

PRESS RELEASE**Honduras signs the International Coffee Agreement 2022 and the agreement to host the 140th Session of the International Coffee Council**

28 March 2025, London, United Kingdom – The Republic of Honduras reaffirmed its global leadership as a coffee-producing nation by signing the International Coffee Agreement 2022 (ICA 2022) at the headquarters of the International Coffee Organization (ICO) in London. As a founding Member of the ICO, Honduras has played a pivotal role in the global coffee landscape, contributing to the Organization's history, which spans more than six decades.

The Agreement was signed by His Excellency, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Honduras, Ambassador Eduardo Enrique Reina, accompanied by His Excellency, Ambassador Iván Romero-Martínez, Permanent Representative of Honduras to the ICO. Ambassador Romero has presided over the International Coffee Council twice and, during his tenure from 2021 to 2022, he led the discussions that resulted in the approval of the Agreement that was signed today.

By signing this agreement, Honduras joins other Members in continuing the dialogue between coffee-exporting and importing countries, as well as the private sector, with the shared objective of fostering a more prosperous and sustainable future for all stakeholders across the global coffee value chain. This initiative directly contributes to the well-being of thousands of Honduran coffee producers and their families.

Coffee production is deeply ingrained in the culture and social fabric of Honduras. Thanks to visionary efforts and investments from the government and the private sector, the country has solidified its position as the fourth-largest producer of Arabica coffee worldwide and the leading exporter in the Central American and Mexican region. In 2023, Honduras exported coffee valued at over \$1.5 billion, shipping to more than 65 destinations and accounting for nearly 12% of the country's total merchandise exports.

In addition to signing the ICA 2022, Ambassador Eduardo Enrique Reina also formalized Honduras's intention to host the 140th Session of the International Coffee Council (ICC) in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, from 22 to 26 September 2025. The event will provide a unique opportunity for global coffee leaders to experience the exceptional hospitality of the Honduran people, explore the country's breathtaking natural and historical sites, and visit some of the world's finest coffee plantations, where they can taste one of the best coffees globally.

Speaking on the occasion, the ICO's Head of Operations, Gerardo Patacconi, stated:

"We are deeply privileged to welcome Honduras as a signatory of the ICA 2022. In the spirit of international cooperation, we celebrate the diversity of coffee traditions and commit ourselves to safeguarding, promoting, and sustaining the sector. We are confident that collaboration through the ICO will help mobilize additional resources and funding, address the needs of Honduran producers, and engage consumers worldwide in appreciating the richness of Honduran coffee, its environmental stewardship, and its sustainable production practices."

Upon signing the agreement, His Excellency, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, remarked:

"I am profoundly honoured to be in London today, personally signing such a significant agreement at the ICO headquarters. This act reaffirms Honduras's position within the global coffee community and our commitment to advancing coffee diplomacy. We are also pleased to formalize our intention to be the host country for the 140th Session of the International Coffee Council. We invite all ICO Member governments, the global coffee industry, and development partners to join us in this important dialogue. We view the ICO and this groundbreaking agreement as key elements in achieving our ambitions for the coffee industry, both locally and globally, and we look forward to working with our ICO colleagues to secure a bright and prosperous future for coffee in the years and decades to come."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

International Coffee Organization

The International Coffee Organization (ICO) is the only intergovernmental organization supporting exporting and importing countries to improve the sustainability of the coffee sector. It provides a high-level forum for all public and private stakeholders in the sector; official statistics on coffee production, trade and consumption; and support for the development and funding of technical cooperation projects and public-private partnerships.

ICA 2022

The ICA 2022 is the eighth agreement that has been approved since the establishment of the ICO, engaging exporting and importing governments, as well as the private sector and civil society. Introducing key improvements to streamline the ICO's institutional and financial frameworks, it focuses on the sustainability of the coffee sector, the resilience and livelihood of coffee farmers and their right to a living and prosperous income. While the intergovernmental nature seen under previous Agreements remains unchanged, the ICA 2022 also officially integrates private sector and civil society participation, allowing decision-makers from the public and private sectors, stakeholders, and coffee farmers to align their views and decide on joint actions to achieve a more sustainable and prosperous sector. Including Saudi Arabia, 18 countries have already signed the ICA 2022. Three of these have also completed the required procedures for its entry into force, which will take place when signatory governments holding at least two-thirds of the votes of the importing and exporting Members have deposited instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval.

ABOUT THE SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

<https://tje.hn/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/CV-Enrique-Reina.pdf> (only in Spanish)