



**Invitation to the ICO regional
Communities of Practice (CoPs)
on coffee statistics - Africa and
Asia**

1. The Executive Director wishes to inform Members that two meetings of the regional Communities of Practice (CoPs) on coffee statistics are scheduled to take place in July 2026, as part of the ICO's ongoing efforts to strengthen the collection and dissemination of coffee statistics and promote peer-to-peer learning among Members, as set out in document [JC-20/25 Rev. 1](#).
2. The second meeting of the **CoP for Africa** is scheduled for **7 July 2026** from 11:30 to 13:30 (BST), and will be organized in collaboration with the Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO). The first meeting of the **CoP for Asia** is scheduled for **29 July 2026**, from 08:00 to 10:00 (BST). These meetings follow the second meeting of the CoP for the Americas which was held on 10 June 2026.
3. The CoPs bring together statistical focal points from every region to address common challenges faced by exporting Members when collecting, generating and delivering coffee data. This initiative aims to promote the exchange of knowledge and best practices between ICO Member countries and the Secretariat, and to identify areas for improvement and where additional support may be required.
4. Invitations to participate in these July meetings have already been sent to the designated statistical focal points. Any other representative of a national delegation wishing to attend their regional CoP meeting is invited to send a request by email to **stats@ico.org**.
5. For reference, **Annex I** contains the draft of the Terms of Reference for this initiative.

ICO'S COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE ON COFFEE STATISTICS TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

1. As part of its Five-Year Action Plan, the International Coffee Organization (ICO) set Strategic Goal I: to deliver world-class data, analysis and information to the industry and policymakers. Working towards this goal, in October 2025, the International Coffee Council (ICC) approved a proposal to improve the ICO's statistical data collection and dissemination, as recommended by the Joint Committee ([JC-20/25 Rev. 1](#)). In accordance with the actions planned in this proposal, regional "Communities of Practice" on coffee statistics will be facilitated by the ICO to address challenges and focus on specific topics proposed by Members.

Purpose

2. The ICO's Communities of Practice (CoPs) will bring together coffee statistical focal points, national statistical officers and experts to share knowledge, exchange experiences and collaborate on strengthening practices related to the collection and reporting of statistics in line with ICO statistical obligations. The CoPs will provide a platform for collective learning and innovation, and support the implementation of effective solutions across participating countries.

Objectives

3. The CoPs will:
- (a) Maintain Members' engagement with regard to building data management skills;
 - (b) Facilitate regular knowledge-sharing on challenges, lessons learned and emerging trends in coffee statistics;
 - (c) Promote peer-to-peer learning through discussions, case studies and practical tools;
 - (d) Develop or curate shared resources to support statistical obligations;
 - (e) Encourage collaboration on joint activities, research, or pilot initiatives;
 - (f) Provide a space for networking and strengthening professional relationships;
 - (g) Identify priority needs and potential solutions; and
 - (h) Support Members in reducing the burden of compliance by sharing innovative data-sharing techniques, such as Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)

Scope

4. The CoPs will focus on topics relevant to the statistical obligations of ICO Members, prioritizing the themes that they identify. Activities may include virtual meetings, thematic workshops and short technical sessions. Participation is voluntary and open to statistical focal points, delegates and any other officials working with coffee statistics.

Roles and responsibilities

5. CoP Lead/Facilitator:

- (a) The ICO Secretariat (Economics/Statistics team) will coordinate meetings, set agendas, manage communication and ensure the completion of follow-up actions, in coordination with the Chair.
- (b) Meetings will be chaired in rotation by members of the CoP. A staff member from the ICO Secretariat will facilitate the first meeting and a successor will be appointed as Chair at the end of each meeting.

6. Members will share experiences, participate in discussions, propose topics and contribute with resources or expertise.

Modality of work

7. Meetings:

- (a) CoPs will operate at the regional level: Africa, the Americas and Asia and Oceania.
- (b) Each regional CoP is expected to meet twice a year.
- (c) Meetings will be held virtually unless otherwise agreed.
- (d) When requested, AI-driven interpretation may be provided in any of the ICO's official languages.

8. Documentation:

- (a) Key resources, meeting summaries, and materials will be stored in a shared repository managed by the ICO Secretariat.
- (b) All Members will have access to the repository.