

Joint Committee  
5<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
17 September 2025  
London, United Kingdom

**Proposal to improve the  
ICO's basic statistical data  
collection and  
dissemination**

## **Background**

1. Pursuant to Article 34 of the ICA 2007, the International Coffee Council (ICC) shall adopt an annual work programme of studies, surveys and reports, with estimated resource requirements. These activities shall be financed either from provisions within the Administrative Budget or from extrabudgetary sources.
2. Pursuant to the Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee (JC), contained in document [ICC-136-11](#), the Committee shall be responsible for carrying out activities and making recommendations to the Council on all matters concerning, but not limited to, projects, statistics, promotion and market development and the Consultative Forum on Coffee Sector Finance.
3. Seven initiatives proposed by the Executive Director were discussed at the second meeting of the JC held on 12 March 2025; the third meeting of the JC held on 16 June 2025, and the fourth meeting of the JC held on 19 August 2025 (further information on the proposals can be found in document [JC-12/25](#)).
4. While none of the proposed initiatives received full approval, discussions highlighted Members' clear preference for the ICO to focus on its core statistical functions, as provided for in Articles 32 and 33 of the ICA 2007 and reflected in the Five-Year Action Plan for the International Coffee Organization ([ICC-120-11](#)). Specifically, Members emphasized the need to prioritize the timely collection of accurate data and the prompt dissemination of basic coffee statistics (prices, exports, imports, production, consumption). They also requested increased engagement and support for exporting countries to improve timely data collection and quality. This partially aligns

with the originally proposed 'Initiative 4'. Finally, Members requested that all other potential statistical improvements be postponed until progress on these fundamental areas has been made.

5. Considering the above, the ICO Secretariat presents a revised version of proposed Initiative 4 (hereinafter referred to as "Initiative 4V2") which can be found in **Annex I**. All revisions have been elaborated within the framework of the applicable Rules on Statistics from March 2011 ([ICC 102-10](#)).

6. Members are invited to submit written inputs regarding the proposed initiative by 14 September 2025 by emailing either the Secretariat and External Relations Officer ([ottelli@ico.org](mailto:ottelli@ico.org)) or [icodocuments@ico.org](mailto:icodocuments@ico.org). Submissions will be made available to all Members via email and saved in the relevant SharePoint folder.

### **Action**

The Committee is requested to consider the proposal and, if appropriate, to recommend it for approval by the ICC.

## INITIATIVE 4V2: Proposal to improve the basic statistical data collection and dissemination of ICO

### Overall Goal

To improve the timely collection and dissemination of accurate, basic coffee statistics on trade, consumption and production by the ICO.

### Purpose

Enhance the capability of ICO Members to collect and provide accurate statistics.

Improve the quality of the data submitted to the ICO by its Members and, in doing so, improve associated compliance scores by 2026.

Strengthen the compilation, access and timely dissemination of statistical data on trade, production and consumption of coffee to ICO Members and subscribers.

Increase the satisfaction of Members and subscribers to ICO statistical services by 2026, as measured by a satisfaction survey.

Boost revenue from statistical services by 2026.

### Link to challenges and goals of Five-Year Action Plan

Economic challenges: Contributing to accurate and timely market intelligence for the coffee sector, helping to reduce market volatility, and supporting a better understanding of market efficiency

Strategic Goal I: Delivering world-class data, analysis and information to the industry and policymakers.  
Goal I.A – Priority actions to improve raw data collection, storage and handling

### Relevance and activities

#### Current statistical services

The following information is currently provided:

- Monthly export, import (and re-export) data and analysis is sent to Members and subscribers via the ` Monthly Trade Statistics, Coffee Market Report and Quarterly Outlooks.<sup>1</sup> These data are collected from Members based on monthly reports on the ICO Certificates of Origin. The *Rules of Statistics – Statistical Reports* (ICC-102-10) sets out the statistical obligations of all Members, listing the range and frequency (monthly, quarterly and annual) of the data to be sent. These data are complemented by the ICO leveraging additional, official external trade data, i.e. customs data.<sup>2</sup>
- The ICO Composite Indicator Price (I-CIP) is sent daily to all Members and subscribers and analysed in the Coffee Market Report and Quarterly Outlooks. The I-CIP is calculated based on the methodology described within the Rules of Statistics – Indicator Prices ([ICC-105-17 Rev. 1](#)). The ICO composite and group indicator prices are calculated based on the share of markets and group weightings (document updated every two years, with the latest published on 7 September 2024 ([JC-03/24 Rev. 1](#)))

<sup>1</sup> The highest frequency for data submission by Members is monthly (for trade and prices). While some Members could provide trade data more frequently, the majority do not. To avoid market distortion, trade data are reported on a monthly basis.

<sup>2</sup> Some other commodity organizations also provide secondary market information on supply, demand and trade as published by industry organizations and institutions (predominantly targets, projections and estimates for the immediate and next year) for their Members on a very frequent basis.

- Production and consumption data are presented in quarterly and yearly outlook reports and based on information collected from Members on yearly basis, complemented with external information (Consumption is also measured on quarterly basis for non-producing countries).

The provided information is also available in the ICO's World Coffee Statistics Database (WCSD), to which Members and subscribers have access. Moreover, on an annual basis, more than 300 individual data inquiries are answered by the ICO, including questions from non-subscribers, Members and subscribers (the latter two categories representing approximately 10% of the inquiries).

Compared to other commodity organizations, the ICO can, in principle, rely more on information provided by Members, particularly trade data recorded in the ICO Certificates of Origin. This asset can be further enhanced. Members' compliance with their responsibility to submit statistical information to the ICO is measured against a framework set out in [SC-87/18](#), considering both timeliness and level of completion (not including the quality of data sent). In 2025, the average compliance score for exporting Members was 27,1% against 28.4% in 2024, showing a downward trend. The average compliance score for importing Members remained stable between 2024 and 2025 at a level of 68% ([JC-02/24](#)). These figures include scores of 23 exporting Members (including suspended Members) that are currently not sending any data (coffee year 2024/25). The challenges to comply by the exporting Members that do send data are situated in irregular, not frequent or not timely sending of data, not including the information for certain variables or sending bad quality of information (the latter is not covered by the compliance score of the ICO).

Based on bilateral contacts with the competent agencies of Members, the main reasons for low or non-compliance are diverse:

- Tardiness of registered exporters, and consequent late measurement and compilation by the national competent agency;
- Lack of designated statistical focal point and agency for issuing Certificates of Origin (data can be governed by another agency) or limited capacity of the national statistical services, in terms of number of staff;
- Need to strengthen the technical capacity for measurement and balancing the data by the national competent agency;
- Need to digitalize data collection processes;
- National processes can be established at a different frequency, e.g. consolidation every six months instead of every month, facing difficulties to interrupt their own running processes in a more regular way;
- Some data points are sensitive in nature (for example for reasons of competition).

The annual revenue from statistical services over the past three coffee years averaged £20,800. In 2024, the ICO had 67 subscribers to reports, publications, mailings and inquiries, of which 56 (institutions/companies/individuals) are paying subscribers. In 2024, 223 stakeholders had access to the WCSD, of which 110 (institutions/ companies/ individuals) are paying clients and the rest are ICO Member delegates. The satisfaction of Members and subscribers regarding the statistical services is not currently measured.

Under the proposed Initiative 4V2 the following actions are planned:

1. Contribute to improving the capacity of Members to collect, generate and deliver timely, complete and accurate coffee data, on trade, production, consumption. This will be approached in four ways:
  - (i) Three regional workshops (Asia, Africa and Latin America) organized to improve the understanding of technical aspects and relevance of collecting and delivering timely coffee data;
  - (ii) Based on the exchanges made during the regional workshops, regional "Communities of Practice" will be facilitated by the ICO to tackle challenges faced by Members, focused on specific topics proposed by them. The objectives are to maintain the engagement of Members in building data

- management skills, to create trust and to promote the exchange of good practices and systems between Members and the ICO;
- (iii) Implementing more frequent and effective bilateral communication between the Statistics Section of the ICO and the competent agencies of Members. All Members will be contacted at least once per year regarding their provision of statistical data. The Members situated in the lower quartile of data compliance and/or data quality in trade, consumption and production data will be contacted monthly and a workplan will be developed and monitored with them;
  - (iv) Establishing an ad hoc Working Group, composed of representatives from the statistical bodies and entities of Member States, to discuss and evaluate the feasibility, efficiency and possibly the most technically sound procedures for sharing data directly between Members' databases and the ICO database.
2. Achieve timely data compilation, improving access and dissemination in 3 different ways:
    - (i) By sending daily to Members (and subscribers) the I-CIP and by improving the depth of analysis and precision of the available data in the monthly Coffee Market Report (CMR);
    - (ii) By including the following changes in the WCSD:
      - a) A clearer menu of the available data;
      - b) An improved and more user-friendly interface, based on consultation of Members and assessment of feasibility.
    - (iii) By introducing a better dashboard of information on the website of the ICO (apart from the I-CIP which is already presented on the website).<sup>3</sup>
  3. Increase the ICO's investments in equipment and human resources dedicated to statistics. At the start of 2025, two full time statisticians were employed (Statistical Coordinator and Associate Statistician). Since June 2025, two full time statisticians have been working on statistics, with the assistance of the Junior Economist (80% of workload). In September 2025 80% of the workload of the Chief Economist will also be added., equating to 3.6 full-time staff members working on statistics by the end of 2025.
  4. Establish and continuously improve a monitoring mechanism to evaluate the basic statistical function of the ICO.
    - (i) Reformulate the compliance score of the ICO. Not all information requested from ICO Members is under their control and can be collected by them. Yet, it is still part of the compliance score, creating a downward bias reflected in compliance rates and avoiding a fine analysis of the evolution. Quality of the data delivered is not included in the present compliance score. A new formula for the compliance score would be proposed, including the aspect of quality of provided data. In the meantime, and to monitor initial progress more precisely in 2025/26, a selection of existing compliance sub-scores will be monitored monthly (focusing on compliance sub-scores for sending the basic information on coffee exports and imports) and internal indicators will be used to monitor quality of the information provided.
    - (ii) Launch a brief satisfaction survey to Members and subscribers on the statistics provided by the ICO (baseline) and a repeat survey by the end of 2026.

### **Organization of the regional training workshops**

Three regional training workshops are being organized for Members' statistical focal points. The workshops are prepared and carried out by the statistical staff of the ICO Secretariat in close cooperation with Members. A slide deck and practical exercises have been developed. Where possible, the workshops are

<sup>3</sup> The data presented in the dashboard will be less refined and presented with a longer delay (to avoid undermining the advantage of timely data access for Members and subscribers).

run alongside regional events where Members are expected to attend. The agenda of the training workshops includes:

- Review of statistical obligations of Members;
- Statistical reporting fields and frequency requirements, focusing on the format, definitions, collection and dissemination of data;
- Focus on the fundamentals of data collection and integration;
- Explanation of the importance of sharing timely and accurate statistics;
- Definition of ways to ensure more continuous follow-up with the statistical focal points of ICO's Members;
- Elaboration of the basics for communities of practice between statistical focal points and the ICO Secretariat.

After the training workshops, the ICO Secretariat gathers feedback in order to improve future workshops.

## **Key Performance Indicators of the initiative**

### Output indicators

- Three regional training workshops, number of participants and countries. Reports on the statistical workshops and on feedback received.
- Three regional communities of practice on coffee statistics with at least two meetings per year. Number of participants. More continuous interaction between Members regarding good practices when providing coffee data and for improving the data quality. Number of topics covered.
- Number of bilateral meetings on statistics with exporting Members. At least one bilateral meeting between each Member and the ICO Statistics Section per year.
- Members within the lowest quartile of compliance scores/quality for trade data contacted monthly. Number of workplans developed and monitored with these Members.
- Improvements regarding analysis and presentation of monthly trade statistics in the monthly Coffee Market Report through the inclusion of a section on imports and re-exports.
- Daily I-CIP sent to all Members.
- Baseline of satisfaction survey of users of the ICO statistics implemented and follow-up survey at the end of 2026.
- Plan devised to make the WCSD more accessible (including menu of available variables and categories in the WCSD, improved interface).
- Improved interactive dashboard with a selection of trade data on the ICO website.
- Revised compliance score and report.
- Improved monthly compliance scores regarding provision of basic trade information by Members to the ICO.

### Impact indicators

- Increase of the average annual compliance scores, based on timely completion of the information provided by the Members, from 27.1% (2024/25) to 35% for exporting Members by end of coffee year 2025/26 and from 68% for importing Members to 80%.
- The specific scores for export and import data are to increase from 38.1% and 39.2%, respectively, (2024/25) to 45% each, by the end of coffee year 2025/26 for coffee-producing countries (exports) and from 97% and 96%, respectively, for imports and re-exports for 2024/25, to 98% each for coffee-importing countries in coffee year 2025/26.
- Decrease in the number of exporting Members that do not send any information from 23 to 15 by end of coffee year 2025/26.
- Increase in the number of paying subscribers from 56 to 62 (10% increase) by end of the 2025/26 coffee year.

- Increase in the ICO revenue from statistics from an average of £20,800 over the past three coffee years to £28,000 by the end of coffee year 2025/26.
- The satisfaction of Members and subscribers on the ICO statistics improves considerably (with a running time of at least 6 months between baseline and measurement) by the end of the coffee year 2025/26.

### **Budget**

All activities will be implemented by the staff of the ICO.

- The budget for statistics has increased in 2025 from 2 x full-time units to 3.6 x full-time units by the end of 2025.
- Statistical workshops will be prepared and implemented by the ICO Secretariat (Statistics team). The PoA 2024/25 provides a budget of £29,500 for organizing the workshops (meeting rooms and materials, travel cost of statisticians).
- The budget for equipment and IT tools has slightly increased in 2025 and will increase again slightly in 2026. The ICO staff will explore and plan improvements to the interface of the WCSD in consultation with Members and subscribers.

### **Timeline of the project**

The different activities will be implemented between 2025 and the end of 2026. Based on the initial results and compliance scores, further improvements and additional actions may be proposed to the JC/ICC in 2026.

The first workshops were held on 14 May 2025 (Jakarta, Indonesia) and 26-27 July 2025 (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia). The next one will be held in Honduras the week commencing 13 October, alongside the ICC.

## **LEGEND**

CMR	Coffee Market Report
HR	Human Resources
ICA 2007	International Coffee Agreement 2007
ICC	International Coffee Council
ICO	International Coffee Organization
I-CIP	International Coffee Organization's Composite Indicator Price
JC	Joint Committee
WCSD	World Coffee Statistical Database