79th Plenary Meeting – Virtual

MINUTES

Closing Session

11:10 am to 11:20 (GMT-5), Wednesday 8 December 2021
Chairman: Mr Anshul Sharma

The Secretary General, Mr Kai Hughes, thanked all the participants for their active discussions which made the 79th Plenary meeting a success. He extended his gratitude to the members of the Secretariat, who had worked diligently behind the scenes and to the interpreters who faced the challenges of sometimes-faulty technology.

This virtual Plenary Meeting highlighted the importance of technology and had enabled the ICAC to focus on the Plenary Meeting structure by selecting the most pressing and important topics of interest for all the participants for delivery in half the time usually dedicated to in-person Plenary Meetings. The sessions on hybrid cotton and labelling generated vigorous discussion and debate, the latter showing the value of including the private sector in the Plenary Meeting moving forward. As a result of the virtual format, the World Café was able to be conducted flexibly and reach a more diverse audience than traditional Plenary Meeting sessions. All those elements will serve as a foundation for future meetings. He also mentioned that given the continued uncertainty around the public health situation, he was recommending to the Steering Committee to hold another virtual Plenary Meeting in 2022.

In his final remarks, the Chairman congratulated the delegates and the participants, as well as the Secretariat of the ICAC under the leadership of the Executive Director, Kai Hughes, for executing a successful 79th Plenary meeting. Despite the uncertainty around COVID and the new variant, he was looking forward to an in-person Plenary Meeting soon.

The Chair closed the session at 12:01.