



# The ICAC's 80th Plenary Meeting

## 80<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting – Virtual

### MINUTES

#### Steering Committee

1 December 2022 at 8:30 (GMT-5); Australia (Perth, AW): 09:30 pm; Europe: 13:30 (GMT)  
Chairman: Mr Patrick Packnett, USA, Chairman of the ICAC Standing Committee

Mr Patrick Packnett, Chair of the Standing Committee, chaired the meeting which began at 8:30 am.

#### 1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair started by thanking the delegates for their commitment to attend the meeting, then asked for adoption of the agenda. The delegate from EU raised a concern on agenda item 1 concerning the update on — the Executive Director's whistle-blower complaint against the Standing Committee Chair. She indicated that the matter should be addressed in a separate meeting when the current Chairman and the Executive Director are not present since they are parties of interest. The delegate from Pakistan was of a contrary opinion and felt that the issue should be addressed in this meeting for the members to address the concerns raised. After deliberations, a majority of the delegates were of the opinion that the agenda item should be deliberated at a separate executive meeting of the Steering Committee under the new leadership without the presence of the current Chairman and the Executive Director. The agenda was adopted with the exclusion of agenda item 1.

#### 2. Election of the Standing Committee Officers – Working Paper No. 1

The Chairman requested that the Steering Committee approves the recommendation of the Standing Committee to appoint HE Aly Touré of Côte d'Ivoire as Chair, and Mr Azmat Mahmud Kan of Pakistan as Vice Chair. The recommendation was approved by the Committee.

#### 3. Establishment of an International Textiles Research Council (ITRC) – Working Paper No. 2

The Executive Director introduced the topic by mentioning that the purpose of ITRC was to add value to existing and potential new consuming country members by strengthening the textile sector operations within ICAC.

The ICAC Head of Textiles, Mr Kamar Usman, reiterated that the value of textile industry in the value chain, had crossed the \$900 billion mark. He reported that as a result, ICAC has developed a strategy for textiles with a business portal which would include profiles of textiles businesses in Member countries. Mr Usman added that ITRC will comprise universities, research organisations, chemical manufacturers, allied and service industries, amongst other stakeholders, under one roof. The governance model will comprise of a board of directors, executive committees and technical

committees. He then submitted the proposal to the Steering Committee for approval of establishment of an International Textiles Research Council (ITRC).

The Delegate from Pakistan appreciated the proposal but recommended renaming it as International Textiles Research Association and that the ICAC Head of Textiles should act as the Executive Secretary, reporting to the Executive Director of ICAC, thus keeping everything within the ICAC.

The Delegates from US, EU, Australia and Russia were of a contrary opinion and said the ICAC should utilise its current structure to implement these objectives and use an intergovernmental approach rather than develop a bureaucratic organisation.

Mr Usman informed the delegates that the cotton industry has developed a similar association — the International Cotton Research Association (ICRA) — and ICAC should establish one for textiles which would mirror the structure of ICRA.

The Chair said that since they could not reach consensus, the Secretariat should take into account the concerns raised by the delegates as it continues to formulate its textiles strategy.

#### **4. Topic of the Technical Seminar for 2023 – Working Paper No. 3**

ICAC Chief Scientist Dr Keshav Kranthi submitted the three topics to the delegates for consideration;

1. Women in cotton production and processing: challenges of equity
2. Recent technological innovations as gamechangers on cotton farms
3. Climate-smart technologies for cotton production

The delegate from Pakistan proposed a merger of topic 2 and 3.

The delegate from Russia inquired when and where the Technical Seminar will be held. Dr Kranthi clarified that the Technical Seminar is an integral part of ICAC Plenary Meetings and is meant to address Technical issues, ideally in cotton production but it can be extended to the entire value chain, inclusive of economic and socio factors.

The Chairman asked the Secretariat to consider including topic one, which is a socio- economic issue, as one of the discussion topics for the 2023 Plenary Meeting.

The delegates unanimously agreed on merging topics 2 and 3. Dr Kranthi will revert back with suitable wording to reflect this.

#### **5. Procedure for Composing the Final Statement of the Plenary Meeting – Working Paper No. 4**

The Executive Director submitted a proposal to the delegates for composing the Final Statement of the Plenary Meetings. He proposed that one week after the Plenary Meeting concludes, the ICAC Secretariat will distribute a first draft of the Final Statement via email to the official delegations in the five official languages of the organisation. The Heads of Delegations will have a week to send their requested edits via email and then a revised version of the Final Statement will be distributed to all official delegations. If there are no major changes, the Final Statement will be deemed 'final' by the Chair who presided over the previous Steering Committee.

The delegates approved the process to be followed for the 80<sup>th</sup> virtual Plenary Session but agreed to discuss in subsequent Standing Committees before the next Plenary Meeting.

#### **6. Uncollected Assessments of the ICAC Members – Working Paper 4**

The Executive Director appealed to delegates who have outstanding assessment fees to please pay them as soon as possible to facilitate the smooth operation of the organisation.

This plea was seconded by the Chairman, who requested that delegates engage with their respective Ministries and facilitate the immediate payment of outstanding assessment fees.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 09:25 Am.