



International Coffee Organization
Organización Internacional del Café
Organização Internacional do Café
Organisation Internationale du Café

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Report

**Report of the Statistics Committee
on the meeting of 24 May 2006**

1. The 20th meeting of the Statistics Committee took place on 24 May 2006. The meeting was chaired by Mr. David Hallam of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

2. The Committee adopted the draft Agenda contained in document WP-Statistics No. 96/06 Rev. 1.

**Item 2: Report of the Statistics Committee
on the meeting of 30 January 2006**

3. The Committee approved the report on the meeting of 30 January 2006 contained in document WP-Statistics No. 95/06.

Item 3: Compliance with statistical rules

4. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics No. 97/06 containing information on the latest status of compliance by Members with the Rules on Statistics during the life of the International Coffee Agreement 2001, coffee years 2001/02 to 2004/05 and from October 2005 to March 2006. Based on average trade data for three calendar years (2003 to 2005) full and satisfactory compliance by exporting Members was over 86% while that of importing Members was just under 99% – the best level ever achieved.

5. The Committee noted that there had been some improvements in compliance by Côte d'Ivoire in the provision of statistical information. As a result, the exporting Members

grouped under non-compliance account for only 0.66% of total exports in the period. In the case of importing Members, Hungary and Malta were the only two countries still failing to comply with their obligations.

6. It was suggested that as imports of coffee by exporting Members appeared to be increasing and were not reported, the Secretariat should prepare a table showing this information so that this trend could be monitored. In addition, exporting Members should also be reminded to provide a report showing the origin and value of their imports of coffee by form.

Item 4: Technical assistance

7. The Chairman informed the Committee that as recommended by the Committee the Executive Director had written to all exporting countries which had contacted the Organization for assistance, to request them to specify the areas where assistance was needed. The only reply to date was from Indonesia where, due to internal re-structuring, more time is needed before the authorities in that country are able to assess the areas where technical assistance is required.

8. The US representative on the Committee explained that, in response to the letter received from the Executive Director in relation to the assistance required by the Democratic Republic of Congo, internal consultations had taken place with potential donors. He pointed out that a more comprehensive approach to this matter should be taken, rather than applying an *ad hoc* methodology. He suggested that the Committee should identify all the requirements for assistance and then advise on the procedures to be followed.

9. The Committee suggested that cooperation from exporting Members might also be useful to prepare a manual of best practice using their experience on efficiency in supplying data. This might provide a basis for assistance through seminars and/or workshops as part of a regional approach, to countries where compliance was poor or non-existent.

10. It was suggested that the Executive Director should write to some of the countries that are in full compliance requesting them to share their knowledge and experience with those countries where compliance was less complete with a view to improving their performances in this field. This would facilitate the preparation of a framework to identify resources and to formulate a plan for a strategic approach to recognise common problems which require common solutions, such as capacity building, etc. It is expected that problems can be diagnosed through regional workshops based on the experience acquired from countries with successful records.

Item 5: Inventories and stocks

11. The Statistician informed the Committee that the European Coffee Federation (ECF) had started posting the results of the stocks survey for the seven main European ports on their website each month. The Organization would monitor this exercise on a regular basis and it was suggested that links to the website could be made available for quick access to the information.

12. As compliance with the provision of inventories and stocks in importing countries is not compulsory in accordance with the current Rules on Statistics, it was suggested that the Executive Director should write to importing Members to remind them of the importance of data for key market variables, especially inventories, and of their responsibilities regarding compliance with the Rules. Where official data cannot be collected any longer, the authorities in importing countries should nominate alternative sources for the data to ensure that market transparency could be maintained.

Item 6: Organic coffee

13. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics No. 98/06 containing a table showing exports of organic coffee based on information extracted from Certificates of Origin in calendar year 2005.

14. The Committee noted that as information on the trade of organic coffee continues to be of interest, this exercise should be updated periodically and the results presented to the Committee at its regular meetings. In addition, the Committee would also like to receive information on the value of these exports, if available.

Item 7: Preparations and concentrates

15. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics No. 99/06 containing data on imports of soluble coffee based on import returns classified under two specific Harmonized System (HS) codes (210.112.92 and 210.112.98) in calendar years 1996 to 2004.

16. In consultation with the ECF, it was identified that the products imported under these two HS codes contain, on average, 10% of coffee. Therefore, adjustments would have to be made to the Organization's historical series on imports of soluble coffee to reflect this situation. In order to bring this item to a conclusion, an exercise on the imports of products under these items by Norway, Switzerland and USA would be carried out as imports by Japan have already been corrected by the authorities in that country. Based on the results of all these exercises, the Committee might be in a position to make recommendations on this issue at its next meeting.

Item 8: New statistical software at the ICO

17. The Statistician reported on the progress on upgrading the statistical system which, due to some unforeseen circumstances, has been delayed until June 2006. The modules on Indicator prices and Certificates of Origin have already been fully implemented. The modules on Exports, Imports/Re-exports should be fully operational by the end of July and the Production and Votes modules should be implemented by the end of September 2006.

Item 9: Report to the International Coffee Council

and

Item 10: Other Business

18. The Chairman was encouraged to stress to the Council the importance of the Statistics Committee in the work of the Organization. The Committee felt that, in the context of the discussions on the future of the 2001 Agreement, it would be timely to review the statistical priorities of the Organization and, hence those of the Statistics Committee. It was agreed that a short document would be prepared for the next meeting to provide a basis for discussion of this topic.

Item 11: Future meetings

19. The next meeting of the Committee would take place during the week of 25 – 29 September 2006, at the time of meetings of the Council and Executive Board.