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**Report of the 6th meeting of the  
Joint Committee held on 2 March 2026**

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**REPORT OF THE 6TH MEETING  
OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE HELD ON 2 MARCH 2026**

1. This report presents the discussions and recommendations of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Committee (JC), presided by the Chair, H.E. Ambassador Aly Touré of Côte d'Ivoire, and held virtually on 2 March 2026.
2. Representatives of the following Members were present online using the Zoom software:
  - (a) Exporting Members: Angola, Brazil, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Gabon, Honduras, Indonesia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea and Togo; and
  - (b) Importing Members: European Union and Switzerland.
3. The Secretariat and External Relations Officer provided housekeeping information to participants, including information regarding AI-supported interpretation, which was available in all official languages of the International Coffee Organization (ICO). She advised delegates to use two devices to avoid audio overlap and informed them of the availability of text translation.
4. The Chair officially opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all Members participating in the sixth meeting of the Joint Committee. A special welcome was addressed to delegates attending for the first time.
5. The Chair requested confirmation of the quorum from the Head of Operations, Hannelore Beerlandt.
6. The Head of Operations informed the Committee that, in accordance with paragraph 4 of the Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee (document [ICC-136-11](#)), a quorum requires the presence of at least two exporting Members and two importing Members. She confirmed that more than two exporting Members and two importing Members were in attendance.
7. The Chair noted that the quorum requirements had been met.

**Item 1: Draft Agenda**

8. The Chair introduced the draft Agenda contained in document [JC-22/26 Rev. 2](#), and invited Members to adopt it or comment if they had remarks.
9. The delegate of Brazil took the floor and stressed that it was a privilege to have Ambassador Aly Touré as Chair of the Joint Committee, recalling that he had also been the Chair of its inaugural meeting in 2024. He then requested the removal of item 4 from the draft Agenda, entitled "Update of the list of exporting countries and their country codes, ICO certifying agents, and registered ports of export", which he added could be considered at a subsequent meeting of the Joint Committee.

10. The delegate of Brazil indicated that the request for updates circulated under document [ED-2500/26](#), dated 11 February 2026, had allowed only nine consecutive days, including a weekend, for delegations to review and submit the required information. The delegate of Brazil considered this timeframe insufficient, particularly given the nature of the information requested.

11. The delegate of Brazil recalled that the delegation of Brazil had repeatedly requested that the Secretariat circulate documents with adequate advance notice to allow for consultations with relevant ministries and agencies and to ensure timely and accurate responses. He repeated the delegation of Brazil's earlier request to have, as standard practice, a minimum of six weeks' notice to allow delegations to conduct internal consultations and provide the required information.

12. The delegate of Brazil further noted that the item concerned information that would serve as a reference for future procedures and that there appeared to be no urgency to update the current information contained in document [ICC-138-7](#). Accordingly, the delegate of Brazil repeated his request that the item be deferred to a subsequent meeting of the Joint Committee to allow exporting Members sufficient time to provide updated information, as requested by the Secretariat.

13. The Chair asked whether any other delegates had objections to this proposal.

14. Seeing no hands raised, the Chair gave the floor to the Head of Operations who informed the Committee that the request for the update had been submitted as a matter of urgency by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which had made changes to its registered ports and sought to have these integrated as soon as possible.

15. The Executive Director confirmed that the update had indeed initially been prompted by a request from the DRC and explained that, in response, she had offered all Member countries the opportunity to update their information. The Executive Director noted that several countries had submitted changes, in some cases due to conflicts affecting shipping routes and export procedures.

16. The Executive Director emphasized that while the update was urgent for the DRC, other Members could submit updates at a later stage, including at the next session of the International Coffee Council (ICC). She clarified that there was no procedural requirement to update certifying agencies and ports annually or at fixed intervals; the updates were only intended to accommodate Members' operational needs and to ensure accurate and timely information for certificates of origin. The Executive Director concluded that the exercise aimed to support Member participation, correct existing data, and maintain alignment with the operations of the ICO.

17. The Chair noted that the delegation of the DRC was not present at the meeting and expressed concern that a Member requesting an agenda item should, at a minimum, be present when the matter was discussed, or inform the Chair in advance of its absence.

18. The Chair invited delegations to express any objections to the delegate of Brazil's request.

19. The delegate of El Salvador subsequently raised an objection and suggested that the Committee should proceed with the meeting and consider the item, particularly given its importance to the Secretariat's work. He indicated that, if the requesting Member did not join the meeting by the time the item was reached, the Committee could then decide how to proceed.

20. The Chair clarified his position, noting that in an intergovernmental organization, a Member could not request the Secretariat to perform a task and then fail to attend the meeting to discuss the matter. He emphasized that the minimum expectation was for the requesting Member to be present when the meeting began. The Chair further noted that allowing discussion of the item only if the DRC joined the meeting later would not be workable. He noted that all 39 participants had been given the opportunity to raise objections, and none had done so. The Chair added that he had considered the viewpoints of the Secretariat and other delegations, including Brazil. However, because the Member who requested the item was not in attendance and had not informed the Chair of its absence, the Chair concluded that there was no reason not to accept Brazil's request to remove the item from the Agenda.

21. The Chair concluded that item 4 ("Update of the list of exporting countries and their country codes, ICO certifying agents, and registered ports of export") would be removed and deferred for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

22. The draft Agenda was adopted with the aforementioned amendment.

**Item 2: Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Joint Committee**

23. The Chair introduced the next item and invited delegations to provide comments on the Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Joint Committee (document [JC-21/26](#)).

24. The delegate of Brazil addressed a question to the Secretariat regarding the three workshops that had been organized by the ICO in Indonesia, Ethiopia and Honduras during the 2024/25 coffee year, using resources from the regular budget. He recalled that he had also taken the floor during the fifth meeting of the Joint Committee, held on 17 September 2025, and had noted that, although four months had passed since the first workshop held in Indonesia, no document or presentation outlining the results had been made available to Members (paragraph 60 of document [JC-21/26](#)).

25. The delegate of Brazil further noted that the activity had been described by the Secretariat as its central proposal to address low compliance and deficiencies in the collection and management of statistical information. In this context, he explained that the delegation of Brazil had previously requested that the Secretariat provide Members with information regarding the structure of the workshops, the topics presented, the level of participation, any results identified, the challenges encountered, and the follow-up actions envisaged. The delegation of Brazil had also asked whether a document would be circulated in this regard.

26. The delegate of Brazil recalled that, according to paragraph 62 of document [JC-21/26](#), the Secretariat had indicated that one of the documents would be finalized within a week and that the second document was pending final validation. However, he noted that he had not identified any subsequent communication from the Secretariat regarding the publication of those documents. The delegate of Brazil also observed that the report did not include any reference to the third workshop held in anticipation of the 140<sup>th</sup> Council meeting in San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

27. The delegate of Brazil therefore asked the Secretariat about the circulation of the promised documents, to ensure compliance with the information previously communicated to Member States.

28. First, the Executive Director explained that agenda item 2 concerned the approval of or observations regarding the Report of the 5th meeting. Second, she asked the Head of Operations to provide details about how the results of these workshops were being disseminated to Members.

29. The Head of Operations clarified that all Members had been invited to participate in the workshops and that three mission reports corresponding to the three workshops had been prepared and circulated. She confirmed that mission reports for the three workshops had been circulated on the following dates:

- (a) Indonesia: 19 September 2025 (document [MR-04/25](#));
- (b) Ethiopia: 29 September 2025 (document [MR-07/25](#)); and
- (c) Honduras: 3 December 2025 (document [MR-18/25](#)).

30. The delegate of Brazil stated that the mission reports regarded trips taken by the Executive Director, rather than a detailed description of the workshop activities financed by the regular budget. The delegate of Brazil requested that the Secretariat prepare and present a comprehensive and detailed description of all activities undertaken by the Organization, rather than providing only accounts of the Executive Director's visits to Member countries. In particular,

he asked the Secretariat to prepare three detailed reports covering the three workshops, as had been promised the previous year.

31. The Executive Director explained that document [MR-04/25](#) regarding Indonesia did not relate to a mission undertaken by the Executive Director, as she had not travelled to Indonesia. Rather, it was a report on the workshop conducted by the relevant ICO team in Asia.

32. The Executive Director indicated that she had decided to apply the same reporting structure used for her missions and missions of the Secretariat's team members, with the aim of ensuring consistency in reporting and in the implementation of guidance received from Members.

33. The Executive Director further noted that, should Members wish to receive workshop-related information in a different format or through a separate reporting structure distinct from the mission reports, this could be accommodated without difficulty, such as following the format suggested by the delegate of Brazil for the workshops.

34. The Chair asked if the delegate of Brazil was in a position to approve the Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Joint Committee.

35. The delegate of Brazil clarified that he had no comments on the text of the meeting report itself and clarified that, upon reviewing the report, he had noted that one of the promises made by the Secretariat had not yet been fulfilled. He recalled that detailed information had been requested almost one year earlier regarding the activities carried out with funding from the regular budget. In this regard, he reiterated the delegation of Brazil's request that the Secretariat provide detailed information concerning the three activities that had been undertaken.

36. The delegate of Brazil observed that, while the Secretariat often requested information from Member States within relatively short deadlines, nine days in the specific case of updates to port listings, the provision of information requested from the Secretariat took months.

37. The delegate of Brazil nevertheless indicated that the delegation of Brazil was prepared to accept the Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and stated that he would await the circulation by the Secretariat of the detailed information regarding the three activities carried out the previous year using funding from the regular budget.

38. The Executive Director confirmed that the Secretariat would prepare the detailed reports, this time in the format requested by the delegate of Brazil and aimed to circulate them within the week.

39. The Committee approved the Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Committee (document [JC-21/26](#)).

**Item 3: Progress report on activities to improve statistical data collection**

40. The Chair introduced the next item, a verbal update on the progress of activities to improve statistical data collection, to be noted by the Joint Committee.

41. The Chief Economist explained that the document [JC-20/25 Rev. 1](#) outlined a series of activities and impact indicators aimed at strengthening the statistical function of the Organization. These activities had been reviewed by the Joint Committee in September 2025 and subsequently approved by the Council in October 2025.

42. The Chief Economist noted that the activities were grouped into four main categories:

- (a) Strengthening of Members' capacity to provide timely and accurate coffee data through: the organization of regional statistical workshops; the establishment of Communities of Practice (CoP) on statistics; bilateral meetings with statistical focal points from exporting Member countries; and targeted engagement with countries with low compliance;
- (b) Improving access to and dissemination of statistical information through: improvements to statistical publications such as the Coffee Market Report; wider dissemination of the ICO Composite Indicator Price; the planned revamping of the World Coffee Statistics Database to make it more user-friendly and interactive; and increasing the income from statistical subscriptions;
- (c) Investing in statistical systems and staff capacity, as approved under the Programme of Activities for the 2025/26 coffee year; and
- (d) Monitoring progress through satisfaction surveys.

43. The Chief Economist noted that the first survey, as referenced in paragraph 42(d) above, had recently been completed and indicated that he would report on the outcome.

44. The Chief Economist provided an update on the first category of activities, as described in paragraph 42(a). He reminded Members that, at the fifth meeting of the Joint Committee held in September 2025, Members had decided that monthly reports on statistical activities and outcomes should be produced in order to enable them to monitor progress and assess impact. Accordingly, the Chief Economist explained that, in January and February 2026, documents [ED-2497/26](#) and [ED-2501/26](#) had been circulated to Members, presenting monthly dashboards and covering the period from October 2025 to January 2026. He indicated that a new dashboard for February would be circulated shortly.

45. The Chief Economist emphasized that all agreed activities had commenced and that initial impacts were beginning to emerge, noting that these activities were part of a new approach. In terms of outputs, the overall progress indicator toward the annual targets showed that 28% of activity targets had been achieved after four months of implementation.

46. Regarding sub-indicators, the Chief Economist reported that the three regional statistical workshops had been held, bringing together a total of 68 participants from 21 producing countries.

47. The Chief Economist reported on the CoPs on statistics, noting that three regional CoPs had been launched. He explained that the first meeting for the Americas had taken place the previous week with 16 participants from six countries, and that participants had expressed interest in collaborating on data quality and robustness, continuing work on the digitalization of information systems, and addressing additional topics identified for discussion in future meetings. The Chief Economist added that the countries that were using more modern techniques had offered support to their counterparts, which he highlighted as a positive development.

48. The Chief Economist reported that the meetings for the other regions would be held soon: Africa in March 2026 and Asia and Oceania in April 2026. He explained that invitations for these workshops had been sent to statistical focal points, and country delegates had been informed and invited to join, as reflected in document [ED-2499/26](#).

49. The Chief Economist provided an update on the bilateral statistics meetings conducted during the first four months of coffee year 2025/26 and noted that the ICO Statistics and Economics Team had held meetings with 12 different countries. He explained that the objectives of these meetings had been to review the challenges faced, discuss pathways towards compliance, and ensure that Members could fully benefit from the range of statistical services offered by the ICO.

50. The Chief Economist further noted that the meetings also aimed to connect different national institutions, including government ministries and private sector associations, in cases where information was fragmented. He added that follow-up actions had been agreed upon at each meeting, with responsibilities assigned to both sides.

51. The Chief Economist continued to explain that, in addition to holding at least one bilateral meeting with the statistical focal point of each producing country, the Secretariat had been planning monthly meetings with the least compliant countries and developing work plans with them. Noting that these initiatives had already begun to be implemented, he emphasized that the approach aimed to ensure that no Member would be left behind, enabling all countries to contribute fully and to benefit from the ICO's statistical services.

52. The Chief Economist addressed the initial impacts of the statistical activities undertaken. While acknowledging that it was still early and that the indicators used made immediate assessment challenging, he highlighted some positive developments seen through other indicators:

- (a) In January 2026, the share of global exports for which monthly data had been received increased significantly. Member countries that had submitted their Certificates of Origin on time accounted for 63% of total exports, and when including countries for which customs data could be accessed on time, coverage rose to 73%. These figures accounted only for timely submissions; late submissions were not included.
- (b) The main contributor to this improvement was the implementation of automatic data transfer via Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) with two countries, which had significantly improved the timeliness of export data.
- (c) Some national statistical focal points, who had previously lacked access, now had full access to the ICO's statistical services.

53. The Chief Economist confirmed that monthly reporting on activities and their impact would continue in order to monitor and document progress over time.

54. The Chief Economist reported on the second category of activities, as described in paragraph 42(b), related to the dissemination of ICO statistical publications. In relation to the monthly **Coffee Market Report**, he noted that it had become more accessible to non-analysts, with additional graphs included to facilitate understanding. The Chief Economist explained that efforts to further improve ease of access and usability of the report were ongoing and that plans were also in place to add content related to imports and re-exports.

55. As regards the **ICO Composite Indicator Price (I-CIP)**, the Chief Economist reported that this was now being sent daily by email to all Members and partners, and that recipients now had the option to unsubscribe if they preferred. This aspect of dissemination was considered complete.

56. The Chief Economist also provided details about planned updates to the online **World Coffee Statistics Database**, as follows:

- (a) Make the database more user-friendly, interactive, and visually intuitive; and
- (b) Develop a visual statistical dashboard for the ICO website.

57. In relation to the database improvements outlined in paragraph 56(a) above, the Chief Economist explained that this would allow users to quickly understand key developments in the coffee sector while also providing the ability to explore the underlying data in greater detail. He added that the revamp was expected to be completed by summer 2026.

58. As for the dashboard, as mentioned in paragraph 56(b), the Chief Economist explained that this would present key charts on prices, trade, production, and consumption. He noted that while the dashboard would be freely accessible, detailed underlying data would remain available only to Members and subscribers. The Chief Economist indicated that the project was currently in the alpha phase, with a concept template developed in-house, and that the next step involved gathering internal feedback before moving to a live release, which was anticipated to occur in the spring of 2026.

59. The Chief Economist reported on the fourth category of activities under the statistics initiative (paragraph 42(d)), focusing on monitoring progress through **satisfaction surveys** to evaluate and improve the statistical function of the Secretariat. He explained that one such survey had been launched on 7 January 2026 targeting ICO Members, subscribers, and partner institutions, and had remained open for six weeks. The Chief Economist noted that a total of 31 responses had been received and that respondents had represented a diverse range of stakeholders, including government officials, coffee authorities, NGOs, private companies, and independent analysts. He stressed that it had been the first statistical satisfaction survey conducted by the ICO, at least in the past five years.

60. Although the sample size was modest, the Chief Economist noted that the survey provided a useful first benchmark for the ongoing modernization of the ICO's statistical services. He then presented the results of the survey:

- (a) The overall satisfaction with ICO statistical services had been 6.7 out of 10, with 55% of respondents reporting they were satisfied or very satisfied (score of 7 or higher). No respondents had indicated dissatisfaction, and the lowest score recorded was 5.
- (b) Among specific indicators, the confidence in the accuracy and reliability of trade data had scored 6.2, reflecting ongoing challenges related to fragmented reporting and delays in submissions, and underscoring the importance of the Secretariat's capacity-building efforts to support Member countries.
- (c) The ease of access and navigation of the World Coffee Statistics Database had received a score of 6.5. It was anticipated that this score would improve following the planned revamp of the online statistical database by summer 2026, which

would include interactive graphs, simpler navigation, clearer metadata, and easier data downloads, representing a significant enhancement in user experience.

61. The Chief Economist presented detailed survey indicators to provide more granular feedback on user experience, focusing on the areas where continued investments and improvement were needed:

- (a) **Relevance of ICO market analysis** had scored **7.7** out of 10, representing the strongest result. Respondents clearly valued the price and trade analysis, which is widely used by Members for policy and planning.
- (b) **Clarity and readability of publications** had received a score of **7.1**, reflecting early improvements in the monthly Coffee Market Report, a report on price and trade development of about 13 pages published free of charge each month.
- (c) **Communication and support to subscribers** had been rated **7.3**, indicating positive feedback. This outcome was attributed to the work of the expanded Statistics and Economics Section, including faster responses to Members, bilateral technical meetings, and the preparation of customized statistical notes on demand.

62. The Chief Economist emphasized that these results provided a baseline for ongoing improvements and would guide further investment in the statistical function of the Organization.

63. The Chair opened the floor for comments.

64. The delegate of Brazil thanked the Chair and referred to the documents circulated since October 2025, described as “Dashboard - Monthly Statistics Activities”. He commented on the format of these documents, noting that they did not contain the full set of information previously provided regarding statistical data collected from Member States.

65. The delegate of Brazil emphasized that the Secretariat should continue to provide information on Members’ compliance with the Rules on Statistics approved by the Council, in accordance with the instructions contained in documents [ICC-102-9 Rev. 5](#) (Certificates of Origin) and [ICC-102-10](#) (Statistical Reports). He recalled that this information had previously been presented in a long-standing and established format, as used in the Secretariat’s last report to the Joint Committee, contained in document [JC-02/24](#), dated 22 August 2024.

66. The delegate of Brazil noted that the detailed information provided in the established format allowed Member States to obtain a clear and transparent picture of the compliance situation, including a complete list of countries submitting the required statistical data. He added that it further facilitated historical comparisons and the identification of long-term trends.

67. The delegate of Brazil observed that the current dashboard charts did not include all of the information previously provided and thus offered only a partial and restricted picture of the situation. He indicated that the delegation of Brazil therefore requested that the Secretariat, on a monthly basis, provide the full set of information alongside the recently introduced dashboard format. This, the delegate of Brazil noted, would ensure that Member States continued to have a complete and accurate overview of the current level of compliance among exporting and importing Members.

68. The Executive Director indicated that the suggestion made by the delegate of Brazil had been noted and that the proposal would be analysed carefully with Members to determine how it could be implemented. She expressed the Secretariat's openness and readiness to provide the information in the format suggested, subject to agreement by all Members.

69. The Executive Director sought further clarification from the delegate of Brazil as to whether the request referred specifically to providing, on a monthly basis, the level of compliance of each Member country individually.

70. The delegate of Brazil responded that the Organization should submit statistical compliance reports in the same format used since the establishment of the International Coffee Agreement (ICA) 2007, in addition to the dashboard as currently provided.

71. The delegate of Brazil reiterated that the established format contained a comprehensive set of information that enabled Member States to observe historical trends, make comparisons, and access detailed data not included in the simplified dashboard. He noted that, upon reviewing reports from the past 10 years, he had observed situations consistent with those described in the Chief Economist's presentation, highlighting the value of maintaining continuity in reporting.

72. The Chief Economist provided clarification regarding the reporting format. He explained that different formats had been used for reporting because previous compliance reports had been prepared on an annual basis. He added that the annual compliance indicators took into account both the timeliness of submissions and whether data had been reported at any point during the year. Consequently, the Chief Economist noted, the monthly dashboard indicators did not exactly replicate the format used in the annual compliance report.

73. The delegate of Brazil stated that the understanding of the delegation of Brazil was that going forward, besides the dashboard, the Organization would circulate the information as per the traditional format. He further clarified that this additional monthly report would end with the latest month reported in the dashboard. Therefore, rather than reporting on yearly data (October to September), the report would present monthly data, in succession. This information could be then cross-checked with the dashboard, which would serve as general information. The delegate

of Brazil concluded by emphasizing that the full-format reports were precious and useful for both the Organization and Members.

74. The Committee took note of the progress report.

**Item 4: Update on the submission and evaluation of proposals for ICO initiatives and their inclusion in the Programme of Activities**

75. The Chair introduced item 4, previously item 5, and recalled that the procedures for the submission of proposals had been discussed at the fourth meeting of the Joint Committee and reviewed and approved at its fifth meeting in September 2025. He noted that the Secretariat had subsequently issued a call for all Members to submit proposals for initiatives in November 2025, as referenced in document [ED-2496/25](#), and had sent a reminder in January 2026.

76. The Chief Economist provided a summary of the validated procedures for developing and approving new ICO initiatives, as agreed by the Joint Committee and the Council. He explained the steps as follows:

- (a) **Submission of proposals:** Members and the Executive Director could submit proposals for initiatives up to the last day of the Council session. A template for submissions, circulated as document [ED-2496/25](#), had been introduced by the Secretariat, but Members were free to submit proposals in any format they preferred.
- (b) **Member consideration:** Following the spring Council session, once documents were translated into all official languages, a six-week period for Member consultations would ensue.
- (c) **Compilation of comments:** All comments received from Members after the six-week consultation period on the proposals of initiatives would be compiled, translated, and circulated.
- (d) **Joint Committee review:** The proposals and comments would be reviewed by the Joint Committee, which would convene meetings as required and prepare recommendations for submission to the Council.
- (e) **Council approval:** The Council would approve the initiatives to be taken forward, including the corresponding budget allocations, at its September 2026 session (autumn session).

- (f) **Preparation of detailed descriptions:** The Secretariat would prepare detailed descriptions of the approved initiatives and circulate them to Members in all official languages.
- (g) **Joint Committee review of implementation plans:** The Joint Committee would reconvene to review and approve the detailed implementation plans prior to the commencement of execution.
- (h) **Review of outputs prior to publication:** Prior to the publication or dissemination of any outputs of the initiatives, the Joint Committee would review them.

77. The Chief Economist provided an update and noted that proposals had been received from Brazil, El Salvador and Mexico. He explained that, in accordance with the established procedure, these proposals would be translated and circulated for comments after the spring session of the Council, along with any additional initiatives that Members might submit before the end of the ICC session due to take place at the end of March 2026.

78. The Chair inquired as to whether the Secretariat had extended the deadline for the submission of proposals, noting that the original deadline was 27 February.

79. Given that proposals had only been received from three Members so far, and provided that Members agreed, the Executive Director suggested that it would be beneficial to extend the opportunity for submissions until the end of March 2026. She noted that this extension would allow additional Members to submit proposals and give those who had already submitted an initiative the possibility to revise it or add further details, noting that a communication could be released immediately in this regard.

80. The delegate of Brazil expressed concern regarding the decision to postpone the previously agreed dates without prior consultation. He stated that extensive and detailed discussions had taken place in 2025 regarding the pace and process to be followed to consider the proposals. In this context, the delegate of Brazil noted his surprise that, at the first opportunity to apply the rules that had been approved the previous year, the Secretariat had decided not to follow them. The delegate of Brazil emphasized that the originally approved deadline of 27 February should mark the start of the six-week consultation period, and that the delegation of Brazil was not prepared to agree to any changes to the terms of reference approved only three months earlier.

81. The delegate of Brazil welcomed the presentation by the Chief Economist on the submission and evaluation process but raised concerns about document [ED-2496/25](#), specifically Annex II, which introduced a template for submitting proposals for the 2026/27 coffee year. He

noted that this template requested information on potential partners, thematic rationale, content description, indicative resource needs, and other details. The delegate of Brazil clarified that these requirements had not been part of the procedures negotiated by Member States in 2025, as summarized in document [JC-13/25 Rev. 2](#), and that no template had been discussed or approved. Consequently, the delegation of Brazil did not recognize the validity of the proposed template, describing it as unnecessary and not contributing to the approved process for defining studies and research for the 2026/27 coffee year. He reiterated that it was the Members, not the Secretariat, who would decide by consensus which initiatives were to be submitted to the ICC for consideration.

82. The delegate of Brazil further recalled the delegation of Brazil's consistent position, previously expressed both at meetings of the Joint Committee and the Finance and Administration Committee, according to which Brazil could not endorse budget proposals that allocated resources for contracting external services for tasks that fell within the mandate of the Organization and its permanent staff, including the preparation of studies, research, documents, and projects. He noted that the budget approved for coffee year 2025/26 (document [ICC-140-10](#)) had correctly excluded such expenditures and stated that the same approach should be applied to the 2026/27 coffee year during the discussions that were already due.

83. Finally, the delegate of Brazil reiterated that the ICO should demonstrate its capacity and the capacity of its permanent staff to produce studies and research without resorting to external contracting, consistent with the practices of other specialized commodity organizations based in London.

84. The delegate of Honduras congratulated the Chair not only on the way in which he was presiding over the Committee, but also on his general engagement with international organizations and the ICO in particular. He expressed agreement, in principle, with the proposed extension of the deadline for submitting proposals, noting that it would provide all Members with an opportunity to present initiatives, particularly those which might not have had sufficient time. He emphasized that this extension was not obligatory, but that he was in favour of it.

85. The Chair referred to the comments made by the delegates of Brazil and Honduras and asked whether the Joint Committee should simply take note of the Chief Economist's presentation or request the Secretariat to "re-do the task". He then specifically addressed the delegate of Brazil, inviting him to provide a recommendation, solution, or proposal.

86. The delegate of Brazil expressed regret that the rules recently approved by Members were already being overlooked during their first application, but stated that he took into consideration the views expressed by the delegate of Honduras, a diplomat who he greatly admired and who

had a long history of involvement with commodity organizations in London. He suggested that another meeting of the Joint Committee could be convened within the following two weeks and proposed that this period might provide sufficient time for any Member countries wishing to submit suggestions to do so, while avoiding delays to the agreed calendar for the year.

87. The delegate of Brazil also reminded Members of the tight schedule for budget discussions, recalling the difficulties experienced in negotiating the budget the previous year. Given that the proposals under discussion would affect the budget, he emphasized that, in the delegation of Brazil's opinion, the submission period should not be postponed excessively in order to avoid delaying budgetary and operational planning. The delegate of Brazil concluded by inviting the delegate of Honduras to provide further guidance on the matter.

88. The delegate of Honduras expressed agreement on the tight schedule and noted that the time suggested—two weeks, or approximately 15 days—would be sufficient for any other Members to submit proposals. The delegate of Honduras further recommended that the Secretariat send a communication immediately, either that day or the following one, to inform all Members of the extension of this two-week period. He emphasized that no further extensions should be granted.

89. The Executive Director clarified that no decisions or discussions regarding the submitted proposals would take place during the upcoming ICC session in March. According to the procedures approved four months earlier, these proposals would instead be considered during the Joint Committee meeting scheduled for June. She explained that this timeline was necessary to allow all proposals to be translated into the four official languages and to provide Members with six weeks to review and submit comments, and added that following this review period, the Secretariat would compile the feedback for consideration by the Joint Committee.

90. The Executive Director confirmed that discussions and consensus on the proposals would be the responsibility of the Joint Committee and its members, and that the subsequent exercise of reviewing and finalizing proposals would occur in June and July, in preparation for presentation to the ICC meeting in September in Switzerland.

91. The Executive Director stressed that this process fully adhered to the procedures approved by the Council and the Joint Committee, and that providing a short extension for submission did not compromise the timeline. She noted that this was the first time the exercise was being implemented, and that the extension was intended to offer other Members the opportunity to participate without affecting the overall schedule approved four months ago. The Executive Director requested that the timeline slide be displayed again and invited the Head of Operations to provide any additional clarifications.

92. The Head of Operations shared the timeline and the procedures on screen. She took note of the comments made by the delegate of Brazil regarding the template and the principle that no external contracts should be allocated for work that could be carried out by the ICO staff.

93. The Head of Operations outlined the process for the annual consultation with Members. She explained that proposals from Members or the Executive Director could “arrive” during the Joint Committee meeting, as was currently taking place, or during the ICC session, which would take place at the end of March 2026. The Head of Operations noted that the invitation for submissions would be sent within the week. She added that all proposals would then be translated into the four official languages of the ICO and, as per procedures, would then be open for comments by Members for a period of six weeks. After this period, all comments and reflections would be collected and presented to the Joint Committee. The Head of Operations emphasized that it was the Joint Committee—i.e. the Members—that would discuss the proposals, taking into account all Members’ feedback. She stressed that the Committee could hold multiple meetings as necessary to reach consensus and prepare recommendations for submission to the ICC in September.

94. The Head of Operations clarified that these steps fully adhered to the approved procedures and timeline, except for the template. She noted that the submission template, as noted by the delegate of Brazil, had been introduced to organize the consultation in line with international standards and to enhance transparency, but that its use was indeed not mandatory. She concluded by confirming that the rest of the procedures and timing followed the document previously approved by the ICC ([JC-13/25 Rev. 2](#)).

95. The Chair inquired as to whether the delegates of Brazil and Honduras were comfortable with the response provided by the Secretariat.

96. The delegate of Brazil stated that the delegations of Brazil and Honduras had agreed on a two-week extension. He observed that no other Member had raised alternative suggestions and reiterated that the Secretariat had no mandate to introduce new rules, such as those described in Annex II of document [ED-2496/26](#). In the spirit of consensus, he requested that the Secretariat circulate a new invitation, allowing a two-week period for Members to provide additional information without including any annexes that had not been agreed by Members.

97. The delegate of Brazil made a final observation, noting that the delegation of Brazil had frequently been surprised to witness the Secretariat introduce new rules that had not been previously discussed by Members. He stated that it was with regret that the delegation of Brazil had taken the floor to comment on Annex II and expressed hope that this would be one of the last such observations required, emphasizing that it was not an appropriate way to work.

98. The delegate of Honduras noted that the information provided by the Secretariat had been very useful. He explained that he agreed with the two-week extension proposed by the delegate of Brazil and that he considered it sufficient for Honduran government institutions to prepare and submit any initiatives or observations. The delegate of Honduras reiterated his request that the Secretariat communicate the new deadline to all Members promptly, either later that day or the following morning.

99. The Chair invited Members to comment on the proposal for a two-week extension, as suggested by the delegates of Brazil and Honduras. In the absence of objections, he confirmed that the two-week extension would be granted, concluding on 16 March, and requested that the Secretariat circulate the revised document as soon as possible.

**Item 5: Other updates and other business**

100. The Chair invited Members to take the floor if they wished to raise any additional topics for discussion.

101. There were no comments.

**Item 6. Next steps and next meeting**

102. The Executive Director proposed that the next meeting of the Joint Committee be held in June 2026, prior to the summer holidays. She explained that by that time, all project proposals would have been circulated, Members' comments would have been received, and that this would allow the Joint Committee to conduct an in-depth review and discussion of the same. Based on these discussions, the Committee would determine which initiatives to accept, establish priorities, and prepare recommendations for submission to the ICC.

103. The Chair thanked the Executive Director and expressed hope that all comments made by the various delegations had been duly noted. The Chair also thanked all delegates for their active participation in the meeting.

104. The Chair formally declared the sixth meeting of the Joint Committee closed and extended best wishes to all delegates for the remainder of the day.