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FINAL STATEMENT OF THE 32nd WABCG COUNCIL IN TANZANIA

On the occasion of the 32nd Session of its Council in Tanzania, the World Association of Beet and Cane Growers, which counts no less than 31 member countries, wished to draw attention to a certain number of points:

- 1) As the G20 brings the development of agricultural production to the heart of its strategic economic stakes, world producers of sugar beet and sugar cane underline that a cruel lack of finance impedes the development of agricultural activity, particularly in Africa.
- 2) This finance must make it possible to develop the vast areas of available agricultural land without leading to deforestation or undermining ecosystems.
- 3) In this regard, the Council also pointed out the large quantities of available water in East Africa which could be mobilized through investment in efficient irrigation systems which respect the environment.
- 4) In the same way, the Council emphasized the need to provide the growers with the inputs required for agricultural production, whether it be fertilizers, plant protection products and in particular high performing varieties, which also implies granting access to scientific progress for all these production factors. The Council underlined the determining character of these elements in increasing agricultural production, whilst respecting the environment.
- 5) The Council also took note of the considerable need for sugar over the next 20 years. It noted that it is necessary to mobilize both sugar beet and sugar cane in order to meet world sugar demand. In this respect, tropical beet offers a promising path.
- 6) Finally, the Council reaffirmed that without a remunerative price, the necessary development of production is doomed to failure because sugar production requires significant capital not only for beet and cane production but also for the processing industry, and that it is indispensable to guarantee the profitability of this activity.