



Organización Internacional del Café
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Report

Statistics Committee
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London, England

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

1. The 17th meeting of the Statistics Committee took place on 20 September 2004 and was chaired by Mr. David Hallam, of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).
2. The Chairperson welcomed the representatives of the International Trade Centre, Mr. Jan van Hilten, and the International Cocoa Organization, Mr. Laurent Pipitone.

1: Adoption of the Agenda

3. The Committee adopted the draft Agenda contained in document WP-Statistics No. 78/04 Rev. 1.

**2 Report of the Statistics Committee
on the meeting of 17 May 2004**

4. The Committee approved the report of the meeting of 17 May 2004 contained in document WP-Statistics No. 77/04.

Item 3: Compliance with statistical rules

Item 3.1: Compliance with statistics

5. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics No. 81/04 containing information on the status of compliance by Members with the Rules on Statistics for coffee years 1994/95 to 2002/03 and from October 2003 to July 2004. Based on four-year average trade data (calendar years 2000 to 2003), full and satisfactory compliance by 25 exporting Members had reached 83.15% and there was 100% compliance by all 18 importing Members.

6. The Committee noted that two important exporting Members, namely Côte d'Ivoire and Indonesia, continued to fail to comply with their statistical obligations. It was suggested that cooperation be sought from other organizations such as the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) to obtain details of their statistics contacts which were believed to be the same as those for coffee matters.

Item 3.2: Technical assistance for Members

7. The Chairperson stressed the importance of the ICO Secretariat arranging a visit to the FAO to formalise how technical assistance could be provided to Members. A visit had been planned for some time and it was desirable for this to take place as soon as possible to get discussions on this matter under way. The Committee took note of this information.

Item 4 Survey on inventories and stocks

8. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics No. 82/04 containing the preliminary results of the 3rd survey on inventories and stocks of green coffee as at 31 December 2002 and 2003 which had been initiated in June 2004.

9. It was suggested that the survey could be carried out earlier in the year as warehouse managers might be more willing to provide the data more quickly. However, it was noted that some warehouse data might not be disclosed so soon as data confidentiality might have to be preserved. The Committee took note of this report and further noted that an updated report with the final results would be prepared for the next meeting.

Item 5: Organic coffee

10. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics No. 80/04 containing a table showing exports of organic coffee based on information extracted from Certificates of Origin.

11. Some concerns were expressed about the certification of organic coffee at origin and it was suggested that the Organization should circulate a document with guidelines on organic coffee definition and certification. It was also suggested that more detailed information be obtained from Peru which had the largest volume of organic exports and that assistance should be sought from organizations like the Specialty Coffee Association of America (SCAA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) which had specific policies on organic agriculture. The Committee took note of this report and further noted that an updated table comparing volumes in the last two coffee years would be prepared for the next meeting.

**Item 6: ICO statistical data – discrepancies
in world consumption data**

12. At its meeting in May 2004, the Committee noted that Brazil would carry out a comprehensive verification of stocks held by the private sector. The results of the exercise will be formally announced in October/November 2004 after physical verification is carried out at random in some warehouses. The Committee encouraged other exporting Members to follow the initiative of Brazil so that more reliable stocks figures – which are vital in the calculation of consumption – could be provided to the Organization.

Item 7 Speciality soluble coffee

13. The Statistician introduced document WP Statistics No. 79/04 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 coffee year 2002/03.

14. Members of the Committee expressed some concern regarding the totals presented but noted that as the total volume traded under these codes was very small compared to the total volume of all soluble coffee traded, it might not be necessary to act immediately on this issue. The Committee noted that the Organization would continue to monitor the trade of soluble coffee under this classification as this coffee appeared to be increasing its niche market share every year.

Item 8: ICO/FAO econometric model

15. The Chairperson informed the Committee that the ICO/FAO econometric model had been “upgraded” to a giant model that would be able to analyse the broader context of commodities. The specific model developed for coffee would be maintained and improvements would be introduced, whenever possible, given the current FAO resources in particular areas such as price elasticity and pricing composition. The new giant model would not be so orthodox in its definitions and would reflect world market values with adjustments to each country’s realities. The Committee took note of this information.

Item 9: New statistical software in the ICO

16. The Statistician reported that the statistical software under development by *Softel*, a Cuban based company, had been delayed. Only the prices module had been delivered to date and had been running independently since July 2004. A meeting would be held with *Softel* in the near future to discuss delivery schedules and deadlines, and a progress report would be given at the next meeting of the Committee. The Committee took note of this information.

Item 10: Report to the Council

17. The Committee agreed that in his report to the Council, the Chairperson should stress that the onus of comprehensive detailed statistical information lay basically with exporting Members of the Organization, whereas importing Members had a lesser burden in terms of their commitments to the statistical rules due to particular circumstances prevailing in these countries.

Item 11: Other business

Composition of the Statistics Committee in 2004/05 and 2005/06

18. The Committee noted that representatives of exporting and importing Members and of the Executive Director had accepted the invitation to continue to serve as members of the Committee for a further term. They would be formally appointed by the Council during its 91st Session from 21 to 24 September 2004.

Study on the coffee sector in producing non-member countries

19. The Committee noted that document EB-3869/04 contained a study on coffee production in countries which were not members of the Organization, and had been prepared as suggested by the Committee at its meeting in May 2004.

Study on the correlation between negative price elasticity and per capita consumption

20. The Committee noted that a document containing a study on the correlation between negative price elasticity and per capita consumption would be circulated to the Council session from 21 to 24 September 2004¹.

Presentation of ICO statistical publications

21. The Statistician informed the Committee about the presentation of the statistical publications of the Organization which would be available on CD-Rom from October 2004. The Committee welcomed this initiative.

12 Future meetings

22. The Committee noted that its next meeting would take place at the headquarters of the Organization in London in January 2005, and the Secretariat would notify the Committee members of the date in due course.

¹ Subsequently circulated as document EB-3871/04.