

**UNFCCC Plenary****ADDRESS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION****Paris, 8 December 2015**

On behalf of the International Coffee Organization and its Members, I would like to thank the people and the government of France for hosting this important conference, for the excellent arrangements, and for the warm hospitality in difficult times.

Coffee supports the livelihoods of 25 million farmers and their families, mainly in less developed countries. It contributes significantly to local economies and generates crucial export earnings. Worldwide, the jobs of an additional 100 million people depend on the coffee sector.

Coffee is loved by billions of consumers around the world. Coffee is the lubricant of modern societies and keeps the wheels of the global economy spinning. Today, we drink 50 per cent more coffee than two decades ago and demand is steadily rising.

But coffee is also at risk.

Climate change poses a significant threat to the coffee sector. Unlike other food crops, coffee plants thrive in a very narrow temperature band. It also has specific requirements for rainfall patterns. As temperature rises and precipitation changes, many of today's growing regions could become unsuitable for coffee production. Yields and quality could fall. This would have negative effects on the income of coffee farmers and would put pressure on the global coffee market.

To secure the livelihoods of millions of small producers and to ensure that future generations enjoy coffee, we are working to make the coffee sector more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

We look forward to a positive outcome from this conference, and to continue to work with governments in order to make the coffee sector more resilient.

Thank you.