



Working Group on the Strategic Review of the ICO
8th Meeting
17 January 2017
London, United Kingdom

**Comments received from Brazil on the
Programme of Activities for the Organization
for 2016/17 (document WP-Council 265/16
Rev. 4)**

General comment: The Programme of Activities should be enriched by more details. The points below are the main examples of that, but there are other elements of the ICO's intentions that could be better illustrated by going into the detail of the actions.

Goal 1, Objective 1, Action Step 4: Details about Statistics Roundtable: Who are the participants? When were the last meetings? Who are the statistical experts?

ICO Reply: The Statistics Roundtable is attended by ICO staff and statistical experts who have been advising the Secretariat. The Statistics Roundtable was formalised by the Council in March 2014 and was supposed to meet on a quarterly basis. However, the last meeting took place on 23 November 2016 following consultations with Members to ensure that everyone agreed on the way forward.

Goal 1, Objective 1, Action Step 5: Topics covered by the studies? This would allow Members to make their choices of relevant topics. Could Members be presented with a choice of two out of four studies?

ICO Reply: the Secretariat will prepare the following Studies in coffee year 2016/17:

❖ **Assessing the economic sustainability of coffee growing** (revised version of document [ICC-117-6](#));

❖ **The impact of coffee price volatility**

The Secretariat has chosen these 2 studies against the background of the current debates about coffee growing challenges. For coffee year 2017/18 it is recommended that Members will be asked to suggest topics for future studies, but the Secretariat will continue to address topical issues in the coffee sector.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible for the Secretariat to undertake more than the above mentioned two studies due to all the work that needs to be accomplished in order to prepare the three strategies outlined in the Programme of Activities 2016/17. However, the

Secretariat thanks Brazil for its comments on this matter and will endeavour to include a choice of studies for Members' consideration in all future Programmes of Activities starting coffee year 2017/18.

Goal 1, Objective 2, column of potential challenges, costs involved in "Obtaining outside expertise on collection, analysis and dissemination systems". More details are required. What type of outside expertise? Who is being considered?

ICO Reply: As part of the strategic review process, the Secretariat will produce three separate strategies. The Data Strategy has a strong technical component, which, in the view of the Secretariat, may require assistance from specialised consultants. It is likely that the costs of engaging this consultant to assist the Secretariat with specific tasks will be covered from within the normal operations budget of the Programme of Activities for coffee year 2016/17.

Goal 2, Objective 1, Action Step 4 & 5: Where are the seminars going to be held? More details are required. When? Where? Who is participating from the ICO and other organisations?

ICO Reply on Action Step 4: Similar seminars on Rules on Statistics were held in the past in Ghana (2009), Vietnam (2010) and Kenya (2011). However, in line with the Programme of Activities, the Secretariat will be conducting a Seminar on compliance with the ICO's Rules of Statistics during the 118th Session in London and the 119th Session in Côte d'Ivoire open to all designated statistical contacts. The seminar in Côte d'Ivoire will focus on statistical compliance in African countries.

ICO Reply on Action Step 5: Coffee Sessions in collaboration with SCAE are organised in-house. The Secretariat sends an email to inform Members of this event.

Goal 2, Objective 1, Action Step 6: Details about the missions? Where are these missions going to be? What is the objective of each mission?

ICO Reply: Regular missions are carried out by the Executive Director or staff members to Member countries. These missions can either follow an invitation from the Member country, or be planned by the Secretariat in the light of operational requirements.

Goal 2, Objective 1, Action Step 9: 'National and world coffee events'. Details of these events and national coffee institutions involved? This would allow necessary preparations. When? Where? Who participates?

ICO Reply: Coffee related events take place in a number of Member and non-member countries. For example, these can be meetings of coffee associations (NCA, WCLF) or other industry events. When invited to participate, the Executive Director may attend or send a senior staff member. Participation can be either upon invitation or when identified by the Secretariat as operationally relevant. These events are not normally known early in advance and the ICO's participation is in line with the normal operating budget. The Executive Director uses this opportunity to advocate the relevance of the ICO and confirm the support of the Organization to its Member countries.

The Secretariat may also attend as observer the meetings of potential donor institutions, including UNCTAD, the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), The World Bank, African Development Bank Group (AfDB), Asia Development Bank (ADB), Inter-American Development Bank (IADB).