



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States

75th session of the Committee on Commodity Problems

(13 July – 15 July 2022, Hybrid meeting)

Item 5.2: Report of the 24th Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Tea (CCP 22/9)

Madam/Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. The candidate countries Albania, Türkiye, Ukraine and the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina align themselves with this statement.
3. The EU welcomes and endorses the report of the 24th Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Tea.
4. The EU would like to acknowledge the quality and relevance of the FAO's monitoring of commodity market developments and welcomes the work of the Intergovernmental Group on Tea.
5. We appreciate the open discussion held during the roundtable on the impact of Covid-19 on the tea market; the information provided by different IGG/Tea thematic working groups shows the importance to consider future strategies and appropriate policies to meet the challenges faced by the tea sector nowadays (such as sustainable value chains, climate change, increasing production costs and lower international tea prices).

6. The EU and its Member States are aware that the impact of COVID-19 on the tea market affected the smallholder farmers and changed consumer's behaviour and habits. In order to achieve the implementation of adequate policy measures in the tea sector, it is important to make use of the knowledge and skills provided by different actors. The EU and its Member States welcome the use of digital solutions which has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic and access of information and transfer of knowledge for farmers and consumers.
7. We request FAO to take on the task of developing a market analysis report that would include consumption trends and market research for both developed and emerging markets.
8. The EU and its Member States support the project of developing a Smallholder Good Practice Manual in the framework of the formation of the Confederation of International Tea Smallholders (CITS).
9. We look forward to continuing our close cooperation with FAO and other key actors and we encourage all relevant stakeholders to ensure inclusive access to innovation and information, taking into consideration emerging issues and new developments with greater understanding of farmers' needs.

Thank you Madam/Mr Chair.
