

For immediate release

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CIOPORA Stands with Ecuador's Flower Industry

Hamburg, October 14 – Declaring its solidarity and friendship with the Ecuadorian flower industry and its long-standing partner the national association of flower exporters and producers Expoflores, CIOPORA expresses its concern with the political situation in Ecuador and calls upon the international community and the green sector to extend their support to colleagues in the South America's largest flower-producing country.

The ongoing riots, triggered by the October 1 Government's decree ending the fuel subsidies, have immobilized the country undermining public security and impacting virtually all industries, including floriculture. It was reported last week that many flower farms across the country were sustaining damages and had become targets of violent assaults. Furthermore, public unrest has paralyzed the infrastructure vital to the trade in flowers, Ecuador's fifth most important export.

CIOPORA hopes that the October 13 public negotiations between the Government and the leaders of Ecuador's indigenous peoples will as soon as possible put an end to public unrest and violence, which has led to multiple reported casualties in nearly two weeks of protests. Meanwhile, CIOPORA calls upon the green sector to maintain its business commitments to Ecuadorian partners and, where needed and possible, to extend their support.

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CIOPORA: Uniting Breeders, Protecting Innovation. www.ciopora.org

CIOPORA is the International Association of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Horticultural Varieties. Breeders of such varieties account for two-thirds of all Plant Variety Rights (PVR) titles in the world. For more than 50 years, CIOPORA has represented these breeders in all matters of Intellectual Property (IP) protection and aims to foster an environment in which the innovation of these breeders can flourish. CIOPORA is a member-based, non-profit organization.

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