

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Workshop on the Common Code for the Coffee Community (4C) sustainability concept in the context of the coffee sector of Cameroon

DOUALA, CAMEROON; July 27, 2006 – The National Coffee and Cocoa Board of Cameroon (ONCC) and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) on behalf of the Swiss and German Development Cooperations host an international workshop in Douala to discuss the implementation of a sustainability concept according to the international initiative “Common Code for the Coffee Community” in Cameroon. Representatives from the government of Cameroon and more than 40 national and international coffee specialists and representatives from coffee trade, industry and civil society will discuss further application of sustainability practices in the coffee sector of Cameroon. The workshop will focus on the continuous improvement of the social, ecological and economic conditions in the coffee sector of Cameroon.

During the 4C dissemination and consultation workshop, representatives of the 4C Management Unit will present the initiative and its most recent developments. Presentations of the results and experiences from different coffee projects and programmes in Cameroon will provide important insights on the current situation of sustainability in West Africa and show potential ways forward for 4C in the context of Cameroon. The goal of the workshop is to exchange views on sustainability, provide feedback to the 4C initiative and discuss concrete steps for broad participation of Cameroon and the entire Central and West Africa region in this important initiative in the future.

ONCC statement: Cameroon through the National Coffee and Cocoa Board is highly honoured to have been chosen to co-host the launching of the 4C concept in the Central African region.

The National Coffee and Cocoa Board of Cameroon remains open and receptive to all sustainable initiatives in the Coffee chain as well as its application in the Cocoa chain especially the economic, social and environmental aspects.

We hope that the future adoption of the 4C initiative worldwide on the Coffee market and its implementation in Cameroon through the National Coffee and Cocoa Board will go a long way to improve the livelihood of our local farmers.

The international sustainability approach is now on the edge to enter the international market.

“The 4C initiative will soon get operational on the coffee market worldwide. The results from the testing of the application of 4C will be extremely helpful for further development of the initiative in Cameroon, West Africa and Central Africa. First outcomes already emphasize that 4C is a very useful offer to start continuous improvement of coffee production in a sustainable manner.” says **Carsten Schmitz-Hoffmann**, Senior Project Manager of the 4C Management Unit.

The concept has already been applied in several coffee projects and programmes all over the world. In many parts of Africa the initiative is cooperating with coffee projects that are willing to share their experiences with coffee growers. International roasting companies and trading houses are committed to support the worldwide application of the concept.

“The Common Code for the Coffee Community proposes sustainability practices to increase the income, enable better market access and improve on the quality of the

products for the Cameroonian coffee farmers. The global coffee trade & industry are convinced that 4C will have a positive effect on the well being of the entire coffee sector.” says **Joppe Vanhorick**, Senior Adviser to the European Coffee Federation 4C Group and former President of the European Coffee Federation.

The 4C initiative is a joint action in which stakeholders of the coffee community around the world cooperate in a transparent and participatory process to offer the concept of continuous improvement with a baseline standard in the mainstream green coffee sector, including production, processing and trading. Producer organizations like East African Fine Coffees Association (EAFCA), Federación Nacional de Colombia, Conselho Nacional do Café do Brasil and VICOFA and many more as well as companies like Nestlé, Kraft Foods, Sara Lee, Tchibo or Bernhard Rothfos of the Neumann Kaffee Gruppe and Volcafé participate actively in the development of the sustainability approach. Among others, the civil society is represented by OXFAM International, the Rainforest Alliance and the International Union of Food and Agricultural Workers (IUF). The initiative is financed by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SECO) as well as the Coffee Trade and Industry through the European Coffee Federation (ECF).

The coffee sector of Africa is participating in the initiative through the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO), the National Centre of Agricultural Research (CNRA) from Ivory Coast and the East African Fine Coffees Organization (EAFCA). The Secretary General of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) is one of the founding members of the 4C initiative and represents the interest of the African coffee growers in the sustainability concept since May 2003.

The National Coffee and Cocoa Board of Cameroon is the national organization of the coffee sector of Cameroon. It represents Cameroon in the International Coffee Organization (ICO) and in the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO).

GTZ's involvement in the coffee sector of Cameroon started in the 1970s. GTZ, which is commissioned by the German government to provide technical assistance to development projects worldwide, has actively contributed to the economic and social development in Cameroon through numerous projects. Currently, GTZ is finalizing a Public-Private-Partnership in the North-West region of Cameroon with the North-West Cooperative Association (NWCA) Capacity Building Project and the International Coffee Partners (ICP).

The Shareholders of ICP are: Luigi Lavazza S.P.A. (Italy); Lofbergs Lila AB (Sweden); Gustav Paulig Ltd. (Finland); Tchibo GmbH (Germany) and Neumann Kaffee-Gruppe (NKG), the largest green coffee trader worldwide; Kjeldsberg Kaffeebrenneri A/S (Norway); Peter Larsen Kaffee A/S (Denmark)

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