INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION

SC 93/19

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Report of the 16th meeting of the Statistics Committee held on 27 March 2019

1.   The Statistics Committee, in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, was chaired by the Executive Director, and held its 16th meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, on 27 March 2019.

Item 1:   Adoption of the Agenda

2.   The Committee adopted the draft Agenda contained in document SC-89/19 Rev. 1.

Item 2:   Report on the meeting of 19 September 2018

3.   The Committee approved the report of the 15th meeting held on 19 September 2018, contained in document SC-88/18.

Item 3:   Estimating global coffee farmer populations by origin

4.   The Committee noted the presentation from Mr David Browning, CEO of Enveritas on estimating the population of coffee farmers by origin. He stated that the widely cited figure of 20-25 million coffee farmers in the world lacked a clear source or methodology, which motivated him to develop a new process for updating this figure. He presented a robust methodology for estimating the total number of farms within a country that could be applied across multiple countries and replicated by others. He stated that this methodology resulted in a global figure of around 12.5 million coffee farms where, depending on the definition, 67% to 80% were smallholders. He clarified that this methodology counts the number of coffee farms rather than enumerating the number of people growing coffee, due to the ambiguity surrounding who counts as a coffee farmer and that it excludes farms that produce coffee solely for household consumption.

5.   Several Members expressed their interest in the report, noting the importance of using a statistically sound methodology for calculating the number of farms, particularly when these figures would be used in setting national policy and addressing poverty.

6.   The Committee took note of the presentation.

Item 4:   Rules on Statistics – Indicator Prices

7.   The Chair asked members of the Statistics Committee to consider document SC-90/19, which contained the new weightings for the composite and indicator group prices based on their market shares in calendar years 2015 to 2018. These weightings are reviewed every two years in accordance with the Rules on Statistics – Indicator Prices, document ICC-105-17.

8.   The Committee considered the document and recommended it for approval to the Council. The new weightings will take effect on 1 October 2019.

Item 5:   **Article 2 of the 2007 Agreement: Conversion factors for roasted, decaffeinated, liquid and soluble coffee**

9.   The Head of Operations stated that the ICO reviews the conversion factors for roasted, decaffeinated, liquid and soluble coffee every three years and the last review took place in March 2017, in consultation with the Private Sector Consultancy Board, as described in document SC-91/19. He noted that the Secretariat would be conducting a survey to collect information on current conversion factors and the conclusion would be presented at the next Statistics Committee meeting in September 2019.

10.   The Committee took note of the document.

Item 6:   **Report on compliance with the Rules on Statistics and new compliance indicators**

11.   This item was deferred until a future meeting of the Statistics Committee to allow more time for the new indicators to develop.

Item 7:   **Coffee sector data: Rules on statistics and best practices**

12.   The representative from Kenya made a presentation on their process for collecting national coffee sector data and the implementation of their new system for certificates of origin. He stated that Kenya had implemented a national electronic single-window system for processing certificates of origin for exports of coffee. He noted that this system had contributed to lower costs and time saved for stakeholders, as well as facilitated accurate and prompt collection of coffee trade statistics that are crucial for planning and policy formulation.

12.   Members thanked the representative of Kenya for the presentation, noting its comprehensiveness and that it was a good example of showing best practices for coffee statistics.

13.   The Committee took note of the report.

Item 8:   **Training for Members for Rules on Statistics**

14.   The Chief of Statistics reported that an ICO-led Statistical Workshop was conducted on 12 February alongside the 17th African Fine Coffee Conference and Exhibition as part of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding with the African Fine Coffees Association (AFCA) to cooperate on coffee-related issues. It was noted that the purpose of

the workshop was to present statistical reporting requirements of the ICO and to support Members and observers in improving their data collection and reporting. She stated that there were around 15 participants representing three Member countries at the workshop.

15.   The Committee took note of the report.

Item 9:   Statistics Roundtable

16.   The Chief of Statistics reported that the Statistics Roundtable, a group of private sector experts, had met twice since the last meeting of the Statistics Committee. She stated that at the meeting on 19 December 2018, the Statistics Roundtable reviewed supply and demand data for the world and the six largest producers covering the period 1996/97 to 2005/06. She noted that the Statistics Roundtable also met on 14 March 2019 for its first annual review, covering coffee years 2016/17 and 2017/18. She reported that members of the Statistics Roundtable observed that ICO statistics had greatly improved since the commencement of the Roundtable, and recognized that the limits of the current database hindered further improvements to ICO statistics.

17.   One Member asked about the expected timing of achieving the ICO's strategic goal of delivering world-class data. The Executive Director noted that the major obstacle in achieving that goal was the current state of the data management system, which needed to be modernized and upgraded. The Head of Operations stated that the capacity-building element, such as the workshop held alongside AFCA, had also helped to improve ICO statistics.

19.   The Committee took note of the report.

Item 10:   Other business

20.   There was no other business.

Item 11:   Date of next meeting

21.   The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Statistics Committee would take place in London, United Kingdom, during the week of the 125th Council Session in September 2019.