



# 62nd Plenary Meeting of the INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

### FIRST MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

9:00 AM, Monday September 8, 2003  
Mr. Ajai Malhotra in the Chair

The CHAIR thanked delegates for their support of the ICAC. He thanked the government of Poland for serving as host of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Meeting. He noted that the Steering Committee is a committee of management and that attendance is limited to official delegates.

The first order of business was to approve the agenda of the meeting. The CHAIR noted that delegates had a copy of the proposed agenda and asked if there were any objections or suggestions for changes. Seeing none, he found that the agenda was approved.

The second order of business was the accession of Benin to membership in the ICAC. The Secretary General reported that he received a letter in August from the Ambassador of Benin to the United States. The letter states that cotton is important to the economy of Benin, that Benin wishes to accede to membership in the ICAC and that Benin is prepared to fulfill the obligations of membership. The letter fulfills the requirements stated in the Rules and Regulations of the Committee for accession to membership, and according to the scale of assessments approved for the current fiscal year, the initial assessment of Benin for 2003-04 is \$21,000.

The Secretary General reported that Benin is an important cotton producing and exporting country. Cotton production in Benin rose from just 10,000 tons in the early 1980s to more than 200,000 tons presently. He said that the membership of Benin will enhance the status of the ICAC as a forum for discussion of international issues related to cotton, and membership in the ICAC will provide tangible benefits to the government and cotton industry of Benin. He asked that the membership of Benin in the ICAC and the initial assessment of \$21,000 be confirmed.

The CHAIR asked if there were objections to the confirmation of the membership of the Government of Benin in the ICAC, and seeing none, he found that membership was confirmed. He welcomed Benin as the newest member of the ICAC.

The CHAIR observed that more than 20 firms and regional organizations were serving as sponsors and supporters of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Meeting. He specifically thanked Cottonex Anstalt, Rieter AG and Textilimpex Ltd. for serving as Gold Sponsors, and he urged all participants in the meeting to visit the trade booth area during the week.

Seeing no additional business, the CHAIR adjourned the meeting at 9:20 AM.