

Dear Colleagues,

On the occasion of the International Grains Council (IGC) 57th Council Session, the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) wishes to express its appreciation for the work of the IGC and our ongoing successful collaboration. We are very much looking forward to participating in Session.

To support our contribution to Item 5 on the agenda: *Dialogue with international organisations on major policy issues affecting grains trade recent developments in their sustainable development policies which may have a bearing on IGC activities*, please find a below update on IGTC volunteers, actions and plans.

Volunteers:

IGTC Officers 2023-2024 are:

- President: Gary C. Martin, North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA)
- First Vice President: Iliana Axiotiades, European association of trade in cereals, oilseeds, rice, pulses, olive oil, oils and fats, animal feed and agro-supply (COCERAL)
- Second Vice President and Secretary: Pat O'Shannassy, Grain Trade Australia (GTA)
- Third Vice President: Gustavo Idigoras, Argentine Chambers of cereals exporters and oilseeds industries (CIARA-CEC)
- Treasurer: Gerald Makau Masila Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC)

The third recipient of “Prix d’Honneur” award recognizing exceptional voluntary contributions to the international grain trade is June Arnold, Head of Trade Policy at IGTC Large Multi-National Member the Grain and Feed Trade Association (Gafta). Previous honourees include Krista Thomas of the Canada Grains Council (CGC) and Ricardo Calderon of Agricultural Product Providers Association of Mexico (APPAMEX).

Actions: Recently IGTC was pleased to participate in:

The 5 January 2023, IGC hosted webinar, “Sustainability in the Grains Value Chain”. IGTC provided speakers reflecting commercial, policy and regulatory perspectives on sustainability activities around the globe, as well as regulatory frameworks and their potential implications for trade.

The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** first Agri-Food Business Day on 8-9 December 2022. The meetings were held to promote dialogue between WTO Members and the agri-food industry on issues in international trade in food and agricultural products.

A series of meetings hosted in late November in Brussels by IGTC Member Coceral focussed on learning and addressing the challenges of disruptions in Black Sea commerce and information sharing with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), DG Agriculture, and other EU officials

Global Grain Geneva in mid-November where International Grains Council work was often highlighted in IGTC contributions related to “Implications of Energy Crises on

Feed & Food Security”, “Sustainability in Grain Markets”, “Sustainable Transformation of Maritime Transport”, “Structural Changes in Grain Trade”

On September 29 we reported to and participated in the IGC Market Conditions Committee (MCC) meeting.

“Supporting food security through international grain and seed trade and investment” was the theme of a side event at the first ever International Plant Health Conference (IPHC) on 21 September. The very well received event was co-organized by IGTC with World Trade Organization's Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), International Grains Council (IGC) and International Seed Federation (ISF).

On September 20, IGTC continued its leadership and support for IPPC ePhyto Solution via its Industry Advisory Group.

Plans: Information collection and sharing along with providing policy advice will continue in 2023.

Building the success in 2022 with virtual Global Trade Roundtables focussed on China, Egypt, Plant Breeding Innovation, East Africa Trade and WTO’s SPS Committee, we are seeking interest in featuring additional topics of global and national interest in these widely attended and informative sessions with thought and decision leaders.

IGTC policy and advocacy will continue to develop in these active files.

Electronic Trading Documentation (eDocs): Modernization and innovation in trade documentation practices are a high priority for IGTC. In 2022, 123 grain trade professionals from around the world worked to: Provide informational guidance regarding requirements and advice related to the innovation of paperless document exchange and assist in the innovation of a transparent, secure, cost-efficient electronic system for all parties to benefit from productivity improvements while resulting in better management and more sustainable, reliable, predictable, and responsive logistics.

Phytosanitary Measures: Advancing our work to develop and share expertise on phytosanitary standard setting, and the principles of facilitating safe trade, harmonizing official measures, expediting market access negotiations, and enhancing phytosanitary security is critical. IGTC will continue to deploy its network on issues such as pest risk analysis; availability of international guidance and pest lists and measures to mitigate pest risks along the value chain.

Biosafety Protocol: The 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the related Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) was held 7-19 December 2022 in Montreal CA. As the agreements cover the movement of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs), they have the potential to affect trade in grains and oilseeds. IGTC members monitored COP 15 proceedings and possible proposals to address emerging gene editing technologies.

Maximum Residue Limits of Crop Protection Products: We are working to respond to the December 2022/January 2023 consultation of the Codex Alimentarius Commission Secretariat to “enhance official actions on pesticide residues and the associated opportunities and challenges” (circular CL 2022/75-PR). We note the important context provided by Codex to this consultation, i.e. that the “current CCPR/JMPR system is unable to keep up with global demand for the evaluation of

new compounds, uses, and periodic reviews”. IGTC trusts that its grain trade experts and partners will have the opportunity to contribute to this process which closes on 31 January 2023. IGTC’s recently updated policy document on MRLs highlights that trade facilitative measures will have a significant impact in the fight against current challenges with climate, food security or geopolitical tensions and help ensure the flow of food, protect the food security of the most vulnerable, provide predictability for importers and exporters, thereby preventing disruption to supply.

Plant Breeding Innovation: Constantly evolving ideas and practices related to plant breeding are necessarily accommodated as plant breeding innovations often result in disparate compliance requirements for the international trade of plant products. IGTC is focussed on monitoring of regulatory developments and sharing much needed information about safety as well as what is being produced and how it is identified in agri-bulk trade. Reports and analysis of consumer perceptions are under scrutiny. We are reviewing and contributing to the development of several efforts to improve transparency and inform markets.

Low Level Presence: Management of international supply chains for grains, oilseeds and other agri-bulks that have been derived from genetically engineered plants has become key to avoid unnecessary trade disruptions. We are working to achieve a market and regulatory environment supportive of trade of grain, oilseeds, pulses, and derived products. Information exchange and providing development of solutions are integral parts of the effort that includes, governments and value chain partners across the world.

New opportunities and needs for IGTC work are apparent and will also be addressed in 2023. The global economic slowdown, climate change, food affordability and protectionist politics trade are resulting in geopolitical tensions that increase the demand for our work as a federation of industry associations to promote and facilitate the performance of the supply chain for grains, oilseeds, pulses and derived products.

Supporting the sustainability journey of our industry has become a central activity for IGTC and its constituency.

Thank you for your advice and counsel.

The International Grain Trade Coalition Association (IGTC) is a non-profit federation of associations and councils formed to serve the greater good by promoting and facilitating the performance of the supply chain for grains, oilseeds, pulses and derived products. More than 8000 entities in 85 countries participate in the IGTC through connecting with IGTC.

Exceptional participation results in IGTC success. Please contact us for more information on how you and colleagues can directly participate in IGTC.

For further information about how to participate in the IGTC please contact us at the Secretariat: secretariat@igtglobal.org