFTA	– African Continental Free Trade Area
Cap.	– Chapter (of the Laws of Kenya)
CBS	– Chief of the Order of the Burning Spear
CPA	– Certified Public Accountant
E.G.H.	– Elder of the Order of the Golden Heart
H.E.	– His / Her Excellency
IACO	– Inter-African Coffee Organization
ICO	– International Coffee Organization
Hon.	– Honorable
M.P. / MP	– Member of Parliament
NOPEU	– National Ordinary People Empower Union
ODM	– Orange Democratic Movement
PhD	– Doctor of Philosophy
SDG	– Sustainable Development Goal
UDA	– United Democratic Alliance
UNECA	– United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

This report outlines the consideration by the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement (2020).

The establishment of IACO on December 7, 1960, with Kenya as a founding member, was driven by a collective vision to bring African coffee-producing countries under a single institutional framework to address common challenges, negotiate coffee sales, and promote sustainable growth. This vision supports regional identity and rural economic development, complementing the broader aspirations of the African Union for an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful continent.

IACO's overarching objective under the New Agreement is to establish a modern continental framework for the identification and coordinated resolution of challenges across the coffee value chain. Its mission is to drive transformation toward a resilient and profitable coffee sector by enhancing regional cooperation, promoting coffee quality, expanding market access, and sustainably improving the living conditions of smallholder producers and actors throughout the chain.

Following the changing dynamics of the global coffee economy, including the need to engage private sector actors, accommodate coffee-consuming African nations, and leverage opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Member States undertook a comprehensive review of the 1960 founding agreement and its successive amendments. Consequently, the IACO New Agreement was formally adopted during the 60th Annual General Assembly in November 2020.

Following approval by the Cabinet on 21st January 2025, the Parliamentary Memorandum on Kenya's Ratification of the IACO New Agreement was submitted to the National Assembly by the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs on 22nd December 2025. The treaty was tabled before the House on 4th March 2026 and committed to the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock for consideration and public participation pursuant to Section 8 of the Treaty Making and Ratification Act (Cap. 4D).

In considering the New Agreement, the Committee, pursuant to Article 118(1)(b) of the Constitution and Section 8(3) of the Treaty Making and Ratification Act (Cap. 4D), published an advertisement in two daily newspapers on 5th March 2026, requesting written submissions and public memoranda. Further, the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly, through a letter dated 8th April 2026, invited key institutional stakeholders to provide written submissions and participate in a consultative meeting that was scheduled for 14th April 2026.

Having examined Agreement and analyzed stakeholder submissions, the Committee observed that the modernized framework strategically transitions the Inter-African Coffee Organization into an inclusive value-chain structure that aligns with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to expand intra-African coffee trade, promote local processing and leverage dedicated financing through the African Coffee Development Fund. The New Agreement complies fully with Kenya's constitutional values and existing domestic legislation without requiring statutory amendments, while operating under the concurrent agricultural functions of National and County Governments. Further, ratification remains fiscally neutral to the exchequer, maintaining Kenya's annual assessed contribution. Crucially, targeted national implementation plans, and market stabilization strategies must accompany ratification to ensure these continental benefits directly protect and empower domestic smallholder farmers.

Having examined the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement (2020) against the Constitution, the Treaty Making and Ratification Act (Cap. 4D), and Standing Order 216 of the National Assembly Standing Orders, the Committee recommends that the House approves the ratification of the IACO New Agreement (2020).

Pursuant to Standing Orders 170A, 199(6) and 216(5)(f), it is my pleasant duty to present to the House the Report of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock on its consideration of the Ratification of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement (2020).



Hon. (Dr.) John Kanyuithia Mutunga, PhD, CBS, M.P.
Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock

1.0 PREFACE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

1. This report outlines the consideration by the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement (2020). The establishment of IACO on 7th December 1960 - with Kenya as a founding member - was driven by a collective vision to bring African coffee-producing countries under a single institutional framework to address common challenges, negotiate coffee sales and promote sustainable growth. This vision supports regional identity and rural economic development, complementing the broader aspirations of the African Union for an integrated, prosperous and peaceful continent.
2. IACO's overarching objective under the New Agreement is to establish a modern continental framework for the identification and coordinated resolution of challenges across the coffee value chain. Its mission is to drive transformation towards a resilient and profitable coffee sector by enhancing regional cooperation, promoting coffee quality, expanding market access, and sustainably improving the living conditions of smallholder producers and actors throughout the chain.
3. Following the changing dynamics of the global coffee economy - including the need to engage private sector actors, accommodate coffee-consuming African nations and leverage opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) - Member States undertook a comprehensive review of the 1960 founding agreement and its successive amendments. Consequently, the IACO New Agreement was formally adopted during the 60th Annual General Assembly in November 2020.
4. Following approval by the Cabinet on 21st January 2025, the Parliamentary Memorandum on Kenya's Ratification of the IACO New Agreement was submitted to the National Assembly by the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs on 22nd December 2025. The treaty was tabled before the House on 4th March 2026 and committed to the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock for consideration and public participation pursuant to Section 8 of the Treaty Making and Ratification Act (Cap. 4D).

1.2 MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

5. The Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock is one of the twenty Departmental Committees of the National Assembly established under **Standing Order 216** whose mandate, among others, is **“to examine treaties, agreements and conventions”**.

1.3 COMMITTEE SUBJECTS

6. The subject matter of the Committee is stated in the Second Schedule of the National Assembly Standing Orders and includes *agriculture, livestock, food production and marketing*.
7. In executing its mandate, the Committee oversees the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development.

1.4 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

8. The Committee, initially constituted by the House on **27th October 2022** and reconstituted on 6th March 2025, brings together a diverse and experienced team of legislators entrusted with steering the nation's Agricultural and Livestock Policy oversight agenda. Its membership is as follows:

Chairperson

Hon. (Dr.) John Kanyuithia Mutunga, PhD, MP

Tigania West Constituency

UDA Party

Vice-Chairperson

Hon. Brighton Leonard Yegon, MP

Konoin Constituency

UDA Party

Members

Hon. Sabina Wanjiru Chege, CBS, MP
Nominated Member

Jubilee Party

Hon. Gabriel Gathuka Kagombe, MP
Gatundu South Constituency

UDA Party

Hon. Ferdinand Kevin Wanyonyi, MP
Kwanza Constituency

Ford Kenya Party

Hon. Monicah Muthoni Marubu, MP
Lamu County

Independent Member

Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP
Matayos Constituency

ODM Party

Hon. Patrick Kibagendi Osero, MP
Borabu Constituency

ODM Party

Hon. Justice Kipsang Kemei, MP
Sigowet/Soin Constituency

UDA Party

Hon. Yussuf Mohamed Farah, MP
Wajir West Constituency

ODM Party

Hon. Jared Odoyo Okelo, MP
Nyando Constituency

ODM Party

Hon. Ruth Adhiambo Odinga, MP
Kisumu County

ODM Party

Hon. Lawrence Mpuru Aburi, MP
Tigania East Constituency

NOPEU Party

Hon. John Okwisia Makali, MP
Kanduyi Constituency

Ford Kenya Party

Hon. David Kiplagat, MP
Soi Constituency

UDA Party

I.5 COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT

9. The Committee Secretariat, a dedicated team of technical officers, provides support to the Committee. It comprises the following staff:

Mr. Dennis Mogare Ogechi
Head of Secretariat / First Clerk Assistant

Mr. Victor K. Kilimo
Clerk Assistant III

Ms. Evelyne Orina
Clerk Assistant III

CPA Robert Ng'etich
Fiscal Analyst I

Mr. Shadrack Musyoki
Senior Research Officer

Mr. Gerald Kadede
Legal Counsel I

Mr. Calvin Karung'o
Media Relations Officer III

Mr. John Ng'ang'a
Audio Recording Officer

Ms. Jacinta Maru
Serjeant-at-Arms

2.0 BACKGROUND TO THE AGREEMENT

2.1 Context and Significance of the Coffee Sector in Kenya and Africa

10. Coffee is a critical economic driver across Africa and one of Kenya's most vital cash crops and sources of foreign exchange. Within Kenya, the coffee subsector directly and indirectly supports the livelihoods of approximately 5 million people. Production is overwhelmingly anchored in smallholder agriculture, with 556 co-operative societies representing the majority of smallholders alongside 2,132 large-scale estate farmers. During the 2020/2021 crop year, Kenya had 118,382 hectares under coffee production, yielding a total of 44,898 metric tonnes of clean coffee - comprising 30,811 metric tonnes from smallholders and 14,103 metric tonnes from estates, predominantly of the premium *Arabica* variety.
11. Despite producing some of the finest coffee varieties globally, African nations face substantial structural challenges across the value chain. Many African countries currently import significant volumes of processed coffee from Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, highlighting a major untapped intra-continental market opportunity. Furthermore, liberalized global coffee trade exposes local farmers to extreme price volatility. Falling global market prices, coupled with technological inefficiencies and low production incentives, have led to declining competitiveness and the gradual abandonment of coffee cultivation across the continent, shrinking Africa's overall share of global coffee exports.
12. Socio-economically, updating continental frameworks such as IACO aligns with the opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Transitioning IACO's governance from a strictly inter-governmental policy framework established in 1960 to a modernized, inclusive structure opens membership to coffee-consuming African states and integrates private sector actors (producers, processors, millers, and exporters). This transition is essential to harmonizing trade policies, facilitating regional market access, advancing research and skill development, and establishing mechanisms like the African Coffee Development Fund to transform the coffee value chain and sustainably improve producer earnings.

2.2 Historical Development of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO)

13. The establishment of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) dates back to 7th December 1960, when eleven (11) Heads of State and Government of African coffee-producing countries, including Kenya, met to establish a unified inter-governmental framework for the continent's coffee subsector. The primary objective of the founding 1960 Agreement was to unify African producers under a single entity to negotiate coffee sales, address common production and trade challenges, collect industry statistics, and promote African coffee consumption.
14. Under Article 3 of the 1960 Agreement, IACO's scope focused on studying problems related to coffee cultivation, processing, and marketing, while seeking to secure access to international markets at optimal prices. However, membership was strictly limited to coffee-producing nations in Africa and neighboring islands, creating an organizational structure that excluded coffee-consuming African countries and restricted private sector participation.
15. Over time, structural changes in the global coffee economy shifted the sector from state-dominated governance to a market-driven environment led by private actors, including producers, processors, millers, roasters, and exporters. Furthermore, the creation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) opened significant opportunities for intra-African trade and value addition, highlighting the need for a modernized framework capable of accommodating both coffee-producing and coffee-consuming states across Africa.

16. Recognizing these institutional limitations, IACO Member States initiated a comprehensive review process. During the 60th Annual General Assembly held in November 2020, Member States adopted the IACO New Agreement (2020). The New Agreement completely replaces the 1960 instrument and its successive amendments, establishing an updated framework to address value chain challenges, sustainably improve producer living standards and enhance overall profitability for all stakeholders.

2.3 Outline of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement (2020)

17. **Article 1 (Purpose):** Replaces the 1960 Agreement and its successive amendments to establish a modernized continental framework for identifying and resolving challenges across the African coffee value chain, sustainably improving living conditions for producers, and ensuring profitability for all sector actors.

18. **Article 2 (Functions of the Organisation):** Outlines fourteen (14) operational functions.

19. **Article 3 (Definitions):** Defines key terms, including "Coffee" (aligning conversion factors with the International Coffee Agreement), "Coffee Year" (1st October to 30th September), "Bag" (60 kg), "African Coffee Development Fund", and "Coffee Value Chain in Africa". It designates the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) as the "Custodian".

20. **Articles 4 & 5 (Membership and Members):** Opens membership to any African producing or importing/consuming State. Membership is formalized by depositing an instrument of ratification with the Custodian.

21. **Article 6 (Commitments of Members):** Mandates Member States to adopt necessary national measures to fulfill obligations, fully cooperate, provide statistical data, and pay annual contributions determined by the General Assembly.

22. **Articles 7 & 8 (Headquarters, Privileges, and Immunities):** Domiciles the headquarters in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Grants the Organization full international legal personality, capacity to contract and hold property, and standard diplomatic privileges and immunities under a independent Headquarters Agreement.

23. **Article 9 (Bodies of the Organisation):** Establishes seven governance organs: The General Assembly, The General Secretariat, The Finance and Administration Committee, The Economic and Development Committee, The Private Sector Consultative Group, The African Coffee Research Network, and The African Coffee Development Fund.

24. **Articles 10–16 (General Assembly & Decision Making):** *Composition & Powers (Articles 10–11):* The supreme organ composed of all Member States, responsible for setting policy, adopting 5-year strategic action plans, establishing working groups, and creating special dispute settlement groups. *Sessions & Voting (Articles 12–15):* Holds one ordinary session annually within six months of the end of the coffee year. Member States hold a total of 1,000 votes (5 basic votes each, with the remainder distributed based on a 4-year ICO moving average of exports for producers or imports for consumers). Decisions are taken by consensus or, failing consensus, by simple majority. *Cooperation (Article 16):* Authorizes collaboration with governmental, non-governmental and private sector institutions.

25. **Article 17 (General Secretariat):** Headed by a Secretary-General appointed by the General Assembly for a 5-year term, renewable once. The Secretary-General acts as Chief Executive Officer, appoints staff under Staff Regulations, and submits annual and strategic action plans.

26. **Articles 18–25 (Finance, Budget, and Audit):** *Committee & Budget (Articles 18–21):* The Finance and Administration Committee (up to 10 members serving 2-year terms) supervises budget preparation. Member contributions contain a fixed part and a variable part based on

export/import volumes. *Default Sanctions (Article 22)*: Failure to pay annual contributions within six (6) months results in automatic suspension of voting rights and participation in specialized committees. *Audit & Liabilities (Articles 23–25)*: Financial statements must be presented before budget adoption; borrowing requires General Assembly approval; accounts are audited independently within six months of the financial year's end.

27. Articles 26–32 (Specialized Committees and Bodies): *Economic and Development Committee (Articles 26–27)*: 16 members serving 2-year terms; analyzes statistics, studies trade barriers, assists in AfCFTA rules of origin harmonization, and supports SDG alignment. *Private Sector Consultative Group (Articles 28–29)*: Up to 20 private sector stakeholders (producers, millers, buyers, roasters, financial institutions) offering advisory support on market dynamics and value creation. *African Coffee Research Network (Articles 30–31)*: Coordinates national research networks, facilitates scientific consultations, and disseminates research findings. *African Coffee Development Fund (Article 32)*: Financial vehicle designed to provide affordable and innovative funding solutions and technical assistance for coffee project implementation.

28. Articles 33–45 (Final Provisions, Disputes, and Amendments): *Signature & Ratification (Articles 33–35)*: Open for signature at UNECA headquarters (Custodian); enters into force upon deposit of instruments of ratification by two-thirds of the total voting power. *Dispute Resolution (Article 36)*: Settled through consultations, Special Groups created by the General Assembly, or a three-member arbitration tribunal. *Reservations & Withdrawal (Articles 37–38)*: No reservations are permitted. Voluntary withdrawal requires one (1) year written notice to the Custodian. *Suspension/Exclusion & Amendments (Articles 39, 42)*: Members failing fundamental obligations may be suspended or excluded by a two-thirds majority vote. Amendments require a two-thirds majority vote and acceptance by two-thirds of Contracting Parties within 90 days. *Authentic Texts (Article 45)*: English and French texts are equally authentic.

2.4 Comparative Analysis of International Coffee Governance Frameworks

29. To evaluate the institutional design and efficacy of the IACO New Agreement, a comparative analysis was conducted against the International Coffee Organization (ICO) Agreement (2022), which governs the global coffee sector:

Comparative Summary: IACO New Agreement vs. ICO Agreement (2022)

Feature	IACO New Agreement (2020)	International Coffee Organization (ICO) Agreement (2022)
Establishment & History	Established in 1960; revised/replaced in 2020.	Established in 1962; revised seven times (latest 2022).
Geographic Scope & Focus	Continental body representing 25+ African coffee-producing states.	Global intergovernmental treaty covering major producing and importing nations.
Primary Objective	Coordinated resolution of coffee value-chain challenges, value addition, and intra-African trade expansion.	Global market stabilization, international trade coordination, and sustainable global coffee economy.
Membership Base	Expanded to African coffee producers, consuming states, and private sector stakeholders.	Formal treaty between producing and consuming nations, with affiliate structures for private sector/civil society.
Governance Bodies	General Assembly, General Secretariat, Economic & Development Committee, Finance Committee, Private	International Coffee Council (supreme authority), supported by

Feature	IACO New Agreement (2020)	International Coffee Organization (ICO) Agreement (2022)
	Sector Group, Research Network, and Development Fund.	Finance & Administration and Economics Committees.
Financial Mechanism	Assessed annual contributions; includes the dedicated African Coffee Development Fund for local projects.	Assessed annual contributions focused on administrative budget and global market intelligence.
Reservations & Withdrawal	No reservations allowed (Article 37) ; voluntary withdrawal requires 1 year written notice.	Formal reservation and withdrawal procedures governed by standard treaty terms.

2.5 Policy Implications of the IACO New Agreement

30. **Alignment with National and Continental Development Agendas:** The IACO New Agreement (2020) provides an updated policy framework that aligns directly with Kenya's agricultural priorities and continental initiatives. By modernizing the 1960 framework, the New Agreement supports the goals of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by creating opportunities to expand intra-African coffee trade, promote local processing, and build domestic consumption across the continent under the slogan "*Drink African Coffee, Build Africa's Economy*". Furthermore, the Agreement advances Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly regarding poverty reduction among smallholders, climate change resilience, decent work, and gender equity in agricultural value chains.
31. **Addressing Structural Challenges in the Sector:** The policy shift responds to chronic issues plaguing the African coffee sector, including extreme price volatility in liberalized global markets, technological inefficiencies, declining production incentives, and shrinking market share. The Agreement moves IACO from a strictly government-driven policy body to an inclusive structure that integrates private sector operators (producers, millers, roasters, and exporters) through the Private Sector Consultative Group. It also addresses financial constraints by establishing the African Coffee Development Fund to support value-addition, infrastructure, and technical assistance projects.
32. **National Policy and Legal Compliance:** Obligations under the IACO New Agreement operate as concurrent functions between the National and County Governments under the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya. The Agreement complements domestic legal frameworks, including the Crops Act (Cap 318), the Agriculture and Food Authority Act, (Cap 317), and the Crops (Coffee) (General) Regulations (2019). Ratification imposes no requirement to amend the Constitution or domestic legislation and entails no additional public expenditure, as Kenya's annual subscription remains unchanged from its existing membership.

3.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION / STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATION

3.1 Call for Memoranda from the Public

33. Pursuant to Article 118(1)(b) of the Constitution on Public Participation and Section 8(3) of the Treaty Making and Ratification Act (Cap. 4D), the Clerk of the National Assembly placed an advertisement in the daily newspapers on **Wednesday, 25th March 2026**, inviting members of the public and key industry stakeholders to submit written memoranda on the ratification of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement by Wednesday, 8th April 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
34. Further, the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly, vide a letter dated **8th April 2026** (Ref: NA/DDC/A&L/2026/025), invited key institutional stakeholders to submit written submissions and attend a consultative meeting on **Tuesday, 14th April 2026** at Parliament Buildings.
35. Following the call for memoranda from the public and invitation to key stakeholders to submit memoranda, written submissions and stakeholder input were received from key government agencies and public interest advocates:

3.2 Submission by the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs

36. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, through the Parliamentary Memorandum signed by the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary, H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, E.G.H., submitted that Cabinet approved the ratification on 21st January 2025 and highlighted the strategic benefits of ratifying the IACO New Agreement as follows:
 - a) **Regional Governance & Shared Vision:** Guarantees Kenya direct representation in the IACO General Assembly, enabling collective advocacy alongside 25 African states on regional and global coffee policy.
 - b) **Access to Value Chain Intelligence:** Provides access to IACO's centralized intelligence on global and continental production, market trends, processing technologies, and consumption metrics.
 - c) **Research and Capacity Building:** Facilitates skill development in processing, marketing, and cultivation techniques, supported by the African Coffee Research Network.
 - d) **Continental Market Promotion:** Supports coffee consumption drives across Africa under the continental campaign "*Drink African Coffee, Build Africa's Economy*", expanding intra-African trade under the AfCFTA.
 - e) **Financial Access via the African Coffee Development Fund:** Enables Kenya to access funding for coffee value-addition and infrastructure projects through the newly established African Coffee Development Fund (building on past IACO-supported initiatives such as university coffee establishments).
 - f) **No Additional Fiscal Expenditure:** As Kenya is already an active member of IACO paying an annual assessed contribution of **€48,048**, ratification imposes no new financial obligations on the exchequer.

3.3 Submission by the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA)

37. The Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA), vide a submission signed by Mr. Calistus Kundu for the Director-General dated **27th July 2026**, submitted a "No Objection" to Kenya's ratification of the IACO New Agreement:

38. **Support for Industry Competitiveness:** AFA confirmed that Kenya's Coffee Directorate actively participates in IACO programs and that continued membership under the modernized agreement is essential for enhancing global and continental competitiveness.
39. **Continental Alignment and Partnerships:** Ratification will strengthen Kenya's participation in regional coffee policy formulation, foster strategic technology transfers, and open expanded market access within the AfCFTA framework.

3.4 Submission by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development

40. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development through Agriculture Food Authority (AFA) - Coffee Directorate - participates in IACO programs and technical meetings to advance the competitiveness and sustainability of the country's coffee industry. Membership in IACO enhances Kenya's collaboration with other African coffee-producing countries, facilitates knowledge and technology exchange, strengthens regional and international market access and supports the implementation of continental initiatives aimed at increasing the value of African coffee.
41. The Ministry therefore had No Objection to Kenya's ratification of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement and fully supports its approval by the National Assembly noting that continued membership will strengthen Kenya's participation in regional coffee policy, promote strategic partnerships, and contribute to the sustainable growth and global competitiveness of the Kenyan coffee sector'

3.5 Submission by Wilson Rading (Principal Magistrate / Public Interest Advocate)

40. A written submission was received on 9th April 2026 from Mr. Wilson Rading, a Principal Magistrate and Convener of the Laws, Science and Technology Section of the Innovation Council of Kenya, pursuant to Section 8(3) of Cap. 4D. While supporting ratification, the submission placed critical observations and recommendations on record:
- a) **Farmer-Level Trickle-Down Action:** Urged the Ministry of Agriculture to formulate a clear national implementation plan within 90 days of ratification to ensure benefits reach smallholder farmers across 556 co-operative societies.
 - b) **Price Volatility Concerns:** Observed that while the Agreement modernizes value-chain cooperation, it lacks binding price-stabilization mechanisms to cushion farmers against global market volatility.
 - c) **Strengthening Private Sector Voices:** Recommended that Kenya advocate within IACO to elevate the Private Sector Consultative Group beyond an advisory role.

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4.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

41. Having considered the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement (2020), analysed the Parliamentary Memorandum, and reviewed submissions from key stakeholders and the public, the Committee observed as follows:

- 1) **Strategic Value to the Coffee Sector:** The IACO New Agreement provides a modernized, continental framework that shifts the organization from a strictly government-driven entity into an inclusive value-chain structure. This transition aligns with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by creating avenues for expanded intra-African coffee trade, local processing and regional market promotion.
- 2) **Constitutional and Legal Compliance:** The provisions of the IACO New Agreement do not conflict with the Constitution of Kenya or existing national legislation, including the Crops Act (Cap 318), the Agriculture and Food Authority Act (Cap 317), and the Crops (Coffee) (General) Regulations (2019). The implementation of treaty obligations falls under concurrent agricultural functions shared between the National and County Governments under the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution.
- 3) **Fiscal Neutrality:** Ratification of the New Agreement will not impose additional financial burdens on the exchequer or increase public expenditure. Kenya is already an active member of IACO, and its annual assessed contribution remains fixed at €48,048.
- 4) **Strict Prohibition on Reservations (Article 37):** Pursuant to Article 37 of the Agreement, no reservations are permitted. The National Assembly must either approve or reject the treaty in its entirety. Should Kenya wish to exit the framework in the future, Article 38 provides a mechanism for voluntary withdrawal upon giving one (1) year written notice to the Custodian (UNECA).
- 5) **Risk of Non-Ratification (Sanctions under Article 22):** Failure to ratify and maintain active standing under the New Agreement risks the suspension of Kenya's voting rights and participation in specialized committees. This would undermine Kenya's strategic leadership and influence in continental coffee policy formulation.
- 6) **Financial Mechanisms and Project Support:** The establishment of the African Coffee Development Fund (Article 32) offers Kenya access to dedicated technical assistance and innovative financing for coffee value-addition projects, building on past IACO-funded initiatives in the country.
- 7) **Need for Domestic Implementation and Smallholder Protection:** While the treaty provides an effective inter-governmental and institutional framework, its benefits will not automatically reach smallholder farmers, who account for 70–75% of domestic production across 556 co-operative societies, without deliberate national implementation plans and market stabilization strategies.

5.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

42. The Committee, having considered the **Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement (2020)**, analyzed the Parliamentary Memorandum, and considered the stakeholder submissions, recommends **THAT**:

- 1) Pursuant to Section 8(4) of the Treaty Making and Ratification Act (Cap. 4D), the House **approves** the ratification of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement (2020).
- 2) The Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs prepares and deposits the relevant instrument of ratification with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the designated Custodian of the Agreement.
- 3) The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, through the State Department for Agriculture, formulates and tables before the Committee, within **ninety (90) days** of ratification, a **comprehensive National Implementation Matrix** outlining concrete strategies to ensure the benefits of the Agreement, particularly access to the African Coffee Development Fund and value-chain development, directly accrue to smallholder farmers organized under coffee co-operative societies.
- 4) The Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) leverages the expanded membership and market structures of the IACO New Agreement to develop a **targeted export promotion framework** for Kenya's processed coffee within the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

SIGNED:  DATE: 12/08/2026
HON. (DR.) JOHN KANYUITHIA MUTUNGA, PhD, CBS, MP
CHAIRPERSON,
DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

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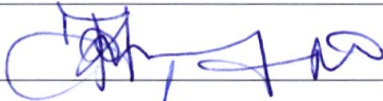
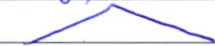
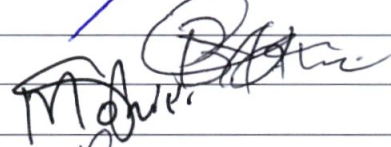
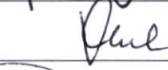
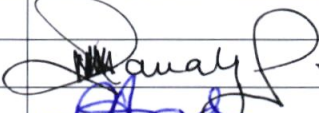


THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT - FIFTH SESSION
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES
DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

ADOPTION SCHEDULE

We, the undersigned Honorable Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Livestock today, **Thursday, 6th August 2026** do hereby affix our signatures to this **Report of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement** to affirm our approval and confirm its accuracy, validity and authenticity.

S/NO.	NAME	SIGNATURE
1.	HON. (DR.) JOHN KANYUITHIA MUTUNGA, PhD, CBS, MP - CHAIRPERSON	
2.	HON. BRIGHTON LEONARD YEGON, CBS, MP - VICE-CHAIRPERSON	
3.	HON. SABINA WANJIRU CHEGE, CBS, MP	
4.	HON. FERDINAND KEVIN WANYONYI, MP	
5.	HON. GEOFFREY MAKOKHA ODANGA, MP	
6.	HON. JUSTICE KIPSANG KEMEI, MP	
7.	HON. JARED ODOYO OKELO, MP	
8.	HON. LAWRENCE MPURU ABURI, MP	
9.	HON. DAVID KIPLAGAT, MP	
10.	HON. GABRIEL GATHUKA KAGOMBE, MP	
11.	HON. MONICAH MUTHONI MARUBU, MP	
12.	HON. PATRICK KIBAGENDI OSERO, MP	
13.	HON. YUSSUF MOHAMED FARAH, MP	
14.	HON. JOHN OKWISIA MAKALI, MP	
15.	HON. RUTH ADHIAMBO BUSIA, MP	



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THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT - FIFTH SESSION - 2026

DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES

MINUTES OF THE 33RD SITTING OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK HELD ON THURSDAY, 6TH AUGUST 2026 AT COMMITTEE ROOM 13, 2ND FLOOR, BUNGE TOWER AT 12.00 PM.

PRESENT

1. Hon. (Dr.) John Kanyuithia Mutunga, PhD, CBS, MP - **Chairperson**
2. Hon. Brighton Leonard Yegon, CBS, MP - **Vice-Chairperson**
3. Hon. Monicah Muthoni Marubu, MP
4. Hon. Patrick Kibagendi Osero, MP
5. Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP
6. Hon. Justice Kipsang Kemei, MP
7. Hon. John Okwisa Makali, MP
8. Hon. Ruth Adhiambo Busia Odinga, MP
9. Hon. Gabriel Gathuka Kagombe, MP

APOLOGIES

1. Hon. Ferdinand Kevin Wanyonyi, MP
2. Hon. Sabina Wanjiru Chege, CBS, MP
3. Hon. David Kiplagat, MP
4. Hon. Jared Odoyo Okelo, MP
5. Hon. Lawrence Mpuru Aburi, MP
6. Hon. Yussuf Mohamed Farah, MP

COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Mr. Denis Ogechi | Clerk Assistant I/Head of the Secretariat |
| 2. Mr. Victor K. Kilimo | Clerk Assistant III |
| 3. Ms. Evelyn Orina | Clerk Assistant III |
| 4. Mr. Shadrak Musyoki | Senior Research Officer |
| 5. Mr. Gerald Kadede | Legal Counsel I |
| 6. Mr. Calvin Karung'o | Media Relations Officer III |
| 7. Ms. Gift Gitonga | Hansard & Audio Officer |

AGENDA

1. Prayers
2. Preliminaries/Adoption of the Agenda
3. Confirmation of Minutes
4. **Consideration and Adoption of the Report on the Ratification of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement (2020)**
5. Adjournment/Date of the Next Sitting

MIN.NO.NA/A&L/2026/151: PRELIMINARIES/ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at ten minutes past noon and prayed. He briefed the Committee on the agenda of the meeting, which was adopted, having been proposed by Hon. Justice Kipsang Kemei, MP and seconded by Hon. Monicah Muthoni Marubu, MP

The agenda was deferred to the next sitting.

**MIN.NO.NA/A&L/2026/153: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE
REPORT ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE INTER-
AFRICAN COFFEE ORGANIZATION (IACO) NEW
AGREEMENT (2020)**

The Committee considered the Draft Report on the Ratification of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement (2020) and adopted it, having been proposed by Hon. Brighton Leonard Yegon, CBS, MP and seconded by Hon. John Okwisa Makali, MP. It was adopted with the following observations and recommendations.

OBSERVATIONS

The Committee observed as follows:

1. **Strategic Value to the Coffee Sector:** The IACO New Agreement provides a modernized, continental framework that shifts the organization from a strictly government-driven entity into an inclusive value-chain structure. This transition aligns with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by creating avenues for expanded intra-African coffee trade, local processing and regional market promotion.
2. **Constitutional and Legal Compliance:** The provisions of the IACO New Agreement do not conflict with the Constitution of Kenya or existing national legislation, including the Crops Act (Cap 318), the Agriculture and Food Authority Act (Cap 317), and the Crops (Coffee) (General) Regulations (2019). The implementation of treaty obligations falls under concurrent agricultural functions shared between the National and County Governments under the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution.
3. **Fiscal Neutrality:** Ratification of the New Agreement will not impose additional financial burdens on the exchequer or increase public expenditure. Kenya is already an active member of IACO, and its annual assessed contribution remains fixed at €48,048.
4. **Strict Prohibition on Reservations (Article 37):** Pursuant to Article 37 of the Agreement, no reservations are permitted. The National Assembly must either approve or reject the treaty in its entirety. Should Kenya wish to exit the framework in the future, Article 38 provides a mechanism for voluntary withdrawal upon giving one (1) year written notice to the Custodian (UNECA).
5. **Risk of Non-Ratification (Sanctions under Article 22):** Failure to ratify and maintain active standing under the New Agreement risks the suspension of Kenya's voting rights and participation in specialized committees. This would undermine Kenya's strategic leadership and influence in continental coffee policy formulation.
6. **Financial Mechanisms and Project Support:** The establishment of the African Coffee Development Fund (Article 32) offers Kenya access to dedicated technical assistance and innovative financing for coffee value-addition projects, building on past IACO-funded initiatives in the country.
7. **Need for Domestic Implementation and Smallholder Protection:** While the treaty provides an effective inter-governmental and institutional framework, its benefits will not automatically reach smallholder farmers, who account for 70–75% of domestic production across 556 co-

operative societies, without deliberate national implementation plans and market stabilization strategies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommended as follows:

1. Pursuant to Section 8(4) of the Treaty Making and Ratification Act (Cap. 4D), the House approves the ratification of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement (2020).
2. The Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs prepares and deposits the relevant instrument of ratification with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the designated Custodian of the Agreement.
3. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, through the State Department for Agriculture, formulates and tables before the Committee, within ninety (90) days of ratification, a comprehensive National Implementation Matrix outlining concrete strategies to ensure the benefits of the Agreement, particularly access to the African Coffee Development Fund and value-chain development, directly accrue to smallholder farmers organized under coffee co-operative societies.
4. The Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) leverages the expanded membership and market structures of the IACO New Agreement to develop a targeted export promotion framework for Kenya's processed coffee within the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

MIN. NO. NA/A&L/2026/154:

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee was informed that a report-writing retreat on the Pest Control Products Bill, 2025 had been scheduled from Thursday, 13th August 2026. Following deliberations, the Committee resolved that the retreat be held in Mombasa.

MIN. NO. NA/A&L/2026/155:

ADJOURNMENT / DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at ten minutes to one o'clock. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th August 2026 at ten o'clock.

SIGNED: DATE: 12/08/2026

HON. (DR.) JOHN KANYUTHIA MUTUNGA, PhD, CBS, MP
CHAIRPERSON
DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT- FIFTH SESSION (2026)
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**IN THE MATTER OF ARTICLES 2(5), (6) AND 118 (1) (b) OF THE CONSTITUTION AND SECTION 8
OF THE TREATY MAKING AND RATIFICATION ACT, CAP. 4D AND
IN THE MATTER OF CONSIDERATION FOR RATIFICATION OF:**

- (1) THE INTER-AFRICAN COFFEE ORGANIZATION AGREEMENT; AND
(2) THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT PROTOCOL ON TRANSHUMANCE**

INVITATION TO SUBMIT MEMORANDA

WHEREAS, Article 118(1) (b) of the Constitution requires Parliament to facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other business of Parliament and its Committees;

AND WHEREAS, the **Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) Agreement** and the **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Protocol on Transhumance** were tabled in the House for ratification and committed to the **Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock** for consideration and reporting to the House;

IT IS NOTIFIED that-

- (1)** The **IACO Agreement** seeks to alter the structure, operating rules, and functions of the IACO created in 1960 to establish it as the framework for identification and coordinated resolution of problems linked to the development of the coffee value chain in Africa; and
- (2)** The **IGAD Protocol on Transhumance** seeks to exploit the full social and economic potential of the pastoral system by allowing free, safe and orderly cross-border mobility of transhumant livestock and to commit Member States to invest adequate resources to pastoral regions and harmonize national laws and policies related to livestock and pastoral development.

NOW THEREFORE, in compliance with Articles 118(1)(b) and 2(5) and (6) of the Constitution and section 8 of the Treaty Making and Ratification Act, Cap. 4D, the Clerk of the National Assembly hereby invites members of the public and stakeholders to submit memoranda on the Agreement and the Protocol to the **Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock**.

The full text of the Agreement and the Protocol and the accompanying Memoranda to Parliament may be accessed at www.parliament.go.ke/the-national-assembly/house-business/paper-laid

The memoranda should be addressed to the **Clerk of the National Assembly, P.O. Box 41842-00100, Nairobi**; hand-delivered to the **Office of the Clerk, Main Parliament Buildings, Nairobi**; or emailed to cna@parliament.go.ke; to be received **on or before Wednesday, 8th April 2026 at 5.00 p.m.**

S. NJORGE, CBS
CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 25th March 2026

"For the Welfare of Society and the Just Government of the People"



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY MEMORANDUM

ON

KENYA'S RATIFICATION OF THE INTER-AFRICAN

COFFEE ORGANIZATION (IACO) NEW

AGREEMENT

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 04 MAR 2026	
DAY: WED	
TABLED BY:	DEPUTY LEADER OF MAJORITY PARTY
CLERK-AT-TABLE:	V. WAMBUI

**PARLIAMENTARY MEMORANDUM ON KENYA'S RATIFICATION OF
THE INTER-AFRICAN COFFEE ORGANIZATION (IACO) NEW
AGREEMENT**

1.0. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEMORANDUM

1.1. The purpose of this Parliamentary Memorandum is to:

- i) Apprise the National Assembly on the significance of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement; and
- ii) Seek approval from the National Assembly for Kenya to ratify the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement.

2.0. BACKGROUND

2.1. On 7th December 1960, eleven (11) Heads of State and Government of African coffee-producing countries, including Kenya, established the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO). The purpose of the Organization was to bring African coffee-producing countries under one entity to negotiate the sale of their coffee, identify common challenges, find solutions to

common problems, and collect statistics on the performance of the industry. (The 1960 Agreement is hereby attached as ANNEX A).

2.2. According to Article 3 of the 1960 IACO Agreement, the objectives of IACO were to; study problems concerning African coffee, in particular, the production, processing, and marketing; ensure access to markets at optimum prices; promote the consumption of coffee in Africa; and undertake promotional activities to increase demand.

2.3. Membership to IACO pursuant to the 1960 Agreement was restricted to coffee-producing countries in Africa and the neighboring islands of Africa. Currently, the Organization comprises of 25 Members. This restricts the participation of importing/consuming African states.

2.4. Since its formation, IACO has been a government-driven entity focusing on policy issues, with limited room for private sector engagement, given that public institutions dominated the coffee sector at inception. Today, the coffee industry is largely driven by private sector actors: producers, processors, and exporters.

2.5. There was, therefore, a need to include and allow participation of all stakeholders in IACO. Of particular significance is the creation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA),

which opens opportunities for intra-Africa trade, under which the African coffee value chain is expected to transform significantly.

2.6. In view of these new realities and the need to admit African coffee-consuming countries as Members and encourage private sector participation, members concluded a New Agreement, adopted during the 60th Annual General Assembly in November 2020. (The New IACO Agreement, which replaces the 1960 Agreement and its successive amendments, is attached as ANNEX B).

2.7. The objective of the IACO New Agreement is to develop a concerted approach among member states to identify and propose solutions to common problems given similar technical, geographical, economic, and social conditions prevailing in Africa.

2.8. The New Agreement has currently been ratified by seven (7) States; Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Gabon, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ghana.

3.0. PROBLEM ANALYSIS

3.1. While there is significant coffee consumption in Africa, many African countries currently import substantial amounts of coffee

from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. This presents a major market opportunity for African producers, including Kenya. Owing to this liberalized global coffee economy, coffee farmers in Africa are greatly exposed to the various factors that influence the performance of the value chain, where forces of demand and supply reign.

3.2. The steady decline in global coffee prices erodes Africa's global competitiveness. While other exporting regions improve productivity to cope with price and climate challenges, Africa faces high technical inefficiency and lack of technological progress. The Covid-19 pandemic ushered an unprecedented joint supply and demand shock to the global coffee sector.

3.3. Consequently, the incentive for coffee production is declining, and farmers are gradually abandoning coffee cultivation. Africa's share in global coffee production and export is also shrinking.

3.4. Africa produces some of the highest quality coffee varieties, yet untapped revenue potential exists from promoting the uniqueness of these coffees. Coffee-consuming countries and the private sector remain minimally involved in the current governance framework of IACO.

3.5. To address these constraints and support growth, IACO Member States found it necessary to amend and update the Agreement to reflect regional and international developments in the sector.

3.6. The IACO New Agreement provides an opportunity for the Continent, through regional and bilateral frameworks, to find solutions addressing challenges that have impeded coffee trade and growth within the continent.

4.0. OBJECTIVES OF (IACO) NEW AGREEMENT

4.1. Article 1 of the New Agreement provides that:

"The purpose of this Agreement is to change the structure, operating rules, and functions of the Inter-African Coffee Organization created in 1960, with the objective of:

- i) making it the framework for identification and coordinated resolution of problems linked to the development of the coffee value chain in Africa; and
- ii) sustainably improving the living conditions of producers, as well as the profitability of all actors in the chain."

4.2 In comparison to Article 3 of the 1960 Agreement, Article 2 of the New Agreement enhances the functions of IACO to include:

- i) Encouraging a concerted approach among Member States to identify and solve common problems;
- ii) Collecting and disseminating information relating to coffee production, processing, marketing, and consumption;
- iii) Harmonizing coffee production and marketing policies during market imbalances;
- iv) Assisting research and development programs to improve cultivation practices;
- v) Developing research, production, processing, and marketing skills in Member States; and
- vi) Promoting and encouraging coffee consumption, particularly highlighting its beneficial health effects.

5.0. OBLIGATIONS IMPOSED TO THE MEMBER STATES BY (IACO) NEW AGREEMENT

5.1. Article 6 requires Kenya, upon ratification, to:

- i) Adopt measures to fulfill obligations under the Agreement;
- ii) Fully cooperate with other Member States to achieve objectives and provide all relevant information;
- iii) Provide statistics and relevant data for analysis of the coffee value chain in accordance with the rules established by the General Assembly; and
- iv) Pay annual contributions as determined by the General Assembly.

6.0. JUSTIFICATION OF RATIFICATION

6.1. Coffee is a key cash crop in Kenya, grown by small-scale farmers under five hundred and fifty-six (556) co-operative societies and by large-scale estates comprising of 2,132 farmers. In 2020/2021, the total area under coffee was 118,382 Ha, producing 44,898 MT of clean coffee (small-holders 30,811 MT; estates 14,103 MT). Arabica coffee is the main variety, with about 5 million Kenyans directly or indirectly deriving livelihoods from the crop.

6.2. The New Agreement, which includes coffee-consuming countries and the private sector, is critical for the protection and development of Kenya's coffee industry. Upon ratification, Kenya will benefit from:

i) **Regional representation in coffee matters;**

Article 10 of the New Agreement provides that the General Assembly shall be composed of all the Member States. This interaction will allow Kenya to act collectively with other Members towards a shared vision and solutions to the coffee industry in Africa;

ii) **Cooperation with governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector;**

Kenya will be able to participate at an inter-governmental level, on coffee policy, trade and development issues and related matters, thereby gaining access to the know-how and experience of other countries in structuring their coffee economies;

iii) **Access to information and analysis from IACO;**

IACO is mandated to collect and disseminate for the benefit of Member States information relating to

coffee production, processing, marketing and consumption;

iv) **Research, production, processing, and marketing skill development;**

Upon ratification, Kenya will benefit from IACO'S mandate to research, processing and marketing skills in the coffee industry.

v) **Promotion of coffee consumption;**

Upon ratification, Kenya will benefit from the promotion of its coffee consumption in order to increase its coffee demand, bearing in mind that IACO's coffee consumption slogan is Drink African Coffee Build Africa's Economy; and

vi) **Assistance in the development and funding of coffee projects through the African Coffee Development Fund;**

Kenya will benefit from funding to enhance its coffee industry. It should be noted that under the 1960 IACO framework, Kenya has benefitted immensely through the establishment of two coffee houses ta Egerton University and Kenya University.

7.0. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The IACO New Agreement does not propose any amendments to the Constitution. It is consistent with constitutional provisions and existing legislation such as Crops Act 2013 and Crops (Coffee) (General) Regulations, 2019.

8.0. IMPLICATIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE COUNTIES

- 8.1. The obligations under the IACO New Agreement are concurrent functions of both the National and County Governments under the Constitution.

- 8.2. According to the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, the National Government is mandated to develop a National Agricultural Policy.

9.0. MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING IACO UPON ACCESSION

- 9.1. The implementation of the IACO Agreement will be under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Co-operatives.

10.0. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONDUCTED ON IACO TO STAKEHOLDERS

10.1. Public participation was conducted by the line ministry before submission to the Cabinet. This was carried out via a notice placed in the Daily Nation of 28th December, 2021 and no feedback was received. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, the Office of the Attorney General and State Department of Justice and the Agriculture and Food Authority, held two inter-ministerial meetings to discuss the ratification of the New Agreement from 17th -19th November, 2021 and from 26th -28th January, 2022 respectively.

10.2. Additional public participation is expected to be conducted by the relevant parliamentary committee pursuant to Section 8 (3) of the Treaty Making and Ratification Act, No 45 of 2021 (Rev. 2018)

11.0. RESERVATIONS

11.1. Article 37 of the IACO Agreement does not allow reservations to be made to the Agreement. It however allows for the voluntary withdrawal, by sending a written notification pursuant to Article 38.

12.0. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1. Pursuant to Article 6 (3) of the New Agreement, Kenya continue to pay annual contributions as determined by the General Assembly. Upon failure to pay the annual contribution, Kenya shall have its voting rights and right to participate in meetings of specialized committees suspended until its contribution is paid in full, pursuant to Article 22.

12.2. Kenya currently pays an annual contribution of €48,048. The Financial requirements for the implementation of the IACO New Agreement will therefore not lead to additional public expenditure given that Kenya is already a member of IACO.

13.0 RECOMMENDATION TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

13.1. In consideration of the aforementioned facts, the National Assembly is invited to:

- i) Note the contents of the Parliamentary Memorandum;
- ii) Approve Kenya's ratification to the IACO New Agreement; and
- iii) Direct the Prime Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs to prepare and deposit instruments of accession to the relevant depository.

SUBMITTED BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS

DECEMBER, 2025

SIGNED..... DATED 22nd DECEMBER, 2025

H.E. DR. MUSALIA MUDAVADI, E.G.H.

PRIME CABINET SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY,



**ESTABLISHMENT AGREEMENT
OF THE
INTER-AFRICAN COFFEE ORGANISATION (IACO)**

(Replacing the Agreement of 1960 and its successive amendments)

Adopted at IACO's 60th General Assembly in November 2020

On Resolution of the General Assembly of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation approved on 6th February 2018 in Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire, a draft of the revised text of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation Agreement was to be prepared and submitted for consideration by Members.

By the same Resolution, the General Assembly recommended that the Secretary General hires a consultant to prepare the revised text of the Agreement, considering the new realities of the global coffee sector and the admission of African coffee consuming states as Members of the Organisation. Given that the overall objective had to be changed by the admission of coffee consuming states, a new Agreement, not a revision, had to be adopted to replace that of 1960 and its successive amendments. The proposed text was discussed at IACO's extra-ordinary General Assembly, held virtually on 30th July 2020. Several amendments were made to it for consideration at the 60th Annual General Assembly (AGA) hosted virtually from Accra by the Government of the Republic of Ghana.

Thus, this document contains the text of the 2020 Agreement of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation which was considered by the Members, discussed and approved at the 60th Annual General Assembly, to become the New Agreement to be deposited with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, for signature under the provisions of Articles 33 and 44.

Inter-African Coffee Organisation
CAISTAB Building, Plateau
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

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2020 AGREEMENT OF THE INTER-AFRICAN COFFEE ORGANISATION

PREAMBLE

MEMBER STATES SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT

RECOGNISING the exceptional importance of coffee for the economies of many African coffee producing states which depend heavily on this commodity to achieve their social and economic development objectives;

RECOGNISING the importance of the coffee value chain in Africa to the livelihoods of millions of Africans, and bearing in mind that Africa's production is largely on small-scale family farms, as well as the millions of others in Africa who are coffee consumers;

RECOGNISING the contribution of the sustainable coffee sector in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly regarding poverty eradication, fight against climate change, decent work and responsible production;

HAVING REGARD to the problems common to African coffee producing States and of the need to provide these States with a solid institutional framework enabling them to coordinate their policies and thereby seek to fulfil their legitimate aspirations;

CONSIDERING the numerous advantages which flow from the collaboration between Member States, that a concerted approach on the part of these States can bring about in their efforts to strengthen their position on the international stage and thus safeguard their interests in the international coffee trade;

CONSIDERING that collaboration between Member States, international organisations, the private sector and all other stakeholders can contribute to transform the coffee value chain in Africa;

RECOGNISING efforts by the African Union to establish the *African Continental Free Trade Area*, and the need to improve access to information on coffee, adoption of appropriate strategies to support production, processing and intra-African coffee trade, as well as the promotion of national consumption in producing States, thus creating opportunities for the transformation of the coffee value chain in Africa;

RECOGNISING the growing importance of coffee consumption in Africa;

CONVINCED of the need for African States to continue, within the framework of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation, to maintain close cooperation in all areas affecting their vital interests as producers and consumers of coffee;

DETERMINED to do their utmost to enable the Organisation to play an active role not only at the regional level but also at the international level;

CONSCIOUS of the need to amend and update the Agreement applicable to the Organisation to take account of developments in the regional and international situation;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER I: PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1: PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is to change the structure, operating rules and functions of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation created in 1960, with the objective of making it the framework for the identification and coordinated resolution of problems linked to the development of the coffee value chain in Africa, to sustainably improve the living conditions of producers, take into account the interest of coffee consumers in Africa, and the profitability of all actors in the chain.

ARTICLE 2: FUNCTIONS OF THE ORGANISATION

To achieve its objective, the Organisation:

- 1- encourages the development of a concerted approach among Member States to identify and propose solutions to problems common to them given their similar technical, geographical, economic and social conditions prevailing in Africa;
- 2- collects and disseminates, for the benefit of Member States, information relating to coffee production, processing, marketing and consumption;
- 3- encourages, in the event of a market imbalance, the harmonisation of coffee production and marketing policies;
- 4- assists research and development programs to improve the level of cultural practices prevailing in the territories of Member States;
- 5- encourages and contributes to the development of research, production, processing and marketing skills in Member States;
- 6- promotes and encourages coffee consumption to increase African coffee demand, in particular by promoting the virtues of coffee specifically its beneficial effects on health;
- 7- takes all necessary measures to strengthen its institutional framework to enable Member States to play, individually and collectively, an effective role in international organisations and to ensure access to international markets for African producers;
- 8- develops, assesses and seeks funding for projects that benefit Member States and the coffee value chain in Africa;
- 9- promotes training and information programs to facilitate the transfer to Member States of technologies relevant to the coffee value chain in Africa;
- 10- assists Member States in developing and implementing strategies to build the capacity of local communities and smallholder farmers to benefit from sustainable coffee production that can contribute to poverty reduction;
- 11- facilitates the provision of information on financial tools and services likely to help different stakeholders in the value chain of African coffee, including access to credit facilities and risk management;

- 12- provides a consultative framework within the coffee industry;
- 13- encourages Member States to promote coffee quality; and
- 14- takes any other measures that may be incidental or conducive to achieving the objective of the Organisation.

ARTICLE 3: DEFINITIONS

1- In this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) **"Africa"** refers to the African continent and the African islands;
- (b) **"Assembly"** refers to the General Assembly established under article 10 in annual session or in extraordinary session;
- (c) **"Chairman"** and **"Vice-Chairman"** refer, respectively, to the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Assembly;
- (d) **"Delegate"** refers to the representative of a Member State in the Assembly;
- (e) **"Member"** and **"Contracting Party"** respectively refer to a coffee producing or exporting importing/consuming Member State or the Government of a State, which accepts to be bound by this Agreement provisionally or definitively.
- (f) **"Secretariat"** refers to the Secretariat established under Chapter IV;
- (g) **"Secretary General"** means the person elected under Article 17.

2- **"Annual Meetings"** are the Annual General Assembly of the Organisation, including meetings of the Organisation's Technical Committees, the African Coffee Research Network and the African Coffee Symposium.

3- **"Coffee"** as defined in the International Coffee Agreement (ICA), means **"coffee beans and cherries, whether green or roasted, and include ground, decaffeinated, liquid and instant coffee"** (ICA 2007, Article 2 (1)). The General Assembly adopts the conversions as given by the International Coffee Organisation in accordance with the International Coffee Agreement in force. Subject to this provision, the terms listed below will have the following meanings:

- (a) **"Green Coffee"** refers to any coffee in the form of naked beans before roasting;
- (b) **"Dried Coffee Cherry"** refers to the dried fruit of the coffee tree. The equivalent of the dried coffee cherry in green coffee, is obtained by multiplying the net weight of the dried coffee cherry by 0.50;
- (c) **"Parchment Coffee"** refers to the green coffee bean contained in the parchment skin. The equivalent of parchment coffee in green coffee is obtained by multiplying the net weight of the parchment coffee by 0.80;

(d) **"Roasted Coffee"** refers to green coffee roasted to any degree and includes ground coffee;

(e) **"Decaffeinated Coffee"** refers to green, roasted or instant coffee from which caffeine has been extracted;

(f) **"Liquid Coffee"** refers to water-soluble solids derived from roasted coffee and put into liquid form; and

(g) **"Instant Coffee"** refers to dried water-soluble solids from roasted coffee.

4- The **"Bag"** refers to 60 kilogrammes or 132.276 lbs of green coffee.

(a) One **"tonne"** refers to a mass of 1,000 kilogrammes or 2,204.6 lb.

(b) One **"lb."** refers to 453.597 grammes.

5- By **"Coffee year"** we refer to the twelve-month period from October 1 to September 30 inclusive.

6- **"Organisation"** and **"General Assembly"** respectively refer to the Inter-African Coffee Organisation and the General Assembly of IACO.

7- **"Producer / Exporting Member"** or **"Exporting Country"** refers to a member or a net coffee exporting country respectively; i.e. a Member State whose exports exceed imports.

8- **"Consumer / Importing Member"** or **"Importing Country"** respectively refers to a Member or a country which is a net coffee importing country, including a Member State whose imports exceed exports.

9- By **"Voting by two-thirds majority"** we refer to a vote requiring two thirds of the votes of all the Members of the Organisation.

10- **"Domestic Consumption"** means a consumption of all coffee products consumed by all Members of coffee producing and consuming states in Africa

11- **"African Coffee Development Fund"** is a fund to be established under the provisions of this Agreement with the mandate to provide or facilitate access to affordable and innovative financial solutions as well as the required technical assistance for the transformation of the coffee value chain in Africa.

12- **"Coffee Value Chain in Africa"** is the whole range of services in the African coffee industry, including the market dynamics and relationships between the different actors supporting coffee to move from the farm to the final customer or consumer.

13- **"Custodian"** is the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

- 1- This Agreement is open to the membership of the Government of any African producing or importing / consuming State empowered to sign it.
- 2- The membership is made by depositing an instrument of ratification with the Custodian.

ARTICLE 5: MEMBERS

Members are made up of African coffee producing and importing/consuming States which have ratified this Agreement.

ARTICLE 6: COMMITMENTS OF MEMBERS

- 1- Members agree to adopt the necessary measures to enable them to fulfil their obligations under this Agreement and to fully cooperate with one another to ensure the achievement of its objectives, as well as to provide all information useful for its application.
- 2- Members agree to provide statistics and any relevant information relating to a better analysis of the value chain in accordance with the rules established by the General Assembly.
- 3- Members agree to pay annual contributions determined by the General Assembly.

CHAPTER II: STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANISATION

ARTICLE 7: HEADQUARTERS OF THE ORGANISATION

The Organisation has its headquarters in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, unless the General Assembly decides otherwise.

ARTICLE 8: PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

- 1- The Organisation has legal personality. It has the capacity to contract, acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property and to take legal action.
- 2- The status, privileges and immunities of the Organisation, the Secretary General, the staff and experts, as well as representatives of Member States during the stays which the performance of their duties causes them to have in the territory of the host country, are governed by a Headquarters Agreement between the Host Government and the Organisation.
- 3- The Headquarters Agreement referred to in paragraph 2 of this article shall be independent of this Agreement. However, it ends:
 - (a) by mutual agreement between the host Government and the Organisation;
 - (b) in the event that the headquarters of the Organisation is moved from the territory of the host Government; and
 - (c) in the event of termination of activity by the Organisation.
- 4- To enable it to fulfil the objectives and functions with which it is entrusted, the Organisation shall possess full international personality. To those ends, it may enter into agreements with

Member States, non-Member States and other regional and international organisations. The signatories to the present Agreement shall, in their territories, accord to the Organisation, its officers, staff and property such status, immunities, exemptions and privileges as are accorded to similar international organisations, officers, staff and property.

5- The Governments of Member States other than the host Government shall grant the Organisation the same facilities with respect to monetary or exchange regulations, keeping of bank accounts and transfer of funds, as those which are granted to specialised agencies of the United Nations or the African Union.

ARTICLE 9: BODIES OF THE ORGANISATION

For the implementation of its objectives, the Organisation is made up of the following bodies:

- the General Assembly;
- the General Secretariat;
- the Finance and Administration Committee;
- the Economic and Development Committee;
- the Private Sector Consultative Group;
- the African Coffee Research Network; and
- the African Coffee Development Fund.

CHAPTER III: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ARTICLE 10: COMPOSITION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 1- IACO General Assembly is composed of all Members of the Organisation.
- 2- Each Member appoints a representative to the General Assembly and, if desired, one or more Substitutes. A Member may also appoint one or more Advisers to their representative or their Substitutes.
- 3- Expenses incurred by each delegation in connection with meetings of the Assembly shall be met by the respective Member State.

ARTICLE 11: POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 1- Any powers specifically conferred by this Agreement shall be vested in the General Assembly, which carries out the duties necessary for the application of the provisions of this Agreement.
- 2- The General Assembly may create a Special Group for the settlement of disputes to be submitted. It may create working groups and committees other than those provided for in Article 9 and decide to dissolve them.
- 3- The General Assembly may appoint Patrons, Goodwill Ambassadors, or other personalities to support its objectives in promoting African coffee. However, these are not paid officials of the Organisation.
- 4- The General Assembly establishes rules including its own rules which are necessary to apply the provisions of this Agreement and shall be compatible therewith.

5- The General Assembly adopts the five-year strategic action plan as well as the annual action plan submitted by the Secretary General.

6- The General Assembly should also keep the records necessary for the performance of its duties under this Agreement and any other document it considers desirable.

ARTICLE 12: CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1- At each Annual Meeting, the Assembly shall elect from among nationals of Member-States, a Chairman and a Vice Chairman who shall not be paid by the Organisation. They remain in office until the next Annual Meeting.

2- The Chairman and a Vice Chairman so elected may not delegate their powers. In the absence of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, the Secretary General organises the election of a Session Chairman.

3- Neither the Chairman nor the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman has the right to vote. In this case, the alternate exercises the voting rights of the Member.

ARTICLE 13: GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSIONS

1- The General Assembly holds one ordinary session per year and extraordinary sessions if it so decides. The ordinary session of the General Assembly is held within six (06) months following the end of the coffee year. It can hold extraordinary sessions at the request of a simple majority of Members. The notice of the sessions shall be given at least thirty (30) days in advance, and in case of emergency, this period is reduced to ten (10) days.

2- In principle, the General Assemblies are held at the headquarters of the organisation and upon invitation, in any Member State or in any other place by the decision of the General Assembly. In the event of an invitation by a Member State, the costs of the Secretariat, as well as all other expenses linked to the organisation, are borne by the Member State.

3- The General Assembly may accept Observers.

4- A Member State may, by written notification, appoint the Delegate of any other Member State to represent it at any meeting of the General Assembly.

5- The quorum for any meeting of the Assembly is made up of a number of Delegates representing at least a simple majority of the total voting power of Members. In the absence of a quorum, the Chairman postpones the opening of work to an interval of an hour.

6- When a matter is presented for a decision before the General Assembly and there is no consensus, it shall be put to the vote and decided by a simple majority of the total voting power of Members. In case of failure to obtain the majority vote, the Chairman shall postpone the matter to the next session. After two consecutive postponements, the question shall be removed from the agenda.

ARTICLE 14: VOTES AND DECISION MAKING

1- Member States shall together hold 1000 votes in the Assembly. Every Member State shall have 5 basic votes.

2 - Beyond the basic votes, the Organisation will distribute the rest of the votes among its members calculated basing on the ICO moving average of exports for the previous four years for producing Members and on the ICO moving average of imports for the previous four years for importing / consuming members.

3- The decisions and recommendations of the General Assembly and of the other bodies of the Organisation are taken by consensus. In the absence of consensus, decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of Members.

ARTICLE 15: VOTING PROCEDURE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Any Member may authorise, in writing, another Member of his category, to represent his interests and to exercise his voting right at any meeting of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 16: COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

In order to achieve its objectives, the General Assembly may authorise the Secretary General to collaborate with any other governmental, non-governmental or private sector institutions.

CHAPTER IV: GENERAL SECRETARIAT

ARTICLE 17: SECRETARY GENERAL AND STAFF

1- The General Assembly appoints the Secretary General who is a national of a Member State of the Organisation. He or she has a five-year term renewable once. The conditions of his/her appointment as well as the renewal of his/her term are fixed by the General Assembly and are comparable to those which are applied to corresponding officials of other similar intergovernmental organisations and according to the resources of the Organisation.

2- The Secretary General is the Chief Executive Officer of the Organisation and the Head of the Secretariat.

3- The Secretary General appoints the staff of the Organisation in accordance with the Rules established by the General Assembly and the Staff Rules and Regulations of the Organisation.

4- The Secretary General and the staff shall not have any financial interest in the coffee value chain.

5- The Secretary General and the staff of the Organisation shall not receive instructions from any Member or from other authorities outside the Organisation. In addition, they must refrain from any action incompatible with their status as an international official.

6- Each Member agrees to respect the exclusively international character of the responsibilities of the Secretary General and the staff and shall not seek to influence them in the performance of their duties.

7- The Secretary General develops and submits to the General Assembly a five-year strategic action plan which presents the main orientations and priorities of the Organisation. He/She also submits an annual action plan for the implementation of the said strategic plan.

CHAPTER V: FINANCE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

ARTICLE 18: FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

- 1- A Finance and Administration Committee is created.
- 2- The Finance and Administration Committee is made up of a maximum of ten (10) Members appointed by the General Assembly for a non-renewable two-year term. The General Assembly strives, as much as possible, to find a balance between Producing Members and Importing / Consuming Members within the Committee.
- 3- The Committee Members elect a Chairman and a Vice Chairman from among its Members. If he/she is a national of a producing state, the Vice-Chairman is a national of an Importing / consuming state and vice versa. These functions alternate between the two categories of Members for each new term of office.
- 4- The Finance and Administration Committee meets, at least once a year and submits its reports to the General Assembly for adoption. Depending on the matters at hand, in line with its responsibilities, the committee may hold more meetings as deemed necessary.

ARTICLE 19: FUNCTIONS OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Finance and Administration Committee is responsible for:

- 1- supervising the preparation of the administrative budget along with the activity program which is presented to the General Assembly for approval; and
- 2- perform any other tasks entrusted by the General Assembly, including the follow-up of income and expenditure, as well as issues related to the administration of the Organisation.

ARTICLE 20: FINANCES

- 1- The expenses of Delegations to the General Assembly, to the different Committees and to any other meeting of the Organisation are the responsibility of the Members concerned.
- 2- The other expenses necessary for the administration of this Agreement are covered by the resources of the Organisation.
- 3- The financial year of the Organisation is the same as that of the coffee year.
- 4- The resources of the Organisation consist of:
 - (a) annual contributions from Member States;

- (b) income from contributions referred to in paragraph (a);
- (c) donations and legacies;
- (d) any other resource received by or returning to the Organisation.

ARTICLE 21: ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET AND MEMBERS' ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

1- During its ordinary session, the General Assembly approves the administrative budget of the Organisation for the new financial year and fixes the contribution of each Member to this budget. A draft administrative budget is prepared by the Secretary General under the supervision of the Finance and Administration Committee, in accordance with paragraph 2 of this article.

2- The contribution of each Member State to the administrative budget for each financial year is proportional to the ratio between the number of its votes at the time of the approval of the administrative budget for this financial year and the total of the votes of all Members. However, if there is a change in the distribution of votes among the Members in accordance with the provisions of article 14 at the beginning of the financial year for which the contributions are assessed, these contributions are adjusted accordingly for this exercise. To determine the contributions, the votes of each Member are calculated without taking into account the suspension of the voting rights of any Member or the resulting redistribution of votes.

ARTICLE 22: PAYMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

1- The contribution of each Member State includes a fixed part and a variable part decided by the General Assembly. In the same way as the votes are calculated, the variable part is calculated on the ICO moving average of exports for the previous four years for producing Members and on the ICO moving average of imports for the previous four years for importing / consuming members. The contributions to the administrative budget for each financial year shall be payable in freely convertible currency and become due on the first day of that financial year.

2- If a Member fails to pay in full its contribution to the administrative budget within six (06) months following the date on which the contribution is due, its voting rights and its right to participate in meetings of specialised committees shall be suspended until its contribution is paid in full. However, unless the General Assembly so decides, this Member shall not be deprived of any of its other rights and shall not be discharged from any of its obligations under this Agreement.

3- Any Member whose voting rights have been suspended under the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article shall nevertheless remain responsible to pay its full contribution.

ARTICLE 23: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For each financial year, and before the adoption of the budget, the Secretary General is required to present his/her financial statements for the past financial year to the General Assembly. As such, he/she is required to send to Members, thirty (30) days before the General Assembly, the said financial statements.

ARTICLE 24: LIABILITIES

The Secretary General is not empowered to contract loans on behalf of the Organisation without the approval of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 25: AUDIT AND PUBLICATION OF ACCOUNTS

1- As soon as possible and no later than six (06) months after the end of each financial year, a statement of the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of the Organisation during the financial year in question must be prepared and be independently audited.

2- The audit report of the Organisation is presented to the General Assembly for approval at its next session.

CHAPTER VI: OTHER COMMITTEES AND BODIES

ARTICLE 26: ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1- An Economic and Development Committee is created.

2- The Economic and Development Committee is made up of a maximum of sixteen (16) Members, appointed by the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary General, for a non-renewable two-year term.

3. The Economic and Development Committee meets at least once a year and submits its reports to the General Assembly for adoption.

4- The Committee Members elect a Chairman and a Vice Chairman from among its Members.

5- The Economic and Development Committee is open to non-members of the Committee as observers.

ARTICLE 27: FUNCTIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Economic and Development Committee is responsible for:

1- considering the annual activity programme as well as the Activity report for the past financial year submitted by the Secretary General;

2- considering the five-year strategic plan submitted by the Secretary General;

3- analysing statistics on the coffee value chain in Africa;

4- conducting studies on trade barriers and propose solutions for better access to the African market;

5- conducting studies on the African coffee market;

6- assisting Producing Members to harmonise coffee origin rules to facilitate free movement of coffee in the African Continental Free Trade Area;

- 7- building capacities of Member States in the promotion of domestic coffee consumption;
- 8- making proposals to the General Assembly for organising, once a year, the African Coffee Symposium;
- 9- considering projects intended to be financed under the African Coffee Development Fund;
- 10- supporting Member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in line with coffee, particularly with regard to poverty eradication, fight against climate change, child labour and reduction of gender-related inequalities.

ARTICLE 28: PRIVATE SECTOR CONSULTATIVE GROUP

- 1- A Private Sector Consultative Group is created.
- 2- Members of the Private Sector Consultative Group are made up of stakeholders in the coffee value chain, including producers, importers, millers, buyers, exporters, financial institutions, certification bodies and roasters.
- 3- The Private Sector Consultative Group is made up of a maximum of twenty (20) Members, appointed by the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary General, for a non-renewable two-year term. The General Assembly strives to find, as far as possible, a balance between producers and consumers within the Group.
- 4- The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are nationals of Member States and are elected by the Members of the Private Sector Consultative Group.
- 5- The Private Sector Consultative Group meets at least once a year and submits its reports to the General Assembly for adoption. Its meetings are open to non-members of the Group as observers.

ARTICLE 29: FUNCTIONS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR CONSULTATIVE GROUP

The Private Sector Consultative Group is responsible, among others, for giving opinions to the General Assembly on issues related to the development of the coffee value chain in Africa, including the situation of supply and demand, wealth creation and added value in the coffee sector and the development of a sustainable coffee economy.

ARTICLE 30: AFRICAN COFFEE RESEARCH NETWORK

- 1- The African Coffee Research Network, created by IACO Member States in 1993, is hereby recognised as one of the bodies in this Organisation.
- 2- The African Coffee Research Network is made up of scientific researchers from producing and importing / consuming countries of African coffee.
- 3- The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are nationals of Member States.
- 4- The African Coffee Research Network meets at specified intervals and submits its reports to the General Assembly for adoption.

ARTICLE 31: FUNCTIONS OF THE AFRICAN COFFEE RESEARCH NETWORK

The African Coffee Research Network is responsible for:

- 1- coordinating scientific activities of national coffee research networks;
- 2- facilitating consultations on research topics related to the coffee value chain in Africa;
- 3- organising scientific conferences on African coffee at agreed intervals;
- 4- disseminating the results of its research on coffee to Member States.

ARTICLE 32: AFRICAN COFFEE DEVELOPMENT FUND

1- The Organisation shall establish an African Coffee Development Fund to support coffee projects in Member States and shall take full advantage of all sources of funding. The General Assembly will establish the guidelines regarding the operations of the African Coffee Development Fund. Such provisions may include financial arrangements which the General Assembly considers appropriate for achieving the objectives of this Agreement..

2- Where possible, the Organisation may also collect information from Members, non-Members, from donors and other agencies, on development projects and programmes focussing on the coffee sector. Where appropriate, and with the agreement of the parties concerned, the Organisation may make this information available to its Members as well as other Organisations or Institutions.

CHAPTER VII: DIFFERENT, TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 33: SIGNATURE

This Agreement shall be open for signature at the headquarters of the Custodian, namely at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, by the Contracting Parties to the 1998 Agreement, as well as any other producing or importing/consuming African State desiring "to join" the Organisation.

ARTICLE 34: RATIFICATION, ACCEPTANCE OR APPROVAL

1- This Agreement is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by the signatory African States, in accordance with their respective legal procedures.

2- The instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Custodian.

ARTICLE 35: COMING INTO FORCE

This Agreement shall enter into force after the deposit of the instruments of ratification by two-thirds of the total voting power of the signatory Members and the Secretary General has been so informed.

ARTICLE 36: CONSULTATION, DISPUTES AND ARBITRATION

1- Each Member shall pay particular attention to requests for consultation sent by another Member regarding the application of this Agreement.

2- Any dispute relating to the interpretation or application of this Agreement which is not settled by consultation is, at the request of any Member party to the dispute, referred to the General Assembly.

3- To this end, the General Assembly creates, under the diligence of the Secretary General, a Special Group composed of three or four Members, in order to settle the dispute. The Report of the Special Group is subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

4- If the disagreement persists, the dispute is submitted to arbitration by a tribunal composed of three arbitrators. One of the arbitrators appointed by the Organisation, another by the Member State(s) and the third arbitrator shall be, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, appointed by the Custodian. The third arbitrator shall have full power to settle any procedural issues on which the parties disagree.

ARTICLE 37: RESERVATION

None of the provisions of this Agreement may be subject to reservations.

ARTICLE 38: VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL

Any Member State may, at any time, withdraw from the Organisation by sending a written notification to the Custodian at least one (01) year in advance.

ARTICLE 39: SUSPENSION-EXCLUSION

If the General Assembly considers that a Member has failed to fulfil its fundamental obligations under this Agreement, it may, by a majority of two thirds of the total voting power, suspend or exclude the Member concerned, depending on the severity of the offence committed, or else apply any other sanction it deems appropriate. The General Assembly will adopt specific Rules that will apply in the case of suspension or exclusion of a Member under the provision of this Article.

ARTICLE 40: LIQUIDATION OF ACCOUNTS IN CASE OF EXCLUSION OR WITHDRAWAL

1- In the event of withdrawal or exclusion of a Member, the General Assembly shall proceed to the liquidation of its accounts. As such, the Organisation shall keep any amount paid by this Member, who is required to pay the debts due at the time of his withdrawal or exclusion to the Organisation. However, if it is a Contracting Party which cannot accept an amendment and therefore ceases to be a Party to the Agreement by virtue of paragraph 2 of this Article, the General Assembly shall liquidate the accounts in the manner it considers fair.

2- A Member who has ceased to participate in this Agreement is not entitled to any share of the proceeds of the liquidation or other assets of the Organisation; neither can it be imputed any part of the possible deficit of the Organisation when the Agreement ends.

ARTICLE 41: REVISION AND ABROGATION

1- This Agreement shall remain in force, unless the General Assembly decides to terminate it, at the decision of two-thirds of the total voting power. However, the General Assembly shall review the provisions of the Agreement every ten (10) years.

2- In the event of termination of this Agreement, the General Assembly shall remain on duty to ensure the liquidation of the Organisation.

ARTICLE 42: AMENDMENT

1- The General Assembly may, by a majority of two thirds of the total voting power of its Members, propose an amendment to this Agreement. As such, it shall communicate the said proposal to all Contracting Parties.

2- The amendment referred to in paragraph 1 above, shall come into force upon receipt by the Custodian, notifications of acceptance by two-thirds of the Contracting Parties at the end of a period of 90 days. If at the expiry of this period, the two-thirds quorum required Members to the coming into force of the amendment is not reached, the amendment shall be considered as withdrawn.

3- The General Assembly shall notify to the Custodian any amendments distributed to the Contracting Parties under this Article.

ARTICLE 43: TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Any actions taken by or on behalf of the Organisation or any of its bodies under the 1998 Agreement of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation shall remain in force until the coming into force of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 44: ADOPTION AND DEPOSIT

This Agreement, after its adoption by the General Assembly, by a vote of delegates representing not less than two-thirds of the total voting power of the Assembly, shall be deposited with the Custodian who shall send a copy to each contracting party for ratification.

ARTICLE 45: AUTHENTIC TEXTS OF THE AGREEMENT

The texts of this Agreement in the French and English languages are equally authentic. The originals are deposited with the Custodian.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorised for this purpose by their respective governments, have signed this Agreement on the dates appearing opposite their signatures.

MEMBER STATES SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT

Member States	Signature	Date
Angola		
Bénin		
Burundi		
Cameroon		
Central African Republic		
Democratic Republic of Congo		
Republic of Congo		
Côte d'Ivoire		
Ethiopia		
Equatorial Guinea		
Gabon		
Ghana		
Guinea		
Kenya		
Liberia		
Madagascar		
Malawi		
Nigeria		
Rwanda		
Sierra Leone		
Tanzania		
Togo		
Uganda		
Zambia		
Zimbabwe		



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8th April 2026

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Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development
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Ms. Sarah Nyagah
Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Coffee Producers Association,
Wakulima House 4th Floor
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Mr. Karugu Macharia
Chairperson, Kenya Coffee Platform (KCP)
Coffee Plaza, 1st Floor, Exchange Lane
NAIROBI

Dear *D. Ronoh*

**RE: INVITATION TO SUBMIT VIEWS ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE
INTER-AFRICAN COFFEE ORGANISATION (IACO) AGREEMENT.**

The National Assembly is in receipt of the **Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) Agreement (attached)**, which was tabled in the House for ratification pursuant to Article 2(6) of the Constitution and Section 8 of the Treaty Making and Ratification Act (Cap. 4D).

The Agreement has been committed to the **Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock** for consideration and reporting to the House. The IACO Agreement seeks to modernize the organizational structure, operating rules and functions of the body to better address contemporary challenges within the coffee value chain in Africa.

In compliance with Article 118(1)(b) of the Constitution, which mandates Parliament to facilitate public participation and involvement in its legislative and other business, the Committee hereby invites your organization to a consultative meeting to share your views and professional input on the proposed ratification.

The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 14th April 2026 at 10:00 am in **Committee Room 12, New Wing, Main Parliament Buildings.**

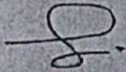
To facilitate an organized engagement, you are requested to:

1. Prepare a written memorandum outlining your organization's position, concerns, or recommendations regarding the agreement.
2. Provide fifteen (15) hard copies of the said memorandum for the Committee members.
3. Send a soft copy to the emails below at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Kindly confirm your attendance or the representation of your organization by contacting the Committee Secretariat.

The liaison officers on this matter are **Mr. George Gazemba, Deputy Director, Departmental Committees**, who may be contacted on Tel. No. **0728024252** or Email: george.gazemba@parliament.go.ke and **Mr. Dennis Mogare Ogechi, Head of the Committee Secretariat**, who may be contacted on Tel. No. **0721479162** or Email: dennis.ogechi@parliament.go.ke

Yours



JEREMIAH NDOMBI, MBS

For: CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Copy to:

Sen. Mutahi Kagwe, EGH
Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development
Kilimo House, Cathedral Road
NAIROBI.

ANNEXURES

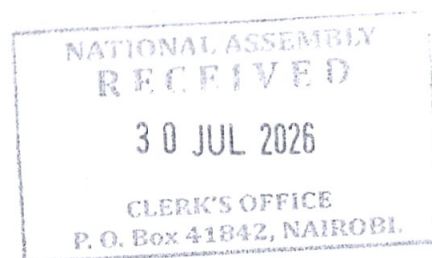


REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

**RATIFICATION OF INTER – AFRICAN COFFEE ORGANIZATION (IACO) NEW
AGREEMENT**

BY



JULY 2026

Introduction

Inter Africa Coffee Organization (IACO) is an intergovernmental organization comprising the following 25 African coffee producing countries: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

IACO is an intergovernmental organization formed in 1960 and works to address challenges in the African coffee industry. Kenya has been a member of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) since 1960 when the Heads of State of 11 African coffee producing countries, namely Angola, Cameroon, Central Africa, Congo (RDC), Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Uganda and Tanzania met on 7th December 1960.

The main goal of IACO is to make Africa a global leader in coffee production and works to address challenges in the coffee industry, such as production, processing, consumption and marketing according to Article 3 of the 1960 IACO Agreement.

IACO strategic objectives

IACO has the following four specific strategic objectives:

- i. Provide a platform for dialogue and alignment of policies to support the development of African coffee in Member States.
- ii. Coordinate Coffee Research and its Implementation in Africa
- iii. Create and enhance awareness on the development of African coffee and promote the participation of the public-private partnerships in the member states in joint activities that benefit from synergies and economies of scale.
- iv. Build and strengthen the institutional capacity to provide strategic leadership, guidance and support for coffee development in Africa.

IACO partnerships

The organization has the following Partnerships:

- **International Coffee Organization (ICO):** Collaboration with ICO for global coffee policy discussions and alignment.
- **Regional Bodies:** Working with regional economic bodies like the **African Union (AU)** to integrate coffee sector development into larger economic plans. Recently, IACO was appointed by the AU as the steering body for coffee development and reforms in the African region.
- **African Fine Coffees Association (AFCA):** This partnership gave birth to the first African coffee week held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2023 and the second comes in February 2025 in Dar Salaam, Tanzania.

IACO achievements

The following are the Key Achievements of IACO in the Region:

- Research & Development:** IACO has significantly contributed to research on coffee diseases and pest control, improving yield and quality.
- Capacity Building:** The organization has focused on capacity building through training and education, empowering smallholder farmers and cooperatives. This is mainly done at Ethiopia's coffee college.
- Market Access:** IACO has facilitated better market access and fair-trade practices for African coffee producers.
- Supporting Domestic Coffee Consumption:** Paying close attention to Kenya, IACO through partnership with International Coffee Organization funded the establishment of 2 coffee houses in Kenyan universities of Egerton and Kenyatta University.

1.0 AICO programs

Initiatives & Programs:

- **African Coffee Facility (ACF):** A funding mechanism aimed at revitalizing the coffee sector through investment in infrastructure, research, and marketing.

- **Quality Improvement:** Programs designed to enhance the quality of coffee, ensuring that African coffee meets international standards.
- **Sustainability Projects:** Initiatives to promote sustainable coffee farming practices, reducing the environmental impact and improving livelihoods.
- **The African Coffee Research Network (ACRN):** The ACRN was founded in 1993 and its core function is coordinating research among producing African nations. The main objectives include:
 - i. Promote Research Cooperation through exchange of scientific research information among member states.
 - ii. Enhance Productivity of coffee in producing nations through research
 - iii. Combat Coffee Pests & Diseases
 - iv. Support Sustainable Practices in producing countries
 - v. Facilitate Information Exchange among producing and member nations on production and market access

Submission of views on the Ratification of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO) AGREEMENT

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development through Agriculture Food Authority (AFA) - Coffee Directorate participates in IACO programs and technical meetings to advance the competitiveness and sustainability of the country's coffee industry. Membership in IACO enhances Kenya's collaboration with other African coffee-producing countries, facilitates knowledge and technology exchange, strengthens regional and international market access, and supports the implementation of continental initiatives aimed at increasing the value of African coffee.

The Ministry has therefore NO OBJECTION to Kenya's ratification of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement and fully supports its approval by the

National Assembly noting that continued membership will strengthen Kenya's participation in regional coffee policy, promote strategic partnerships, and contribute to the sustainable growth and global competitiveness of the Kenyan coffee sector.

Signature Date

SEN. MUTAHI KAGWE, EGH
CABINET SECRETARY

SUBMISSION TO THE
CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

ON :

KENYA'S RATIFICATION OF THE INTER-AFRICAN
COFFEE ORGANIZATION (IACO) NEW AGREEMENT

Submitted by
WILSON RADING
Principal Magistrate
Convener, Laws, Science and Technology (SciTechKe) Section
Innovation Council of Kenya

9th April, 2026

*This submission is presented pursuant to Section 8(3) of the Treaty Making and
Ratification Act, No. 45 of 2021 (Rev. 2018)*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

This submission is presented by **Wilson Rading**, a Principal Magistrate with a distinguished career at the intersection of law, technology, and public policy. Mr. Rading previously served on the National Council of the Kenya Magistrate and Judges Association, and has consistently engaged with emerging issues where law, alternative dispute resolution, and technology converge — championing sound policy development and the dissemination of accessible legal information to the public.

He represented the High Court of Kenya in the formulation of the **ICT Strategic Plan**, demonstrating his commitment to embedding technology considerations within the justice sector. Mr. Rading serves as **Convener of the Laws, Science and Technology (SciTechKe) Section of the Innovation Council of Kenya**, where he contributes extensively to the Council's publication, *INNOVATE* magazine.

His academic credentials include a **Master Degree in Intellectual Property**, complemented by specialized certifications in **Generative Artificial Intelligence, Data Literacy, Mathematics, Machine Learning Algorithms A-Z, and Support Vector Machines** — a rare and rigorous technical foundation that informs his interdisciplinary approach to legal and policy analysis.

His professional experience spans roles as a **Research Fellow, Private Legal Practitioner, and State Counsel** at the Companies Registry in the Office of the Attorney General. Beyond his professional endeavours, Mr. Rading is deeply invested in his community: he sponsors the *Ardhi Oevu* soccer tournament, trains chess players from beginner to advanced level, and actively participates in tree planting initiatives and environmental clean-ups at the grassroots level — reflecting a holistic commitment to the development of people and the stewardship of the environment.

RE: SUBMISSION ON KENYA'S RATIFICATION OF THE INTER-AFRICAN COFFEE ORGANIZATION (IACO) NEW AGREEMENT

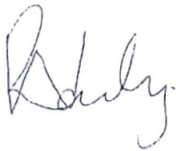
The above subject matter refers.

I write to present this submission on Kenya's ratification of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement, in response to the Parliamentary Memorandum tabled before the National Assembly on 4th March, 2026. This submission is made pursuant to Section 8(3) of the Treaty Making and Ratification Act, No. 45 of 2021 (Rev. 2018), which invites public participation on treaties and international agreements prior to ratification.

Drawing on my experience at the intersection of law, policy, technology, and public interest advocacy, I have reviewed the IACO New Agreement and the accompanying Parliamentary Memorandum in their entirety. This submission sets out observations on the significance of the Agreement for Kenya, its implications for smallholder coffee farmers, and recommendations for the National Assembly's consideration.

I trust the National Assembly will find this submission useful in its deliberations.

Yours faithfully,



Wilson Rading

Principal Magistrate

Former National Council Member, Kenya Magistrate & Judges Association

Convener, Laws, Science and Technology (SciTechKe) Section

Innovation Council of Kenya

Masters Degree in Intellectual Property | Certs: Generative AI, Data Literacy, ML A-Z, SVMs

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND MANDATE

This Memorandum is presented to the Clerk of the National Assembly pursuant to the mandate conferred by Standing Order 216 and in accordance with Section 8(3) of the Treaty Making and Ratification Act, No. 45 of 2021 (Rev. 2018).

The Parliamentary Memorandum on Kenya's Ratification of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement was tabled before the National Assembly on 4th March, 2026, by the Deputy Leader of the Majority Party, and referred to the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock for consideration and public participation.

The purpose of this Memorandum is to:

- i. Report findings and observations following consideration of the IACO New Agreement;
- ii. Provide an analysis of the Agreement's significance and implications for Kenya; and
- iii. Make recommendations to the National Assembly on the ratification of the IACO New Agreement.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) was established on 7th December, 1960, by eleven (11) Heads of State and Government of African coffee-producing countries, including Kenya. Its founding mandate was to bring African coffee-producing countries under one entity to negotiate the sale of their coffee, identify common challenges, find solutions to common problems, and collect statistics on the performance of the industry.

The IACO New Agreement was adopted at IACO's 60th Annual General Assembly in November 2020. It replaces the 1960 Agreement and its successive amendments. The New Agreement modernises the Organization's structure and objectives to reflect current realities, including:

- i. The growing importance of the private sector in the coffee value chain;
- ii. The establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA); and
- iii. The need to admit African coffee-consuming countries as full Members of IACO.

The Cabinet of Kenya approved the ratification of the IACO New Agreement on 21st January, 2025. The Parliamentary Memorandum was subsequently submitted to the National Assembly by H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, E.G.H., Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, on 22nd December, 2025.

As at the time of this Memorandum, seven (7) States have ratified the New Agreement: Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Gabon, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, and Ghana.

3.0 SIGNIFICANCE OF COFFEE TO KENYA

Coffee is one of Kenya's most important cash crops and a critical source of foreign exchange. The following key statistics from the Parliamentary Memorandum illustrate the sector's socioeconomic weight:

Indicator	Data (2020/2021)
Total area under coffee	118,382 Hectares
Total clean coffee production	44,898 Metric Tonnes
— Smallholder production	30,811 Metric Tonnes
— Estate production	14,103 Metric Tonnes
Co-operative societies	556
Large-scale estate farmers	2,132
Livelihoods dependent on coffee	Approximately 5 million Kenyans
Main variety	Arabica

These figures underscore the immense socioeconomic importance of the coffee sector and the imperative for robust international frameworks to support its development.

4.0 KEY PROVISIONS OF THE IACO NEW AGREEMENT

The following critical provisions of the IACO New Agreement (2020) merit the National Assembly's attention:

4.1 Purpose and Objectives (Articles 1 & 2)

The Agreement seeks to restructure IACO as the framework for identification and coordinated resolution of problems linked to the development of the coffee value chain in Africa, and to sustainably improve the living conditions of producers and the profitability of all actors in the chain. Specific functions include:

- i. Encouraging a concerted approach among Member States to identify and solve common problems;
- ii. Collecting and disseminating information on coffee production, processing, marketing, and consumption;
- iii. Assisting research and development programmes to improve cultivation practices;
- iv. Building the capacity of local communities and smallholder farmers for sustainable coffee production; and
- v. Assisting Member States in accessing financial tools and credit facilities relevant to the coffee value chain.

4.2 Expanded Membership (Articles 4 & 5)

Unlike the 1960 Agreement which restricted membership to coffee-producing countries, the New Agreement opens membership to any African producing, importing, or consuming State. This brings coffee-consuming African nations into the governance framework, creating a more inclusive and commercially relevant organization.

4.3 Private Sector Participation (Articles 28 & 29)

The New Agreement establishes a Private Sector Consultative Group of up to twenty (20) stakeholders across the coffee value chain — including producers, importers, millers, buyers, exporters, financial institutions, certification bodies, and roasters — to advise the General Assembly on supply, demand, wealth creation, and sustainable development of the coffee economy.

4.4 African Coffee Development Fund (Article 32)

The Agreement establishes an African Coffee Development Fund to support coffee projects in Member States, providing access to affordable and innovative financial solutions and technical assistance for the transformation of the coffee value chain. Kenya has historically benefited from similar IACO mechanisms through the establishment of coffee houses at Egerton University and Kenya University.

4.5 Member State Obligations (Article 6)

Upon ratification, Kenya will be obligated to:

- i. Adopt measures to fulfil its obligations under the Agreement;
- ii. Fully cooperate with other Member States and provide all relevant information;
- iii. Provide statistics and relevant data on the coffee value chain; and
- iv. Pay annual contributions as determined by the General Assembly.

5.0 ANTICIPATED BENEFITS FOR KENYA

The following benefits would accrue to Kenya upon ratification:

- i. **Regional Representation:** Kenya will participate in the General Assembly alongside all Member States, enabling collective advocacy for Africa's interests in the global coffee market;
- ii. **Access to Information and Analysis:** Kenya will benefit from IACO's mandate to collect and disseminate industry intelligence, providing a competitive advantage in market planning;
- iii. **Research and Skill Development:** IACO's mandate to support research, production, processing, and marketing skills will directly benefit Kenya's coffee industry actors;
- iv. **Market Promotion:** Kenya will benefit from IACO's continental campaign to promote African coffee consumption, aligned with IACO's slogan 'Drink African Coffee, Build Africa's Economy'; and

- v. Development Funding: Access to the African Coffee Development Fund to enhance Kenya's coffee industry infrastructure and capacities.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Kenya currently pays an annual contribution of EUR 48,048 to IACO under the existing 1960 Agreement framework. Ratification of the New Agreement will NOT result in additional public expenditure, as Kenya is already an active IACO member. Failure to ratify, however, could risk Kenya's voting rights and standing within the organization.

Under Article 22 of the New Agreement, failure to pay annual contributions within six (6) months of the due date will result in suspension of voting rights and the right to participate in specialized committee meetings.

7.0 CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The IACO New Agreement is consistent with Kenya's constitutional and legal framework. Specifically:

- i. The Agreement does not propose any amendments to the Constitution of Kenya;
- ii. It is consistent with the Crops Act, 2013 and the Crops (Coffee) (General) Regulations, 2019;
- iii. The obligations under the Agreement are concurrent functions of both the National and County Governments under the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution; and
- iv. Implementation responsibility will vest in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Co-operatives.

8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND CONCERNS

While ratification is supported, the following observations and concerns are placed on record for the attention of the House and the Executive:

- i. Farmer-Level Impact Uncertain: The Agreement operates at an inter-governmental level. Without deliberate domestic policy action, benefits may not trickle down to the approximately 5 million Kenyans whose livelihoods depend on coffee, particularly smallholder farmers organised under 556 co-operative societies;
- ii. Inadequate Public Participation: The initial public participation exercise involved only a notice in the Daily Nation in December 2021, to which no feedback was received. This does not constitute meaningful engagement with the millions of Kenyans who depend on coffee. Robust stakeholder engagement is strongly recommended;
- iii. No Price Protection Mechanisms: The Agreement contains no provisions for price stabilisation or minimum price guarantees for farmers. Declining global coffee prices are already causing farmers to abandon cultivation, shrinking Africa's share of global coffee production;

- iv. Private Sector Group is Advisory Only: The Private Sector Consultative Group, while commendable, is purely advisory with no binding authority. Kenya should actively advocate within IACO for stronger accountability mechanisms; and
- v. Implementation Capacity: The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Co-operatives must develop a clear national implementation plan articulating how IACO membership under the New Agreement will translate into concrete, measurable improvements for Kenyan coffee farmers.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Having considered the Parliamentary Memorandum and the full text of the IACO New Agreement, the following recommendations are respectfully made to the National Assembly:

- i. Note the contents of the Parliamentary Memorandum on Kenya's Ratification of the IACO New Agreement submitted by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs;
- ii. Approve Kenya's ratification of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement (2020), in recognition of its significant potential benefits for Kenya's coffee industry;
- iii. Direct the Prime Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs to prepare and deposit instruments of accession with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, being the designated Custodian;
- iv. Call upon the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Co-operatives to develop and table before the relevant Committee, within ninety (90) days of ratification, a comprehensive national implementation plan articulating how IACO membership will benefit smallholder farmers; and
- v. Urge the Government to advocate, within IACO, for the development of binding price support and market stabilisation mechanisms that protect African smallholder coffee farmers from the volatility of the global coffee market.

Respectfully submitted for the consideration of the National Assembly of Kenya.

WILSON RADING

Principal Magistrate

Convener, Laws, Science and Technology (SciTechKe) Section

Innovation Council of Kenya

Date: 9th April, 2026

This submission has been prepared in the public interest and in furtherance of sound policy development at the intersection of law, alternative dispute resolution, and technology.



DDC
8
31/7/26

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AUTHORITY

Tea House | Naivasha Road, Off Ngong Road,

P.O. Box 37962- 00100 NAIROBI

Tel: +254 700 638672/+254 737 454618

Email: info@afa.go.ke

Website: www.afa.go.ke

AFA/CD/IACO

27th July 2026

The Clerk of the National Assembly

Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock

Main Parliament Buildings

NAIROBI

Attention: The Chairperson Dr. John Mutunga

Dennis Mogare, HOD
to facilitate consideration
by the DC Agriculture
3/8/26

Dear Sir,

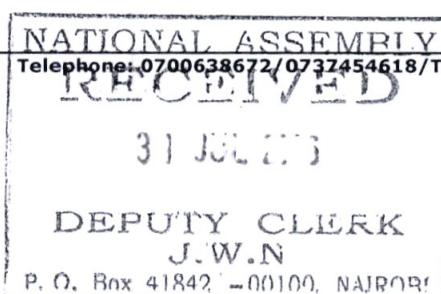
RE: SUBMISSION OF VIEWS ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE INTER-AFRICA COFFEE ORGANISATION (IACO) AGREEMENT – NO OBJECTION

Reference is made to your letter Ref: NA/DDC/A&L/2026/025 dated 8th April 2026, inviting Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) to submit its views on the ratification of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement and to attend the consultative meeting held on 14th April 2026.

The Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) is an intergovernmental organization established in 1960 to promote the sustainable development and competitiveness of the African coffee sector. Headquartered in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, IACO provides a platform for cooperation among African coffee-producing countries in areas such as coffee production, quality improvement, value addition, trade promotion, market access, research, capacity building and policy advocacy.

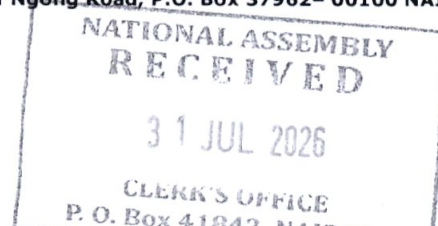
Kenya, through the Coffee Directorate, actively participates in IACO programmes and technical meetings to advance the competitiveness and sustainability of the country's coffee industry. Membership in IACO enhances Kenya's collaboration with other African coffee-producing countries, facilitates knowledge and technology exchange, strengthens regional and international market access, and supports the implementation of continental initiatives aimed at increasing the value of African coffee.

In view of the foregoing, the Authority has NO OBJECTION to Kenya's ratification of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) New Agreement and fully supports its approval by the National Assembly noting that continued membership will strengthen Kenya's



AFA Kenya @kenya_afa

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participation in regional coffee policy, promote strategic partnerships, and contribute to the sustainable growth and global competitiveness of the Kenyan coffee sector.

Yours faithfully,



CALISTUS KUNDU
FOR: DIRECTOR GENERAL

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Cabinet Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
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