



**Report of the Statistics Committee on
the meeting held on 26 September 2017**

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1. The Statistics Committee held its 13th meeting on 26 September 2017 in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, chaired by the Vice-Chair, Mr Juan Esteban Orduz of Colombia.

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

2. The Committee adopted the draft Agenda contained in document [SC-74/17 Rev. 1](#).

Item 2: Report of the meeting of 14 March 2017

3. The Committee approved the report of the twelfth meeting held in March 2017, contained in document [SC-73/17](#).

Item 3: Five-Year Action Plan for the ICO

4. The Executive Director introduced the proposed Five-Year Action Plan for the ICO contained in document [WP-Council 280/17](#), noting that there were two broad areas of activities for statistics in order to meet the strategic goal of delivering world-class data, analysis and information to the industry and policy-makers. The first area was to improve raw data collection storage while handling and the second was to disseminate statistical data and analysis. The Committee agreed with the recommendation of the Secretariat that (as happens in other international commodity bodies, such as the International Cocoa Organization and International Cotton Advisory Committee) ICO statistics be supplemented and complemented by data from other sources when information received from Members was delayed, incomplete or inconsistent.

5. In the discussion of the Action Plan, particularly with regard to improving raw data collection storage and handling, the Committee noted that exporting Members faced challenges in collecting data. One specific challenge was that some importers no longer request Certificates of Origin, which makes it harder to impose requirements to issue Certificates of Origin. A request was made that the Secretariat find out which importing countries no longer require Certificates of Origin.

Item 4: Report of the Statistical Workshop held on 25 September 2017

6. The Executive Director reported on the Statistical Workshop that took place on 25 September 2017. The report of this workshop was subsequently circulated as document [SC-77/17](#). In the workshop, the Senior Economist presented the Rules on Statistical Reports and the Senior Statistical Assistant presented the Rules on Certificates and document slides summarizing Annexes 10 and 10A of document [SC-76/17](#), which contained the most recent

report regarding statistical compliance of Members. Workshop participants discussed the challenges faced by exporting Members in complying with these rules, including potential underreporting of exports when coffee is traded informally across land borders, the lack of resources (both in terms of personnel and finance) due to weaker government institutions and organizations, and disruptions to or untimeliness of data submission due to changes in personnel or the need to coordinate with other agencies. A suggestion was made that regional training events be implemented to improve compliance. The Senior Economist presented the application and benefits of data, noting that the ICO collects a significant volume of data from its Members, but that the data was often incomplete, inaccurate and/or inconsistent. Members recommended that the ICO should take advantage of new technology to improve data collection and emphasized the importance of high-quality data for effective decision-making.

Item 5: Review of recently published academic studies on the economics of coffee

7. The Senior Economist presented document [SC-75/17](#) containing a review of two recent studies on the impact of climate change on coffee production. Both studies investigate how rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns affect the suitability of land currently used for coffee production globally and at country level.

8. The first study used machine-learning algorithms to project future climate suitability for production of both Arabica and Robusta using a baseline and three scenarios (low, medium, high) for greenhouse gas emissions. The model estimated a 50% reduction in coffee production by 2050, which could lead to the migration of coffee production to more suitable areas. It was found that the mean temperature of the warmest quarter in a given year was the most important climate parameter affecting Arabica cultivation while the annual temperature and precipitation were the most important variables affecting Robusta cultivation. It was noted that the migration of coffee production could cause deforestation and more emissions.

9. The second study developed a more refined methodological approach to investigate climate change impact on Arabica cultivation in Ethiopia. While the study found that 39-59% of the area currently used for Arabica cultivation may fall out of production by the end of the century, changing rainfall patterns could lead to a slight increase in annual rainfall. It was noted that the topography of Ethiopia allows for production to migrate to higher elevations, contributing a net-gain in suitable area of more than 400% by the end of the century.

10. The findings of the review concluded that climate change adaptation, especially via plant breeding, has long lead times, given the tree crop nature of coffee production. Additionally, the negative consequences of changes in land use need to be considered if migration occurs without major government intervention. The findings of the review also suggested that international and regional development banks could help farmers implement these changes.

Item 6: Compliance with Statistical Rules

11. The Head of Operations a.i. introduced document [SC-76/17](#), which contained the most recent report regarding statistical compliance of Members and noted that compliance of exporting Members had been discussed at the Statistical Workshop. The Head of Operations a.i. referred Members to Annex 10, which showed the rate of strict compliance by exporting Members with the Rules on Statistics, and emphasized there were 20 countries that had not provided any of the required data for 2016/17. Annex 10A, which contained all data received, showed that four additional Members had generally complied with the data requirements, but their data was submitted past the deadline. Annex 11, which covered importing Members, showed generally full compliance.

Item 7: Statistics Roundtable

12. Similar to the International Cocoa Organization, the ICO set up an expert working group, the Statistics Roundtable, in order to improve the quality of the ICO's statistics.

13. The Roundtable, which first met in May 2013, consists of volunteer analysts from the coffee sector whose firms account for around 50% of world coffee trade.

14. Since the Council meeting in March 2017, the Roundtable had met at the ICO on 16 June and 6 September 2017 to discuss coffee statistics for the top six producing countries. The Roundtable made a number of recommendations including: (1) that the ICO publish independent estimates when necessary and (2) that the ICO work to ensure its statistics are internally consistent.

15. These recommendations will be addressed as part of the activities under Strategic Goal I in the Five-Year Action Plan.

16. The next meeting of the Roundtable is scheduled for December 2017.

Item 8: Statistics Committee Members and office holders

17. It was noted that the Council would approve the composition of the Committee for coffee year 2017/18 during the 120th Session.

Item 9: Other business

18. There was no other business discussed.

Item 10: Date of next meeting

19. The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Statistics Committee would take place during the 121st Session of the Council to be held from 9 to 13 April 2018.