



Organización Internacional del Café  
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WP Quality No. 64/04

15 October 2004  
Original: English

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**Quality Committee**  
20 September 2004  
London, England

**Report of the Quality Committee  
on the meeting of 20 September 2004**

1. The Quality Committee, chaired by the Executive Director, Mr. Néstor Osorio, met on 20 September 2004.

**Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda**

2. The Committee adopted the draft Agenda contained in document WP-Quality No. 62/04 Rev. 1.

**Item 2: Coffee Quality-Improvement Programme (CQP)**

**Item 2.1: Compliance with request for information  
on target quality standards in Resolution number 420**

**and**

**Item 2.2: Requests for technical assistance in applying the CQP**

3. The Executive Director introduced document WP-Quality No. 63/04 containing a progress report on the implementation of the Coffee Quality-Improvement Programme. He noted that Resolution number 420 which was adopted by the Council in May 2004 provided that Certificates of Origin issued by exporting Members should contain an indication of compliance with quality standards in Box 17 as from 1 June 2004. To date three Members had fully implemented the Resolution (Brazil, Ethiopia and Nicaragua). In view of the short time since the adoption of the Resolution, it was expected that some months would be needed before the opportunity to identify shipments as attaining ICO target quality standards was implemented. In some countries where Resolution number 407 had been incorporated into national legislation, Members had indicated that it was working well and would continue to be implemented, while in others, Resolution number 420 would automatically replace it. It was hoped that by early 2005, the ICO would have more detailed information available on the quality of coffee shipments from Members. He stressed the importance of continuing to promote quality to enhance sustainability of the coffee economy, to increase consumption, to add value and to provide consumer satisfaction.

4. The Committee took note of this report and further noted that as requested at the last meeting, the report included historical information on LIFFE to enable trends to be assessed and progress evaluated. The Organization had monitored data on Robusta gradings posted by LIFFE from October 2002, when the Coffee Quality-improvement Programme (CQP) was introduced under Resolution number 407. A request had also been sent to the New York Board of Trade (NYBOT) for similar data related to the “C” Contract which would be formally considered by a committee of the Board of Trade.

5. Finally, the Committee noted the need for producing and consuming Members to continue to inform the ICO of any problems encountered so that technical or financial assistance could be provided as necessary.

**Item 3: Quality standards**

6. The Executive Director said that the ISO Standard 10470 on green coffee defects had not yet been finally published as a full standard. Copies of the final draft were available on request from the Secretariat and he would report on further developments at the next meeting.

7. The Committee took note of this information and further noted that the Standard provided a chart listing the main categories of defects but did not relate directly to commercial classification schemes. Once the final version was available, consideration would need to be given to how to adopt it in relation to other grading systems.

**Item 4: Alternative uses for coffee and grading and labelling systems**

8. Paragraph 9 of Resolution number 420 provides that Members shall seek to identify sources of external finance from appropriate institutions for studies and measures that support the implementation of the Programme and, in particular, efforts to identify and put into practice cost-effective alternative uses for coffee which does not conform with the standards indicated in Section A. The Executive Director reported that project proposals related to alternative uses were currently under consideration by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) including a pilot project proposal concerning the use of coffee by-products and alternative uses for low-grade coffee and a proposal for the diversification of production in marginal coffee plantations in the State of Veracruz, Mexico. Other alternative uses for coffee had been proposed or implemented, including as an additive in cement or in paper or fabric manufacture. Finally, Mr. Osorio said that he had been in contact with the International Centre for Science and High Technology of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Trieste to discuss ways of cooperating on this matter.

9. The Committee took note of this information. Regarding a request for information about progress on a proposal presented at a previous meeting by the Brazilian Institute of Food Technology (ITAL) concerning the possible use of defective coffee for fuel, animal

feed and fertilizers and for extracting coffee oil for use in food-stuffs and cosmetics, the Committee noted that it was understood that alternative funding to that available from the CFC was eventually secured for this proposal. The Committee noted that Brazil would endeavour to find out information about how this initiative was progressing and that it would be useful to explore with UNIDO financing for ITAL to pursue research on use of alternative uses of coffee.

**Item 5: Report to the Executive Board**

10. The Committee noted that the Executive Director would report on the meeting of the Quality Committee to the Executive Board and Council from 21 – 24 September 2004.

**Item 6: Other business**

*New York Board of Trade*

11. The Committee noted that the New York Board of Trade was developing an electronic (XML) version of the ICO Certificate of Origin.

**Item 7: Next meeting**

12. The Committee noted that a report on progress on implementing the CQP would be presented to the Executive Board meeting in January 2005 and the next meeting was likely to take place just before the Council Session in May 2005.