

Universal Declaration of Coffee Beans

February 13, 2025

Preamble

Recognizing that coffee is one of the most widely consumed beverages worldwide and that its cultivation and trade impact millions of people and ecosystems, we affirm the need for ethical, sustainable, and just practices in the coffee industry.

Acknowledging the cultural significance of coffee in many societies and the historical injustices tied to its production, we commit to a future where coffee cultivation benefits both people and the planet.

Declaring that all individuals have the **right to organic coffee**—free from harmful chemicals, produced through sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices, and accessible to consumers regardless of economic status—we establish the following principles.

1 Principles

1.1 Ethical and Fair Trade Practices

- All coffee farmers and workers have the right to fair wages, safe working conditions, and protection from exploitation.
- Child labor, forced labor, and unfair trade practices must be eradicated from the coffee supply chain.
- Coffee-growing communities must be empowered through direct trade and fair profit-sharing.

1.2 Environmental Responsibility and Sustainability

- Coffee cultivation must prioritize biodiversity, soil health, and sustainable land management.
- Deforestation for coffee production must be prevented, and reforestation efforts should be promoted.
- Water conservation and responsible waste management must be integral to coffee farming and processing.

1.3 Right to Organic Coffee

- All individuals have the right to access organically grown coffee, free from synthetic pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.
- Farmers should be supported in transitioning to organic and regenerative agricultural practices through education, subsidies, and market incentives.
- Transparency in labeling must ensure that consumers can make informed choices about the coffee they purchase.

1.4 Protection of Cultural and Historical Heritage

- The knowledge and traditions of coffee-growing communities must be respected and preserved.
- Indigenous and local farmers must have control over their land and agricultural practices, without external exploitation.
- Coffee-producing regions should be recognized for their contributions to global coffee culture and supported in sustainable economic development.

1.5 Accountability and Transparency in the Coffee Industry

- Governments, corporations, and coffee organizations must commit to transparency in sourcing, pricing, and labor conditions.
- Certification systems (organic, fair trade, shade-grown, etc.) must be strengthened and made more accessible to small-scale farmers.
- Consumers have the right to clear, honest information about the coffee they buy, including its origin, production methods, and ethical impact.

2 Implementation & Call to Action

- Governments, businesses, and international organizations must adopt policies that enforce ethical coffee production and trade.
- Farmers must be provided with resources and education to transition to sustainable and organic coffee farming.
- Consumers are encouraged to support ethically sourced and organic coffee, demanding greater accountability from producers and retailers.
- A global coalition should be established to monitor progress, share best practices, and advocate for coffee justice.

Conclusion

We, the undersigned, affirm our commitment to a coffee industry that respects people, the environment, and the right to organic coffee. We call upon all stakeholders—farmers, consumers, businesses, and policymakers—to uphold these principles for a more just and sustainable coffee future.