ARTICLE 15

Cooperation with other organizations

(1) The Council may make arrangements for consultation and cooperation with the United Nations and its specialized agencies; other appropriate intergovernmental organizations; and relevant international and regional organizations. It shall take full advantage of the facilities of the Common Fund for Commodities and other sources of funding. Such arrangements may include financial arrangements which the Council considers appropriate for achieving the objectives of this Agreement. However, in respect of the implementation of any project under such arrangements the Organization shall not incur any financial obligations for guarantees given by individual Members or other entities. No Member shall be responsible by reason of its membership of the Organization for any liability arising from borrowing or lending by any other Member or entity in connection with such projects.

(2) Where possible, the Organization may also collect from Members, non-members, and from donor and other agencies, information on development projects and programmes focussing on the coffee sector. Where appropriate, and with the agreement of the parties concerned, the Organization may make this information available to such other organizations as well as to Members.

ARTICLE 16

Cooperation with non-governmental organizations

In pursuing the objectives of this Agreement, the Organization may, without prejudice to the provisions of Articles 15, 29, 30 and 31, establish and strengthen cooperative activities with appropriate non-governmental organizations having expertise in relevant aspects of the coffee sector and with other experts in coffee matters.

CHAPTER VII – THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE STAFF

ARTICLE 17

The Executive Director and the staff

(1) The Council shall appoint the Executive Director. The terms of appointment of the Executive Director shall be established by the Council and shall be comparable to those applying to corresponding officials of similar intergovernmental organizations.

(2) The Executive Director shall be the chief administrative officer of the Organization and shall be responsible for the performance of any duties devolving upon him in the administration of this Agreement.

(3) The Executive Director shall appoint the staff of the Organization in accordance with regulations established by the Council.

(4) Neither the Executive Director nor any member of the staff shall have any financial interest in the coffee industry, the coffee trade or the transportation of coffee.

(5) In the performance of their duties, the Executive Director and the staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any Member or from any other authority external to the Organization. They shall refrain from any action which might reflect on their position as international officials responsible only to the Organization. Each Member undertakes to respect the exclusively international character of the responsibilities of the Executive Director and the staff and not to seek to influence them in the discharge of their responsibilities.