

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

### TRANSFORMING THE AFRICAN COFFEE SECTOR THROUGH VALUE ADDITION

8-10 August 2023

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government of Uganda, I would like to thank you all for your participation at the 2nd G25 African Coffee Summit.

We were honored to host this important Summit. It has allowed us together to address the challenges faced by the African coffee sector and find common grounds to agree on solutions.

My government is pleased that there was unanimous consensus on the Kampala Declaration which is a follow up of the historic Nairobi Declaration. We have requested Heads of State attending the African Union meeting in February 2024 to support the approval of the inclusion of coffee in the AU Agenda 2063 as a strategic agricultural crop. In addition, the Inter African Coffee Organization to be designated as a Specialized Agency of the African Union.

Most importantly the 25 African coffee producing countries will accelerate the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area which provides for free movement of persons, capital, goods and service to deepen economic integration and promotion of agricultural development, food security, industrialization and structural economic transformation.

All this has arrived at an opportune moment when Africa and African Leaders are united to address the challenges facing the Continent. The G25 African Coffee Summit is a unique forum to address our regional issues. I would urge all decisions taken at this Summit to be pursued to the highest level for adoption.

Africa is home to a number of products including coffee where, as stated earlier by the Secretary General of IACO, 99% of the value of coffee is encompassed in “value addition”. Our President, H.E. Yoweri Museveni stressed the importance of localised value addition. He highlighted that Africans need to embrace value addition and get a fairer share of the value chain. This will give our people opportunities for jobs and household incomes. We have the instruments in place and the political will. It is now a question of finding a way to address them and implement mechanisms to achieve our targets.

From presentations in the last two days, it is clear that Africa needs to increase its production and productivity. Our production in the 1960s was 25%. Our current production stands at 12%. We need concerted efforts to double our production and get our share of the market which prevailed in the 1960s and perhaps more. At the same time, we need to advance in our campaign to boost domestic consumption which ties in with value addition. We need to be able to promote affordable coffees and this can only be achieved if we process our coffees locally.

With best agricultural practices and other relevant factors, Ugandan farmers have been successful in increasing production and productivity. We welcome other African coffee producing countries to visit our facilities to learn from our experiences. The Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA), our Coffee Authority, can organise regional workshops to share technological advances used by our farmers.

My dear friends, let us make this our mission to convert Africans into coffee lovers. Once again welcome to Uganda. I would like you to take some time and explore the pearl of Africa, the source of the Nile, Kibale national park – the birth place of robusta coffee, Bwindi National Park to see the rare Mountain Gorillas and to enjoy the finest Uganda coffee in the world.

Lastly, I would like to hand over the baton to our neighbour the United Republic of Tanzania.

We look forward to visit Tanzania next year.

Thank you