ARTICLE 22

Liabilities

(1) The Organization, functioning as specified in paragraph (3) of Article 6, shall not have power to incur any obligation outside the scope of this Agreement, and shall not be taken to have been authorized by the Members to do so; in particular, it shall not have the capacity to borrow money. In exercising its capacity to contract, the Organization shall incorporate in its contracts the terms of this Article in such a way as to bring them to the notice of the other parties entering into contracts with the Organization, but any failure to incorporate such terms shall not invalidate such a contract or render it *ultra vires*.

(2) A Member's liability is limited to the extent of its obligations regarding contributions specifically provided for in this Agreement. Third parties dealing with the Organization shall be deemed to have notice of the provisions of this Agreement regarding the liabilities of Members.

ARTICLE 23

Audit and publication of accounts

As soon as possible and not later than six months after the close of each financial year, an independently audited statement of the Organization's assets, liabilities, income and expenditure during that financial year shall be prepared. This statement shall be presented to the Council for approval at its earliest forthcoming session.

CHAPTER IX – PROMOTION AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT

ARTICLE 24

Removal of obstacles to trade and consumption

(1) Members recognize the importance of the sustainable development of the coffee sector and of the removal of current obstacles and avoidance of new obstacles which may hinder trade and consumption, while recognizing at the same time the right of Members to regulate, and to introduce new regulations, in order to meet national health and environmental policy objectives, consistent with their commitments and obligations under international agreements, including those related to international trade.

(2) Members recognize that there are at present in effect measures which may to a greater or lesser extent hinder the increase in consumption of coffee, in particular:

(a) import arrangements applicable to coffee, including preferential and other tariffs, quotas, operations of government monopolies and official purchasing agencies, and other administrative rules and commercial practices;
(b) export arrangements as regards direct or indirect subsidies and other administrative rules and commercial practices; and
(c) internal trade conditions and domestic and regional legal and administrative provisions which may affect consumption.

(3) Having regard to the objectives stated above and to the provisions of paragraph (4) of this Article, Members shall endeavour to pursue tariff reductions on coffee or to take other action to remove obstacles to increased consumption.

(4) Taking into account their mutual interest, Members undertake to seek ways and means by which the obstacles to increased trade and consumption referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article may be progressively reduced and eventually, wherever possible, eliminated, or by which the effects of such obstacles may be substantially diminished.

(5) Taking into account any commitments undertaken under the provisions of paragraph (4) of this Article, Members shall inform the Council annually of all measures adopted with a view to implementing the provisions of this Article.

(6) The Executive Director shall prepare periodically a survey of the obstacles to consumption to be reviewed by the Council.

(7) The Council may, in order to further the purposes of this Article, make recommendations to Members, which shall report as soon as possible to the Council on the measures adopted with a view to implementing such recommendations.