



**Report of the Statistics Committee
on the meeting of 16 March 2009**

1. The Statistics Committee held its 26th meeting on 16 March 2009.

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

2. The Committee adopted the draft Agenda contained in document WP-Statistics 133/08 Rev. 1.

Item 2: Election of the Chairman

3. The Committee decided to defer the election of the Chairman until its next meeting by which time the ICA 2007 should be in effect and the Committee would operate with a new structure. Mr Jaime Junqueira Payne of Brazil agreed to chair this meeting.

**Item 3: Report of the Statistics Committee
on the meeting of 24 September 2008**

4. The Committee approved the report on the meeting of 24 September 2008 contained in document WP-Statistics 132/08.

Item 4: Compliance with statistical rules

5. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics 134/09 containing information on the status of compliance by Members with the Rules on Statistics. Based on average trade data for the last four coffee years (2004/05 to 2007/08), levels of compliance with the provision of statistical data by exporting and importing countries were satisfactory or better at 84% and 98%, respectively.

6. The Committee took note of this information and further noted that compliance by exporting Members in providing production and internal consumption estimates continued to be poor, particularly for the last two years. The Committee urged all exporting Members to improve their performance, as this information was essential to analysis of supply and demand by the Organization. The Committee also noted that the Secretariat would continue its efforts to ensure that two importing Members, namely Bulgaria and Hungary, provided data on their coffee trade.

Item 5: Technical assistance

7. The Statistician reported that no information had been received on the preparation of a manual of best practice by selected exporting Members. The Committee requested the Secretariat to contact these Members for an update on progress on this task.

8. The representative of Brazil reiterated his country's offer to provide assistance to African countries through the Brazilian Agricultural Research Agency (EMBRAPA) in Ghana. Countries interested in receiving assistance were requested to formally submit a project proposal to the Executive Director who would contact the Brazilian authorities to initiate assistance under the supervision of EMBRAPA.

9. The Committee noted that Vietnam had formally requested the Executive Director to prepare a training programme to assist it with the preparation of statistical data required by the Organization and quality issues. The Committee took note of a request for similar assistance to be extended to Indonesia and agreed that Indonesia should submit a formal request for assistance to the Executive Director.

Item 6: Statistical priorities under the International Coffee Agreement (ICA) 2007

10. The Committee decided to recommend that the Council should approve document WP-Council 179/08 Rev. 2, subject to amending Annex II to include the following wording in box 16: 'This certificate is intended solely for the statistical purposes of the ICO and does not confer origin on coffee'. In addition, the top right-hand box of the Certificate should be amended to read 'Certificate of Origin', instead of 'Certificate approved by'. The final version of this document was circulated after the Council Session (18 – 20 March 2009) as document ICC-102-9.

11. Regarding the Rules on Indicator Prices (document WP-Statistics 122/08), the Committee decided to defer consideration of this document until September 2009 to enable it to consider proposals for changes to the current rules for the collection, transmission, calculation and publication of ICO group and composite prices.

**Item 7: Article 2 of the ICA 2007: Conversion factors
for roasted, decaffeinated, liquid and soluble coffee**

12. The Committee noted that the Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB) had discussed this topic at its meeting on the morning of 16 March 2009. The PSCB had recommended that the conversion factors listed in Article 2 of the ICA 2007 should remain unchanged, except for the conversion into green coffee of green decaffeinated coffee, where it recommended that the Organization should adopt a conversion factor of 1.05.

13. The Committee suggested that the Executive Director should circulate a document to Members inviting their comments on the proposed change. If no objections were received, the Committee would recommend approval of this proposal to the Council in September 2009.

Item 8: Inventories and stocks

14. The Committee noted that the latest information posted on the European Coffee Federation's (ECF) website showed data as at 31 December 2008. The Organization would continue to monitor this site regularly and incorporate this data into its statistical series, as previously decided by the Committee.

Item 9: Organic coffee

15. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics 135/09 containing data on exports of organic coffee based on information extracted from Certificates of Origin and monthly reports for coffee years 2003/04 to 2007/08. The Committee took note of this document.

Item 10: Exports to exporting countries

16. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics 136/09 containing data on exports of all forms of coffee from all origins to exporting countries. The Committee took note of this document and, given the increasing importance of this information, highlighted the need for all exporting Members to start to provide reports on imports of coffee to the Organization as early as possible. Provision for such reports had been approved in the new Rules on Statistics – Statistical Reports (document WP-Council 180/08). The final version of this document was circulated after the Council Session (18 – 20 March 2009) as document ICC-102-10.

17. The Committee noted that in the case of Mexico, the high volume of exports to this country reflected the recent implementation of a programme to increase domestic consumption.

Item 11: Report to the International Coffee Council

18. The Committee noted that the Chairman would make a summary report to the Council of discussions at this meeting. He would recommend approval by the Council of the Rules on Statistics – Certificates of Origin (document WP-Council 179/08 Rev. 2), amended to include a new sentence in box 16 of the Certificate of Origin. In addition, the Chairman would remind exporting Members to provide estimates of total production and stocks at the end of each crop year, and to send to the Organization publications with information on costs of production.

Item 12: Other business

Statistical data from EU members

19. The Statistician informed the Committee that intra-EU re-export data would shortly cease to be available. The EU would then be treated as a single entity for purposes of statistics on re-exports, once detailed data for its individual member States were no longer available.

Registered ports of export and ICO Certifying Agents

20. The Committee requested exporting Members to update their details on Certifying Agencies and ports of export from their countries if they had not already done so (see document WP-Council 174/08). It noted that the final version of this document would be circulated when the ICA 2007 had entered into force.

Implementation of the ICA 2007

21. The Committee noted that the Council would consider document WP-Council 171/08 Rev. 1 containing revisions to draft terms of reference for the Committee under the ICA 2007. The final version of this document was circulated after the Council Session (18 – 20 March 2009) as document ICC-102-16.

Costs of production

22. The Committee reminded exporting Members to provide information on their costs of production as requested in document ED-2038/08.

Item 13: Future meetings

23. The Committee noted that the Secretariat would confirm the date of its next meeting.