



**Report of the 15th meeting of the
Statistics Committee held on
19 September 2018**

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1. The Statistics Committee, chaired by Mr Juan Esteban Orduz of Colombia, held its 15th meeting in London, United Kingdom, on 19 September 2018.

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

2. The Committee adopted the draft Agenda contained in document [SC-85/18 Rev. 1](#).

Item 2: Report on the meeting of 11 April 2018

3. The Committee approved the report of the 14th meeting held on 11 April 2018, contained in document [SC-84/18](#).

Item 3: Compliance with Statistical Rules

Item 3.1: Report on compliance constraints and actions to improve compliance

4. The Chief of the Statistics Section introduced document [SC-86/18](#), which presented the main findings on the constraints Members face in providing data to the Secretariat, as well as actions undertaken or planned by the ICO Secretariat to help them face these constraints. Lack of financial and personnel resources was noted as a major barrier to Members in complying with the Rules on Statistics. This resulted in incomplete or untimely reports, and in some cases, there were no reports submitted. To address these constraints, the Secretariat had trained statistical staff of Member countries, and would develop additional training that could be easily accessed online. In addition, the Secretariat was also looking at ways to facilitate submission of data, such as amending the Rules on Statistics. The Secretariat plans to establish a scheme to certify and reward Members' statistical officers. The Secretariat welcomed further suggestions from Members for improving these processes.

5. The Committee took note of the report.

Item 3.2: Report on compliance with the Rules on Statistics and new compliance indicators

6. The Senior Economist introduced document [SC-87/18](#), which presented the framework for the new compliance indicators. These indicators would be used to replace previous reports on Member compliance, allowing Members to quickly ascertain compliance both at the overall level as well as at the country level. This information would enable the ICO to identify areas for improving compliance and thus, the overall quality of the ICO statistical database, and compare performance over time. The new indicators would assess whether Members submit complete and timely reports, with a score of 0 if the report was

untimely or incomplete, and a score of 1 if it was timely and complete. This assessment is aggregated at an annual level across all items that are required by the Rules on Statistics to be submitted by Members.

7. Members expressed their appreciation for the design for the new compliance indicators. However, it was suggested that the Secretariat should look into whether it would be better to assess compliance on a more graduated scale that took into account different levels of non-compliance, such as the difference between a submission being a day late compared to several months late. This graduated scale would motivate Members by better measuring their efforts to achieve compliance.

8. The Committee took note of the report.

Item 3.3: Training for Members for Rules on Statistics

9. The Chief of the Statistics Section reported that training for two exporting Members, Kenya and Côte d'Ivoire, had taken place at ICO headquarters since the last Council Session. This training resulted in better communication between the Secretariat and the two Members, and in improvements in the reports submitted by these Members.

10. The Committee took note of the report.

Item 4: New data management system

11. The Chief of the Statistics Section gave a presentation on the outline for the new statistical data management system, which would be able to take advantage of the advances in technology since the development of the current system that commenced in 2003. In coffee year 2018/19, the Secretariat would seek tenders from at least three consultancies for upgrading the system. The upgrading will be carried out in different phases and modules in order to address both financial constraints and maintain the necessary data integrity. Work on the upgrade was planned to start near the end of the 2018/19 coffee year once tenders were evaluated and a consultant was selected.

12. The Committee took note of the report.

Item 5: Statistics Roundtable

13. Mr Euan Mann, of Complete Commodity Solutions Ltd., Chair of the Statistics Roundtable, presented the outcomes of the joint work with the ICO Statistics Section. He noted that the Statistics Roundtable had members from the private sector representing

traders, roasters and independent analysts. The ICO had worked with the Statistics Roundtable for five years, reviewing supply and demand data from a global perspective including most exporting countries for the period 2006/07 to 2016/17. As a result of this collaboration, the quality of ICO data had been greatly improved and could now be considered as a global benchmark for coffee sector data. Mr Mann stressed the importance of the Council decision allowing the Secretariat, in cases where official statistics were inconsistent or incomplete, to complement data submitted by Members with information from other sources. The ICO with cooperation from the current Roundtable will next review data for the period 1997/98 to 2005/06. In addition, the ICO and the Roundtable would review data for the two to three most recently completed coffee years on an annual basis to ensure that the ICO continued to be a reliable source of data.

14. Several Members expressed satisfaction with the impressive progress that the Secretariat had made in improving ICO statistics to better reflect the global coffee market situation.

15. The Committee took note of the report.

Item 6: Other business

16. There was no other business.

Item 7: Date of next meeting

17. The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Statistics Committee will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, during the 124th Council Session.