

#### WGFA 67/21

29 June 2021 Original: English



Report of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on the Future of the International Coffee Agreement held on 10 June 2021

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The Working Group on the Future of the International Coffee Agreement (WGFA) met for the fourteenth time on 10 June 2021. The Chair, Ms Stefanie Küng, of Switzerland, welcomed all participants and thanked delegates for their presence.

Representatives of the following Members were present online using the Zoom software: Brazil, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union (Germany, Ireland and Sweden), Honduras, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Togo, Uganda and Viet Nam. The Chair of the Private Sector Consultative Board, Mr Anil Bhandari, was also present.

#### Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

1. The agenda contained in WGFA 62/21 Rev. 2 was adopted.

#### Item 2: Report of the 13th meeting of the Working Group held on 11 May 2021

- 2. The Chair presented the report of the previous meeting, contained in document WGFA-61/21.
- 3. The Working Group took note of the report.

#### Item 3: International Coffee Agreement: Proposals for change submitted by Vietnam

- 4. The Chair invited the delegate of Vietnam to present the set of proposed changes to the International Coffee Agreement put forward by Vietnam, contained in document WGFA-63/21.
- 5. The Chair suggested to evaluate the proposals by Vietnam individually, as each part of the Agreement is discussed by the Working Group.
- 6. The Working Group decided that the proposals from Vietnam will be evaluated and discussed at appropriate times in the future.

#### Item 4: Report of the Drafting Group on the meeting held on 3 June 2021 and on the articles related to votes and contributions

- 7. The Chair introduced the item by informing delegates of a change in the composition of the Drafting Group. Two Asian Members, India and Vietnam, had expressed their interest in joining the Drafting Group, which still had one open space. In the interests of achieving a broad representation, the Chair proposed that both Members should participate in the Drafting Group.
- 8. No objection to the proposed change in the composition of the Drafting Group was presented.
- 9. The Executive Director presented a report on the meeting of the Drafting Group held on 3 June 2021. The delegates of the Drafting Group had received a preliminary version of the discussion paper on votes and contributions contained in document <u>WGFA-65/21</u>. The Executive Director noted that the options presented in the discussion paper were not exhaustive since they were a subset of the available options that had awakened the most interest among Members. He clarified that the Secretariat was neutral in regard to any option.
- 10. The key matters discussed by the Drafting Group were the following:
  - Linking or delinking votes and contributions
  - Maintaining or changing the distinction between exporting and importing countries in the determinations of votes
  - Maintaining or changing the distinction between exporting and importing countries in the determination of contributions
  - Maintaining volume of imports or exports as the basis for calculation of votes and/or contributions or using a different variable.
- 11. The presentation of the Executive Director is included as an Annex to this report.
- 12. Regarding the calculation of votes, the Executive Director presented two options: V1, where 1000 votes are evenly divided by exporting and importing Members (current system); and V2, where 1000 votes are no longer equally distributed (change in the system). The Executive Director reported that the Drafting Group had preferred to maintain the distinction between exporting and importing Members in the determination of votes, therefore the Working Group should explore branch V1 and set aside branch V2.

- 13. Branch V1 contained three options: V1.1, in which votes were based on the volume of exports or imports (current system); V1.2, in which votes were based on the value of exports or imports; and V1.3, where votes are based on a mix of 50% value and 50% volume of exports and imports. The Drafting Group had concluded that a 50%-50% mix of volume and value of imports or exports should be used as the basis for the calculation of votes (branch V1.3).
- 14. Regarding the calculation of contributions, the Executive Director presented two options: C1, where assessed contributions are proportional to votes (current system), and C2, where assessed contributions are not proportional to votes (change in the system). The Drafting Group had concluded that option C2 was preferable.
- 15. Branch C2 contained three options: C2.1, in which assessed contributions were based on volume of total trade; C2.2, in which assessed contributions were based on value of total trade; and option C2.3, in which assessed contributions were based on a mix of 50% value of total trade and 50% of volume of total trade. The Drafting Group concluded that the 50%-50% mix of volume and value of total trade should be used as the basis for the calculation of contributions (option C2.3).
- 16. Regarding the matter of whether the distinction between exporting and importing countries in the determination of contributions should be maintained or changed, no decision was made by the Drafting Group.
- 17. The delegate of Uganda inquired whether any quantitative test had been made regarding the branches V1 and V2. The Executive Director clarified that the Statistical Appendix of the document <u>WGFA-53/21 Rev. 2</u> contained full information on the impact of all options on each Member's contribution.
- 18. The delegate for Papua New Guinea asked whether option C2 implied that the new Agreement would maintain the existing system of basic and proportional votes. The Executive Director replied that delegates could discuss and decide whether basic votes should be abolished or changed at a later point.
- 19. The delegate of Brazil asked for a graphical representation of how each Member's contributions would change according to each scenario.
- 20. In summing up the debate on this agenda item, the Chair highlighted two important areas of convergence of the Drafting Group: maintaining the 50%-50% split in

votes between exporting and importing Members, and using a mix of volume and value for calculation of votes and contributions. She noted that some delegations would need more time to consult their capitals and suggested that the Drafting Group would move forward to drafting a text that reflected their preferences.

#### Item 5: Role of the private sector

- 21. The Chair reported that at the last WGFA meeting the delegates agreed to the three following steps regarding the integration of the private sector in the Organization:
  - Revitalizing the Private Sector Consultative Board
  - Formalizing the role of the Coffee Public-Private Task Force; and
  - Exploring other forms of membership by the private sector.
- 22. The Chair reminded delegates that for this final point, the Secretariat was requested to prepare a proposal for the institution of other forms of membership.
- 23. The Head of Operations presented the possible categories of membership for the integration of the private sector contained in document WGFA-64/21.
- 24. The Chair reported the receival of a communication from the Chair of the Private Sector Consultative Board, Mr Anil Bhandari, which had been circulated among delegates as document <u>WGFA-66/21</u>. In his communication, the Chair of the PSCB provided additional details on his proposal to establish a bicameral Organization.
- 25. The delegate of the European Union highlighted the importance of guaranteeing the active participation of civil society in the Organization.
- 26. The delegate of Brazil stated that private sector companies should stay in the Coffee Public-Private Task Force, while associations should be part of the PSCB.
- 27. The delegate of Kenya recommended exploring how the International Tea Committee had integrated the private sector.
- 28. The Chair asked the Secretariat to prepare a draft proposal on the integration of the private sector in the new Agreement to be submitted first to the Drafting Group and then to the Working Group.

#### Item 6: Next Steps

- 29. With regard to the WGFA's next steps, the Chair proposed that the group begin its examination of the text of the new Agreement, starting with the Preamble. For this purpose, the delegations who had promised, in earlier meetings, to furnish specific language on amendments had been contacted. The Secretariat reported that replies have been received from Papua New Guinea and Peru. Colombia, Kenya, Mexico and Nicaragua were again invited to send their proposals to the Secretariat.
- 30. Delegates agreed on the way forward proposed by the Chair.

#### Item 7: Appointment of the Vice Chair

- The Chair stated that the terms of reference of the WGFA contained in document <a href="ICC-124-15">ICC-124-15</a> determine that the Chair and Vice Chair should be appointed by the Council. She asked the Secretariat to include this item in the agenda of the September Session of the International Coffee Council.
- 32. Meanwhile, the Chair stated that it would be useful for the Group to designate an interim Vice Chair. She requested the spokesperson of exporting Members, Ambassador Marco Farani, to informally sound out the exporting Members and propose a Vice Chair at the next meeting of the Working Group.

#### Item 8: Other business

33. No requests for Other Business were made.

#### Item 9: Date of next meeting

34. The Chair noted that the next WGFA Meeting would be held on 8 July 2021.

# 14<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE FUTURE OF THE ICA 2007

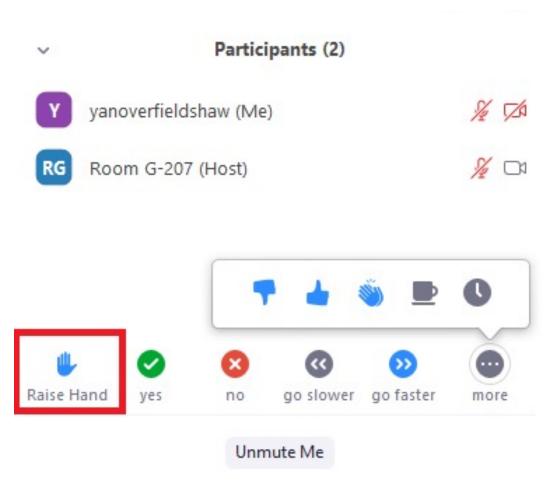
Chair: Ms Stefanie Küng, of Switzerland

Thursday 10 June 2021



#### PROCEDURE ON HOW TO MAKE AN INTERVENTION

- 1. All Members are on 'mute' accept for the Chair and the Executive Director. This is to reduce noise interruptions during the meeting.
- 2. If a Member would like to make a verbal intervention, please click on participants and press 'Raise Hand', then the Chair will give you the floor and you can unmute your microphone.
- 3. When asking a question Members can share their camera if they wish.
- 4. As a backup option written questions can also be sent by text to the organizer in the Zoom chat.





## DRAFT AGENDA (WGFA-59/21)

- 1. Draft Agenda to adopt
- 2. Votes and contributions to consider
- 3. Next steps to agree
- 4. Other business to consider
- 5. Date of next meeting to note



# Item 3. VOTES AND CONTRIBUTIONS – to consider (Discussion Paper #1)

**Membership:** Brazil, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, Honduras, *India*, Japan, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Togo



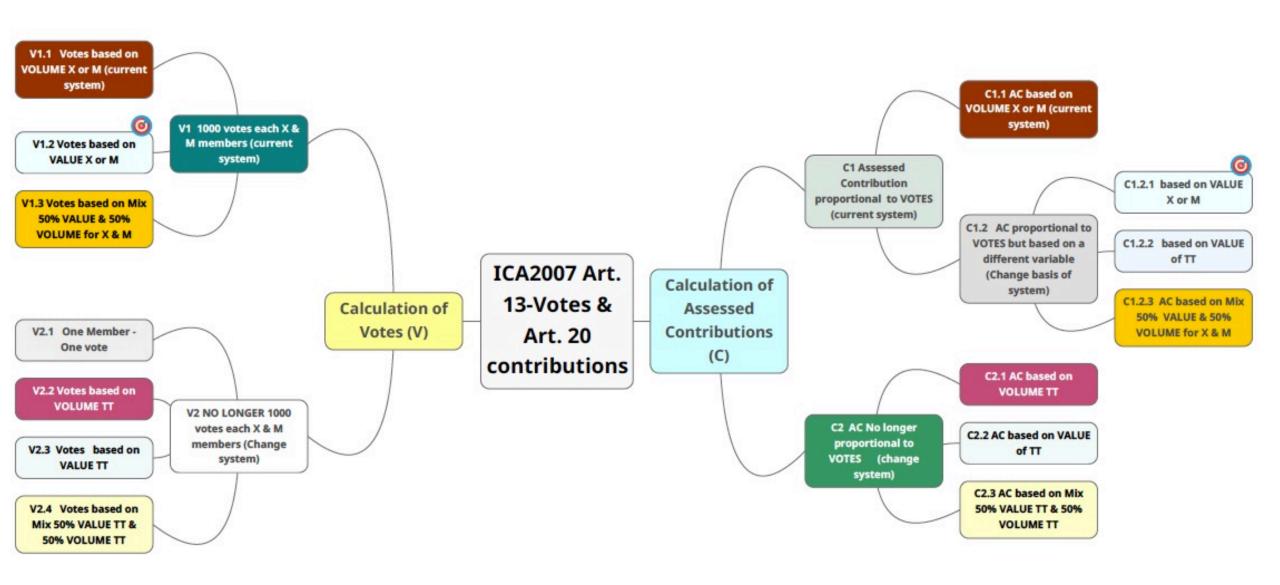
#### **DISCUSSION PAPER NR. 1**

#### **KEY FEATURES**:

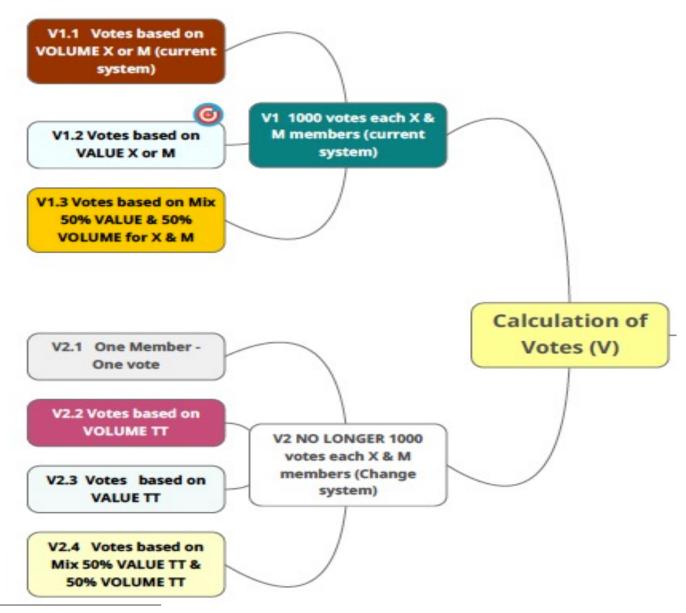
- 1. Description of available options
- 2. Schematic decision tree presentation (Annexes 1-3)
- 3. Qualitative: Pros and cons of changing the current system (Annex 4)
- 4. Quantitative: Impact on votes and contributions (Statistical Appendix)
- 5. Guidance from survey of ICO members
- 6. Not exhaustive:
  - Fixed vs basic votes
  - Cap on votes/contributions of Members
- 7. Neutrality of Secretariat



#### Annex I: Options for Article 13 (votes) & Article 20 (Assessed Contributions)



#### **ANNEX II: OPTIONS FOR ARTICLE 13 (VOTES)**



#### **VOTES - 1st DECISION POINT**

- ❖ V1: 1000 votes each X & M members (current system)
- V2: No longer 1000 votes each X & M members (change system)



#### **VOTES - 1st DECISION POINT PROS & CONS**

❖ V1: 1000 votes each X & M members (current system)

BOX V1: 1000 votes each X & M members (current system)		
PROS	CONS	
<ol> <li>Maintains 50%-50% balance in voting power between X &amp; M members</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>Perpetuates distinction between X         &amp; M members, which no longer         reflects the coffee global value         chain</li> </ul>	
2. Consistent with overall "spirit" of the ICA (X and M countries) and does not require drastic changes to Agreement		



#### **VOTES - 1st DECISION POINT PROS & CONS**

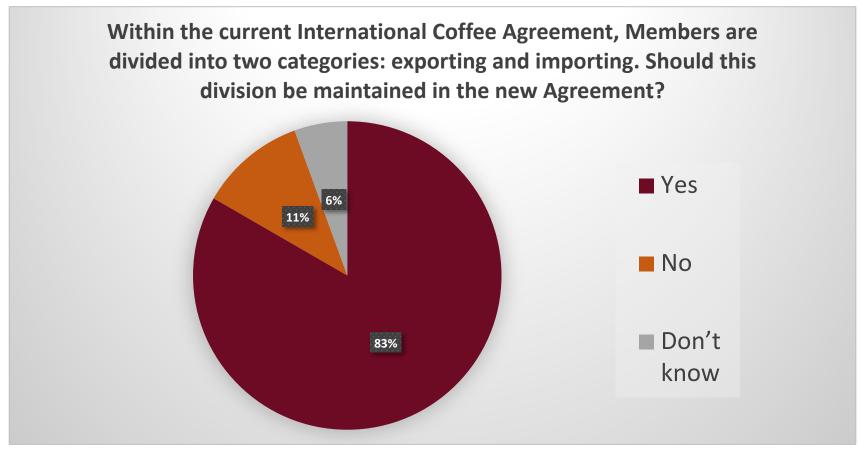
❖ V2: No longer 1000 votes each X & M members (change system)

BOX V2: NO LONGER 1000 votes each X & M members (Change system)		
PROS	CONS	
<ol> <li>Recognizes reduction in distinction between X &amp; M members, reflecting the modern global value chain</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>Eliminates balance of 50%-50% voting power among X &amp; M members</li> </ul>	
2. Captures relative strength of members under the criteria chosen	<ul> <li>Requires a radical change in the ICA framework and power balance (preamble, decision-making structure, chairmanship / membership, Council, committee etc.)</li> </ul>	



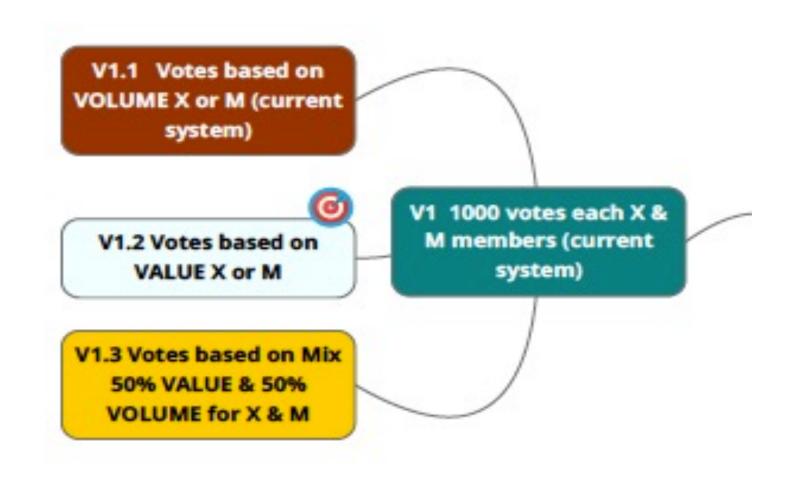
#### B. VOTES AND CONTRIBUTIONS: EXPORTING AND IMPORTING MEMBERS

83% of respondents prefer to continue dividing ICO Members into the Exporting and Importing categories.





#### V1: 1000 VOTES EACH X & M MEMBERS (CURRENT SYSTEM)



### **VOTES – 2<sup>nd</sup> DECISION POINT (Variant 1)**

- ❖ V1.1 Votes based on VOLUME X or M (current system)
- ❖ V1.2 Votes based on VALUE X or M
- ❖ V1.3 Votes based on mix 50% VALUE and 50% VOLUME for X or M



❖ V1.1 Votes based on VOLUME X or M (current system)

BOX V1.1: Votes based on VOLUME X or M (current system)		
PROS	CONS	
<ol> <li>Captures VOLUME dimension and is proportional to share of market volume</li> </ol>	1. Does not capture VALUE dimension (earnings).	
2. Data easily comparable	2.	
<ol><li>VOLUME less volatile than VALUE data</li></ol>	3.	
4. ICO already set up to handle this system	4. New system needs to be introduced	
5. Data easily available	5.	



❖ V1.2: Votes based on VALUE X or M

BOX V	BOX V1.2: Votes based on VALUE X or M		
	PROS	CONS	
1.	Captures VALUE dimension and is proportional to actual monetary value of coffee traded	<ol> <li>Does not capture VOLUME dimension.</li> </ol>	
2.	Data is available, although not as reliable as for VOLUME	2. Not easily comparable	
3.		3. VALUE more volatile than VOLUME data	



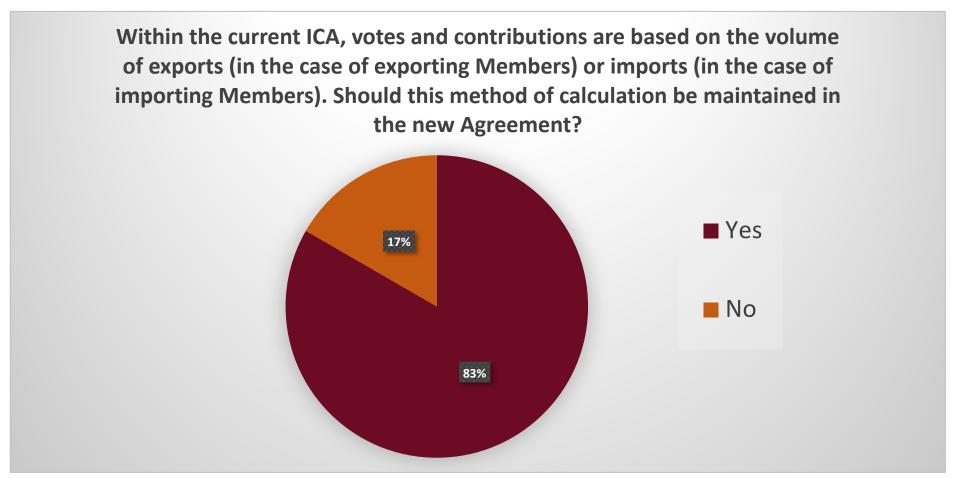
❖ V1.3: Votes based on Mix 50% VALUE & 50% VOLUME for X or M

BOX V1.3: Votes based on Mix 50% VALUE & 50% VOLUME for X or M		
PROS	CONS	
1. Moderate volatility: higher than	1. Captures both VOLUME and	
VOLUME but lower than VALUE	VALUE dimensions	
2. Data is available, although not as	2. Add layer of complexity by going	
reliable as for VOLUME	from 1 (VOLUME) to 2 (VOLUME	
	& VALUE) bases for calculation	



#### **B. VOTES AND CONTRIBUTIONS:** METHOD OF CALCULATION

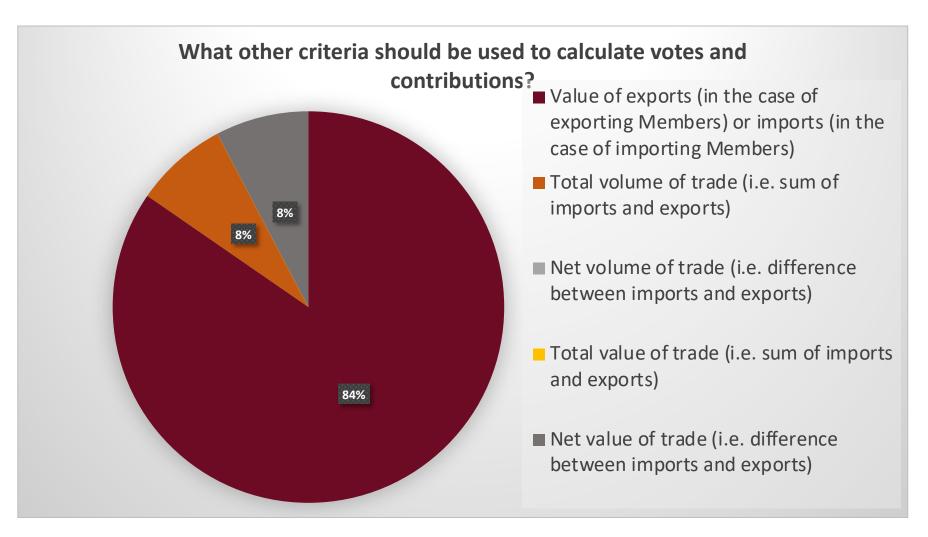
• 83% of respondents would like to maintain the current method of calculation of votes/contributions.





#### **B. VOTES AND CONTRIBUTIONS:** CRITERIA FOR CALCULATION

84% of respondents would also like value of exports/imports to be used to calculate votes/contributions.

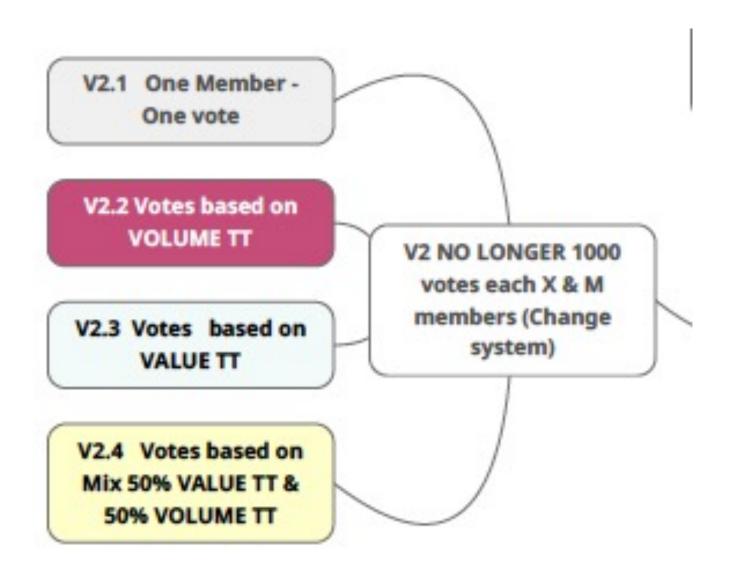


#### **VOTES – 2<sup>nd</sup> DECISION POINT (Variant 2)**

- ❖ V2.1 One member, one vote
- ❖ V2.2 Votes based on VOLUME TT
- ❖ V2.3 Votes based on VALUE TT
- ❖ V2.4 Votes based on Mix 50% VALUE and 50% VOLUME for X and M



#### V2: NO LONGER 1000 votes each X & M members (Change system)



❖ V2.1 One member, one vote

BOX V2.1: One member, one vote		
PROS	CONS	
1. All members have equal voting rights	<ul> <li>Unless contributions are also divided equally, leads to situation where Members with small share of global value chain will have same voting power as larger participants</li> </ul>	
2. Simple to calculate	<ul> <li>Similar to some multilateral organizations (WTO, UN)</li> </ul>	
3. Least volatile system: votes will change only when Members enter or leave the ICO	<ul> <li>Not related to the specific reality of the coffee sector that is the core of the ICA</li> </ul>	



❖ V2.2 Votes based on VOLUME TT

BOX V2.2: Votes based on VOLUME TT	
PROS	CONS
<ol> <li>Recognizes increasing interdependence of coffee global value chain by adding VOLUME X + M</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Does not capture VALUE dimension. Members with low unit VALUE of exports may end up paying a disproportionately high share of contributions</li> </ol>
2. Data easily available	2. X Members will have more votes than M Members
3. Data easily comparable	3.
4. Less volatile than VALUE data	4.
5. ICO already set up to handle this system	5.



V2.3 Votes based on VALUE TT

BOX V2.3: Votes based on VALUE TT		
PROS	CONS	
<ol> <li>Recognizes increasing interdependence of coffee global value chain by adding VALUE X + M</li> </ol>	1. More volatile than VOLUME data	
2.	2. M Members will have more votes than X Members	
3.	3. Not easily comparable	
4.	4. ICO not set up to handle this system	

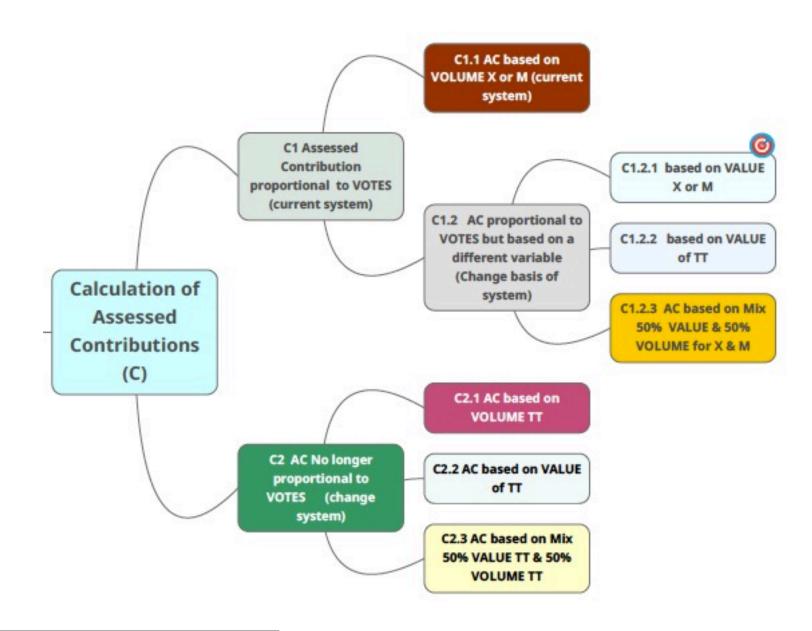


❖ Votes based on mix 50% VALUE & 50% VOLUME for both X and M

BOX V2.4: Votes based on mix 50% VALUE & 50% VOLUME for both X and M		
PROS	CONS	
1. Moderate volatility: higher than	<ol> <li>Adds layer of complexity by going</li> </ol>	
VOLUME but lower than VALUE	from 1 (VOLUME) to 2 (VOLUME	
	& VALUE) bases for calculation	
2. Data available, although not as	2.	
reliable as for VOLUME		
3. Captures both VOLUME and	3.	
VALUE dimensions		



#### **ANNEX III: OPTIONS FOR ARTICLE 20 - ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS**



#### **CONTRIBUTIONS - 1st DECISION POINT**

- C1: Assessed Contributions (AC) proportional to Votes (current system)
- C2: AC not proportional to Votes (change system)



#### CONTRIBUTIONS - 1st DECISION POINT PROS & CONS

C1: Assessed Contributions (AC) proportional to Votes (current

system)

BOX C1: Assessed Contributions (AC) proportional to Votes (current system)		
PROS	CONS	
<ol> <li>Direct relationship between votes and contributions, i.e. those who contribute more to the ICO have more voting power than those who don't</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Perpetuates distinction between         X &amp; M members that no longer         reflects the modern global value         chain</li> </ol>	
<ol> <li>Maintains 50%-50% balance in voting power and contributions to the budget between X &amp; M members</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Distinction between votes and contributions is a common practice In the multilateral system (UN, WTO, development banks)</li> <li>If votes do not reflect the actual value chain, then proportional contributions will also not reflect</li> </ol>	
4.	it  4. Depending on the variable used, proportionality of votes/contributions may imply significant increase in the contributions of some members (X & M)	
5.	5. Impact of withdrawal of one Member is duplicated in other category	



#### CONTRIBUTIONS - 1st DECISION POINT PROS & CONS

C2: AC no longer proportional to votes (change system)

BOX C	BOX C2: AC no longer proportional to votes (change system)		
	PROS	CONS	
1.	Recognizes reduction in distinction between X & M members, reflecting the modern global value chain	No direct relationship between votes and contributions. Those who contribute more to the ICO do not necessarily have more voting power than those who don't	
2.	Distinction between votes and contributions is a common practice (UN, WTO, development banks) In multilateral system		
3.	Contributions may be proportionate to earnings rather than votes	3.	
4.	No need to change voting structure of 50% X Members and 50% M members	4.	
5.	May increase predictability of budget if distribution between X & M changes (M members more punctual in paying)	5.	



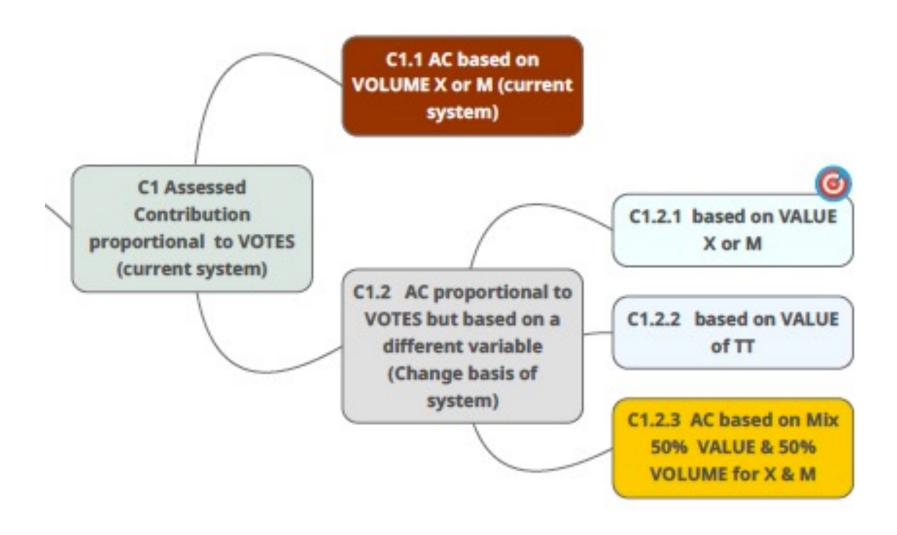
## **CONTRIBUTIONS – 2<sup>nd</sup> DECISION POINT (Variant 1)**

## C1: Assessed Contributions (AC) proportional to Votes (current system)

- C1.1 AC based on VOLUME X or M (current system)
- C1.2 AC proportional to votes but based on different
- variable (change basis of system)
  - C1.2.1 AC based on VALUE X or M
  - C1.2.2 AC based on VALUE TT
  - C1.2.3 AC based on mix 50% VALUE and 50% VOLUME TT



#### C1: ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS PROPORTIONAL TO VOTES (CURRENT SYSTEM)



### **CONTRIBUTIONS – 2<sup>nd</sup> DECISION POINT PROS & CONS (Variant 1)**

#### C1.1 AC based on VOLUME X or M (current system)

BOX C1.1: AC based on VOLUME X or VOLUME M		
PROS	CONS	
<ol> <li>Captures VOLUME dimension and is proportional to share of market.</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Does not capture VALUE dimension.</li> </ol>	
2. Data easily comparable	2. Members with low unit VALUE of exports may have to pay a higher share of contributions	
<ol><li>VOLUME less volatile than VALUE data</li></ol>	3.	
4. ICO already set up to handle this system	4.	
5. Data easily available	5.	



### **CONTRIBUTIONS – 2nd DECISION POINT PROS & CONS (Variant 1)**

#### C1.2.1 AC based on VALUE X or M

BOX C1.2.1: AC based on VALUE X or M	
PROS	CONS
<ol> <li>Captures VALUE dimension and is proportional to actual monetary value of coffee traded</li> </ol>	1. Does not capture VOLUME dimension.
2. Data is available, although not as reliable as for VOLUME	2. Members with low export VOLUME may have to pay a higher share of contributions
3.	3. Not easily comparable
4.	4. VALUE more volatile than VOLUME data



### **CONTRIBUTIONS – 2nd DECISION POINT PROS & CONS (Variant 1)**

#### C1.2.2 AC based on VALUE TT

BOX C1.2.2: AC based on VALUE TT	
PROS	CONS
1. Recognizes changes in coffee global value change, countries no longer either export or import, but do both	1. Does not capture VOLUME dimension. Members with low export VOLUME may have to pay a higher share of contributions
2. Captures VALUE dimension and is proportional to actual monetary value of coffee traded	<ol> <li>Members with low export         VOLUME may have to pay a         disproportionately high share of         contributions</li> </ol>
3. Data is available, although not as reliable as for VOLUME	<ol><li>VALUE more volatile than VOLUME data</li></ol>
4.	4. Not easily comparable



### **CONTRIBUTIONS – 2nd DECISION POINT PROS & CONS (Variant 1)**

#### C1.2.3 AC based on mix 50% VALUE and 50% VOLUME TT

BOX C1.2.3: AC based on mix 50% VALUE and 50% VOLUME for X or M	
PROS	CONS
1. Moderate volatility: higher than VOLUME but lower than VALUE	<ol> <li>Captures both VOLUME and VALUE dimensions</li> </ol>
2. Data available, although not as reliable as for VOLUME	2. Add layer of complexity by going from 1 (VOLUME) to 2 (VOLUME & VALUE) bases for calculation
3.	<ol> <li>Distribution of contributions         among X Members vs M         Members partially reflect actuals         earnings     </li> </ol>



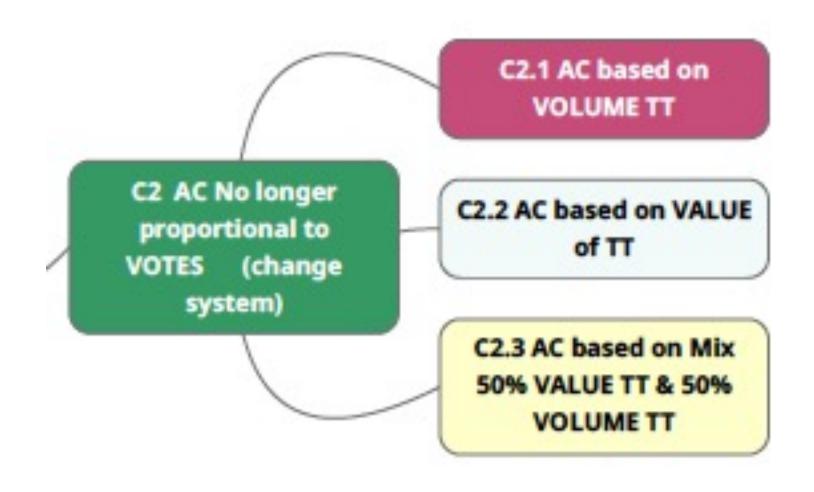
### **CONTRIBUTIONS – 2<sup>nd</sup> DECISION POINT (Variant 2)**

# C2: Assessed Contributions (AC) not proportional to Votes (change system)

- C2.1 AC based on VOLUME TT
- C2.2 AC based on VALUE TT
- C2.3 AC based on Mix 50% VALUE and 50% VOLUME TT



#### **C2: ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS NO LONGER PROPORTIONAL TO VOTES**



### **CONTRIBUTIONS – 2<sup>nd</sup> DECISION POINT PROS & CONS (Variant 2)**

#### C2.1 AC based on VOLUME TT

BOX C2.1: AC based on VOLUME of TT	
PROS	CONS
<ol> <li>Captures VOLUME dimension of both X &amp; M and is proportional to share of overall market.</li> </ol>	1. Does not capture VALUE dimension.
2. Data easily comparable	2. Members with low unit VALUE of exports may have to pay a disproportionately high share of contributions
3. VOLUME less volatile than VALUE data	3.
4. ICO already set up to handle this system	4.
5. Data easily available	5.



### **CONTRIBUTIONS – 2<sup>nd</sup> DECISION POINT PROS & CONS (Variant 2)**

#### C2.2 AC based on VALUE TT

BOX C2.2: AC based on VALUE of TT	
PROS	CONS
<ol> <li>Captures VALUE dimension and is proportional to actual monetary value of all coffee traded</li> </ol>	Does not capture VOLUME dimension.
2. Volatility mid-way between VOLUME and VALUE	2. Members with low export VOLUME but high VALUE may have to pay a higher share of contributions
3. Data is available, although not as reliable as for VOLUME	3.
4. Most X Members will pay less	4. Some M Members will pay more
5.	5.



### **CONTRIBUTIONS – 2<sup>nd</sup> DECISION POINT PROS & CONS (Variant 2)**

#### C2.3 AC based on Mix 50% VALUE and 50% VOLUME TT

BOX C2.3: AC based on Mix 50% VOLUME & 50% VALUE for TT		
1. Volatility mid-way between	<ol> <li>Captures both VOLUME and</li> </ol>	
VOLUME and VALUE	VALUE dimensions.	
2. Data is available, although not as	2. Adds layer of complexity by	
reliable as for VOLUME	going from 1 (VOLUME) to 2	
	(VOLUME & VALUE) bases for	
	calculation	
3.	3. Not easily comparable	



### **QUANTITATIVE IMPACT ON VOTES & CONTRIBUTIONS 1**

(Statistical Appendix)

- Formulas based on VOLUME (current system) will reflect shares of members in VOLUME of trade but do not reflect differences in VALUE of trade
- Formulas based on VALUE will reflect shares of members in VALUE of trade but do not reflect differences in VOLUME of trade
- Formulas based on a MIX of VOLUME and VALUE will generate an intermediate result



### **QUANTITATIVE IMPACT ON VOTES & CONTRIBUTIONS 2**

(Statistical Appendix)

- Countries with higher share of VOLUME than VALUE (Votes

   ↓/Contributions ↓): Brazil, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Japan, Norway, Russian Fed., Togo, Tunisia, Uganda & Viet Nam
- Establish transitional arrangements to soften impact of changes?



Item 4. NEXT STEPS

Item 5. OTHER BUSINESS

Item 6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING



## **THANK YOU!**

