



64th Plenary Meeting of the INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

11:00 AM, Thursday September 29, 2005
Mr. David Harrison in the Chair

The CHAIR welcomed delegates, observers and guests to the Closing Plenary Session. He recognized the delegate of BRAZIL to present an invitation to the 65th Plenary Meeting. The delegate of Brazil offered a warm welcome to the ICAC to hold its 65th Plenary Meeting in the city of Goiania, capital of the State of Goias in central Brazil, during 11-15 September 2006. He said that the Organizing Committee had agreed to a plenary meeting theme of Improving the Social and Environmental Impacts of Cotton Production and Use. He noted that Brazil accounts for 1.3 million tons of cotton production and 900,000 tons of mill use. He noted that the State of Goias was the third largest cotton producing state in Brazil and that Goiania holds a complete tourist and conference infrastructure. He said that many recreational and sightseeing opportunities are available in and near Goiania, including historic cities, upper reaches of the Amazon, and sandy beaches. The delegate assured that the Organizing Committee for the ICAC meeting in 2006 would ensure that the meeting is successful. The delegate introduced a video with an invitation from the Governor of Goias, the Honorable Marconi Perillo. The video was shown to delegates. The CHAIR thanked the delegate of Brazil for the invitation and observed that all delegates looked forward to visiting Brazil next year.

The CHAIR offered his own closing remarks. He noted that when he had taken over the duties of his office in 2001, his predecessor had mentioned that the UK would be hosting a plenary meeting and that a fair amount of work would be required. He subsequently learned that his predecessor had not actually hosted a plenary meeting himself, and that the work required was substantially more than had been implied. The Chair noted that plenary meetings have grown in size and scale over the last five years, and that the difficulties of matching the hospitality provided in Victoria Falls, Cairo, Gdansk and Mumbai were substantial. He noted with wry humor that his colleagues in government offered their total support, but no money. He reported that an organizing committee composed of the International Cotton Association, the Mersey Partnership, the Capital of Culture Company and the Government Office for the North West had been formed. The Organizing Committee had decided to let Liverpool speak for itself through the marvelous venue of St. George's Hall.

The CHAIR observed that Liverpool is the historic home of cotton trading, and that it is also a city enjoying a real renaissance and is facing a glorious future. He said that the meeting seemed to have been a real success, and he thanked the ICAC Secretariat, interpreters, speakers and session chairs for their efforts. He thanked the sponsors and exhibitors, including the European Union, the Liverpool cotton industry and the Liverpool City Council. He also thanked the fellow members of the Organizing Committee, his government office colleagues, and the event management company, Evensis, and the audiovisual company, Mill Media, for their assistance in running a professional plenary meeting. Finally, he thanked all participants for making the meeting a pleasure to be involved with.

The CHAIR noted that the UK no longer imports cotton, but that the country retains a strong base in cotton trading, a research capacity and ancillary services such as information services. Most importantly, Liverpool is home to the International Cotton Association. He observed that the cotton

industry appears to be on track toward adoption of a single set of rules for international trade in cotton, and the 64th Plenary will be a milestone in accomplishment of that goal. He concluded by saying that for this week, we truly had the cotton world in one city. He said that it had been an honor to host the ICAC and wished all participants well.

The CHAIR recognized the Delegate of INDIA to make closing remarks on behalf of all delegates. The delegate of INDIA said that he profoundly thanked the Government of the UK for serving as host of the 64th Plenary Meeting and for giving participants the opportunity to assemble in the historic city of Liverpool. He noted that arrangements for the meeting were of the highest standards and were all comfortable. On behalf of all member countries he expressed his gratitude and thanks to the UK for the organization of the meeting. He also thanked the Lord Mayor of Liverpool who had hosted an excellent reception in the great Town Hall. He thanked the Secretariat and the Standing Committee for their work. The delegate observed that all countries had participated in the discussions and that there had been concrete achievements towards the theme of Industry Standardization: the Key to Trade Growth. Further, he noted that there was overwhelming support for the theme chosen for the 65th Plenary Meeting in Brazil of Improving the Social and Environmental Impacts of Cotton Production and Use and that India also supports this theme. He said he looked forward to the 65th Plenary Meeting in Brazil, a beautiful country with an expanding cotton industry. He concluded by thanking again the Government of the UK, Liverpool city officials, the Secretariat, organizers, the ICA, delegates, observers and guests and others associated with the plenary meeting for making it a great success. He said thank you and good-bye, and he looks forward to meeting in Brazil next year.

The CHAIR thanked the delegate of India for his gracious remarks. He asked if there were any other countries that wished to make comments, and seeing none, he declared that the Closing Plenary Session was adjourned at 12:20 PM.