



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 30 January 2006**

1. The 19th meeting of the Statistics Committee took place on 30 January 2006. The meeting was chaired by Mr. David Hallam of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

2. The Chairman welcomed Mr. Alberto Portugal of Brazil and Mr. David Brooks of the USA, both attending their first meeting as Members of the Committee.

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

3. The Committee adopted the draft Agenda contained in document WP-Statistics No. 91/05 Rev. 1.

**Item 2: Report of the Statistics Committee
on the meeting of 16 May 2005**

4. The Chairman said that the Committee's recommendation on Item 6 of the Report (ICO indicator prices) had been approved by the Council in May 2005. This recommendation came into effect on 1 October 2005.

5. The Chairman informed the Committee that arrangements had been made to replace the main source of data from non-member countries used by the Organization as the library of the Department of Trade and Industry in London had ceased its activities in December 2005. The Organization would in future subscribe to the Global Trade Atlas as similar data from alternative sources (such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the

United Nations (FAO), International Trade Centre (ITC), World Trade Organization (WTO) etc.) were not as up to date as desired. It should be noted that inconsistencies in historical series might arise when using data from different sources.

6. The Committee took note of this information and approved the report on the meeting of 16 May 2005 contained in document WP-Statistics No. 90/05.

Item 3: Compliance with statistical rules

7. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics No. 94/06 containing information on the latest status of compliance by Members with the Rules on Statistics during the life of the ICA 2001 – coffee years 2001/02 to 2004/05. Based on average trade data for three years (coffee years 2002/03 to 2004/05) full and satisfactory compliance by exporting Members was nearly 85% while that of importing Members was around 96% – the best level ever achieved.

8. The Committee noted that there had been some improvements in compliance by Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Indonesia in the provision of statistical information. What was required in these countries was a system from which data could be extracted and routinely forwarded to the Organization.

9. In the case of importing Members, Hungary, Malta and Poland were the only three countries failing to comply with their obligations. Discussions would be held with the representative of Poland during these meetings with a view to introducing a structured system with the authorities in this country.

10. The Committee noted that Members should be encouraged to improve their performance on compliance with the Rules on Statistics with a view to increasing market transparency, which in turn, would enhance the reliability of the statistical work of the Organization. Members of the Committee would take this matter up with their authorities during the discussions on the future of the ICA 2001.

Item 4: Technical assistance

11. The Chairman informed the Committee that the Executive Director and the Head of Operations had visited the FAO in June 2005 to hold discussions on the type of technical assistance that could be provided to exporting Members. The FAO would be willing to cooperate in capacity building in a few countries where the problem in obtaining statistical information was not restricted only to coffee. However, due to current budgetary constraints the FAO had had to revise its offer as their resources were rather limited. Ghana was one of the few countries identified by the FAO where technical assistance would soon be made available.

12. At a previous meeting of the Committee there had been an informal offer of assistance from the US Department of Labour. The US representative on the Committee explained that countries would have to clearly identify the areas where such assistance might be required. To date, the Democratic Republic of Congo was the only country to have specified its requirements for assistance. This matter would be taken up in the next few months and the Committee would be informed of further progress at the next meeting.

Item 5: Survey on inventories and stocks

13. The Statistician informed the Committee that, as agreed at the previous meeting, the survey on inventories and stocks would not be carried out by the Organization in order to avoid a duplication of tasks with the exercise being carried out by the European Coffee Federation (ECF).

14. The ECF results for the seven main European ports would be posted on their website on a monthly basis. This was expected to start from February 2006. There were plans to expand and improve the results posted on the website to include more ports and, eventually, to provide a breakdown between Arabica and Robusta. The Organization would monitor developments in this exercise so that, in future, the results could be used to replace missing data in the Organization's database. The Committee took note of this information.

Item 6: Organic coffee

15. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics No. 93/05 containing a table showing exports of organic coffee based on information extracted from Certificates of Origin in coffee year 2004/05.

16. The Committee noted that as information on the trade of organic coffee was very difficult to obtain, this exercise would be updated periodically and the results would be presented to the Committee at its regular meetings. In addition, the Committee suggested that in the discussions on the future of the ICA consideration could be given to revising the statistical rules to include information on sustainable coffee.

Item 7: Speciality soluble coffee

17. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics No. 92/05 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.

18. Members of the Committee expressed some concern about the term "speciality soluble coffee" which was misleading. It was suggested that, in future, this term should be replaced with "preparations and concentrates". In addition, the Committee requested the

Secretariat to identify a few of the products imported under these specific codes so that the Committee could make recommendations on possible adjustments to the current statistical series which included these codes.

Item 8: New statistical software at the ICO

19. The Statistician reported on the progress on the implementation of the upgrading of the statistical system. The indicator prices module had been operational since July 2004 and the Certificates of Origin module had been fully implemented in October 2005. Tests were being carried out on the exports and imports modules and the module on votes should be delivered by March 2006. The Production and Economics module was expected to be ready by April 2006 and the full system should be implemented by July 2006. If all went according to plan, a presentation on the new system would be made to the Committee at its meeting in September 2006. The Committee took note of this information.

Item 9: Report to the Executive Board

20. The Chairman was encouraged to stress to the Executive Board the importance of the Statistics Committee in the work of the Organization as a vital tool in enhancing market transparency with specific targets for obtaining reliable and timely statistics from Member countries.

Item 10: Other business

21. Members of the Committee were invited to send suggestions on topics for the Agenda for the next meeting in May 2006.

Item 11: Future meetings

22. The next meeting of the Committee would take place on the afternoon of 22 May 2006 before the meetings of the Council and Executive Board from 23 to 26 May 2006 at the headquarters of the Organization in London¹.

¹ *At its meeting from 30 January to 1 February, the Executive Board decided that the Board and Council should meet from 22 to 25 May 2006 instead of from 23 to 26 May as previously scheduled. The Secretariat will confirm the date for the next meeting of the Statistics Committee.*