



OFFICIAL POSITION OF THE RED CAFÉ-CLAC CONCERNING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FAIR TRADE USA ON THE PILOT PROJECTS OF PLANTATION CERTIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT BY PRODUCTION OF COFFEE AT LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

1. The decision of Fair Trade USA, to separate and resign to the FLO seal, is not prudent and will affect negatively the Small Coffee Producer Organizations and other organizations in general, as well as clients, and all the Fair Trade System, since the certification of big plantations and the contract by production is contrary to the founding principles of fair trade. This initiatives promoted by different LI's and other FLO actors, will never under any condition have the support of the Red Café-CLAC.
2. In accordance with FLO, the CLAC and Red Café were created to strengthen and empower the small producer organizations, exploited by the traditional commercial systems. This is why we ask all the actors with awareness and with capacity of incidence in the fair trade system to put forward and in first position the interests of the small producers.
3. In recent years we have passed through a process of Strategic revision of FT and in consensus with all the actors of the system approved the global business model. We demand that all the agreements concerning the business model be respected.
4. The Fair Trade system does not benefit the 100% of the producers that are in the system nor all the small coffee producers that harvest the 50% of the world's production, and for this reason we consider that there is yet much to strengthen and improve in order to achieve a more sustainable production that may be marketed under fair conditions.
5. The Red Café-CLAC, agrees that the rights of the workers must be defended, but they are not the main reason for which the Fair Trade system was created; for this matter they have a space at the International Labour Organization and the government ministries of each country.



Concerning all the above addressed, The Red Café-CLAC reaffirms its position of indeclinable rejection to the certification of big plantations and contract by production with producers that are not organized,

We reaffirm our commitment to continue representing and defending the interests of the Small Producer Organizations and their associates in the international coffee market, and at internal levels of the Fair Trade system.

We clarify, that the letter of agreement that we have recently signed between Red Café-CLAC, TWIN and FTUSA, only establishes that it is to support the small producer organizations and must not be interpreted as a support to the FTUSA strategy, as said in some publications.

The Red Café is consistent with CLAC's position, and WE DO NOT SUPPORT THE CHANGES ANNOUNCED BY FAIR TRADE USA.

Best Regards,

Merling Preza

Presidente-RED CAFÉ-CLAC

Cc/Coordinating Committee of Red Café-CLAC 2011