



**Report of the Statistics Committee on
its meeting of 4 March 2015**

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1. The Statistics Committee held its eighth meeting in London on 4 March 2015.

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

2. The Committee adopted the Agenda contained in document [SC-45/14 Rev. 2](#).

Item 2: Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2014/15

3. The Committee appointed Ms Marcela Urueña of Colombia as Chairperson and Mr Piotr Krawczyk of EU-Poland as Vice-Chairman.

Item 3: Report on the meeting of 24 September 2014

4. The Committee approved the report of the seventh meeting held in September 2014, contained in document [SC-44/14](#).

Item 4: Compliance with statistical rules

5. The Head of Operations introduced document [SC-46/15](#) containing information on the status of compliance by Members with the Rules on Statistics from coffee years 2007/08 to 2013/14 and October to December 2014. Annex 10 showed that out of 40 exporting Members, only 5 generally complied fully, while 8 had good compliance. Nine countries had partial compliance, while 15 exporting Members failed entirely to comply with the Rules. A further 3 exporting Members also showed poor compliance, although the Head of Operations acknowledged that two of these countries, Indonesia and Cameroon, had expressed their desire to work with the Secretariat in order to improve performance.

6. It was noted that statistics are one of the pillars of the ICO's work, and the Secretariat is available to work with Members who are experiencing difficulties. It was urged that Members make efforts to provide this data.

Item 5: Statistics Roundtable

7. A representative of the Statistics Roundtable, Mr Euan Mann of Complete Commodity Solutions, gave a presentation on the work of the Roundtable, which had been looking at statistics on coffee production and stock change in the coffee sector. He reminded Members that the Roundtable is open to any participant, as long as they are prepared to share their numbers, and it was hoped that there might be more participation from producing countries in the future. The Head of Operations underscored the importance of this work, and noted that the Secretariat intends to work with exporting Members in order to improve this information. The Secretariat will therefore report back to the Committee in September 2015 on the progress of this work.

Item 6: Subscriptions to statistical publications

8. The Head of Operations reported on subscriptions to the ICO's statistical publications, along with its policy on dissemination of information, which can be found in document [SC-53/15](#). It was noted that the Secretariat had recorded a significant increase in the revenue received from statistical subscriptions in the last year. It was recommended that the Secretariat continue with its current policy on statistical dissemination.

Item 7: Conversion factors for roasted, decaffeinated, liquid and soluble coffee

9. The Head of Operations introduced document [SC-42/14](#) on conversion factors, which according to the 2007 Agreement are to be reviewed at intervals of three years. The last such review took place in September 2011. In discussions on this item, it was noted that there have been significant technological advances in the soluble coffee industry, to the extent that the conversion factor for soluble coffee might have decreased from its current 2.6. The Secretariat agreed to contact soluble manufacturers to look into this in more detail and to report back to the Committee in September 2015 on the progress of this work.

Item 8: Implementation of the Coffee Quality-Improvement Programme (CQP)

10. The Head of Operations introduced documents [SC-48/15](#) and [SC-49/15](#) which contained updates on gradings for Arabica and Robusta coffee, and the implementation of the CQP. In calendar year 2014, 13 out of 40 Members provided information regularly on the CQP, while 6 Members provided partial data. The total volume of green coffee exported by these 19 Members, according to Certificates of Origin, amounted to 61.9 million bags, or 60.2% of the total, down from 68% in 2013.

Item 9: Proposed new statistics software

11. The Head of Operations reported on a proposed update to the Secretariat's statistical software. The current package had been in use for over ten years and was in need of updating. The development of this software had originally cost some £40,000 in 2002/03, and initial consultations suggested that a new system could cost in excess of £50,000. Activity 6 of the Programme of Activities for 2015/16 includes an amount to cover this cost.

12. The Committee suggested that it might be preferable to wait for the results of the Strategic Review before committing to a new package.

Item 10: Other business

13. The Head of Operations introduced document [SC-51/15](#) which contained the review of the weighting of coffee in the calculation of the ICO composite indicator price. This is updated routinely every two years, and the new weighting would come into effect on 1 October 2015. The Committee endorsed this review and recommended its approval to the Council.

Item 11: Future meetings

14. The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Statistics Committee would take place during the 115th Session of the Council to be held in Milan, Italy from 28 September to 2 October.