



# **International Cotton Advisory Committee**

**Provisional Minutes**

**83rd ICAC Plenary Meeting**

**March 23-24, 2026  
Bremen Parliament Building  
Bremen, Germany**





## **83<sup>rd</sup> ICAC Plenary Meeting**

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting of the Steering Committee**

2:30 pm to 4:00 pm, Tuesday, March 24, 2026

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm and confirmed that delegations had received the Steering Committee working papers (1–4).

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

The proposed agenda included:

- Approval of the agenda
- Uncollected assessments
- Election of Standing Committee officers
- Proposed topics for the technical seminar

A motion to adopt the agenda was proposed by Australia and seconded by Egypt.

There being no objections, the agenda was adopted by unanimity.

### **Uncollected Assessments**

The Secretariat presented Working Paper No. 2 on outstanding member assessments.

## Overview

The Secretariat highlighted:

- Persistent challenges related to unpaid member contributions
- Resulting pressure on ICAC's financial stability

Several members remain suspended due to non-payment.

## Interventions

### Australia

- Expressed concern regarding non-payment of assessments
- Emphasized importance of timely contributions
- Noted impact on Secretariat capacity and program delivery

### European Union

- Supported the intervention by Australia

## Discussion: U.S. Membership Status

A question was raised by Türkiye regarding:

- Potential withdrawal of the United States
- Implications for ICAC finances and future operations

The Secretariat responded:

- Indications suggest possible reconsideration by the United States
- No change expected to ICAC's legal status or immunities
- Ongoing engagement with U.S. authorities
- ICAC expects core functions to continue but stressed the importance of paying assessments

## Financial Outlook and Strategy

The Secretariat outlined:

- Short-term financial constraints
- Medium-term recovery prospects

Key elements of the revised financial model include:

- Diversification of income sources
- Increased reliance on:
  - Project funding
  - Sponsorships
  - Carbon-related initiatives
- Reduced dependence on member assessments

It was noted that:

- Financial stabilization may take **6–15 months**
- Long-term outlook is very positive if new revenue streams materialize

## Election of Standing Committee Officers

The Secretariat presented Working Paper No. 3.

### Nominations

The following nominations were proposed:

- **Chair:** Mr. Shreyans Gupta (India)
- **Vice Chair:** Mr. Igor Moreira Moraes (Brazil)
- **Immediate Past Chair:** H.E. Ambassador Aly Touré (Côte d’Ivoire) (continuing)

### Chair

- Proposed and seconded
- Elected by acclamation (no objections)

### Vice Chair

- Proposed and seconded
- Elected by acclamation (no objections)

The Steering Committee confirmed both appointments unanimously.

# Proposed Topics for Technical Seminar

The Secretariat presented three proposed topics:

1. Smartphone applications for sustainable cotton farming
2. Mechanization and shared hubs for smallholder farmers
3. Climate-resilient cotton varieties

## Member Preferences

Delegations expressed the following preferences:

- **Topic 1:** Taiwan, Australia
- **Topic 2:** India, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, South Africa, Uzbekistan
- **Topic 3:** Egypt, Türkiye, Kenya, Mozambique, Brazil, South Africa, Uzbekistan

## Decision

Following discussion and a second round of voting:

- Topic 3: Climate-resilient cotton varieties received the majority support

The Steering Committee agreed that:

👉 The next technical seminar will focus on climate-resilient cotton varieties.

## Other Business

### Cotton Demand and Global Advocacy

A delegate (Brazil) raised concerns regarding:

- Declining demand for cotton
- Competition from synthetic fibers

Suggestions included:

- Targeted advocacy toward policymakers
- Strategic communication highlighting cotton's benefits

## Secretariat Response

The Secretariat noted ongoing efforts to:

- Develop a global cotton advocacy strategy
- Engage:
  - Policymakers
  - Civil society
  - Brands

The concept of cotton as a “global public good” was emphasized.

## Sustainability Standards and Benchmarking

**India** proposed:

- Development of an ICAC sustainability index
- Benchmarking cotton production across member countries

Discussion highlighted:

- Challenges of competing standards
- Potential for ICAC to provide guidance on principles

## Additional Interventions

**Australia** suggested:

- Development of:
  - A structured demand strategy document
  - Budget scenario planning
- Exploration of partnerships and external funding mechanisms

## Secretariat Follow-Up

The Secretariat confirmed:

- A draft advocacy framework is under preparation
- Financial scenario documents will be shared once projections stabilize

## **Closing of the Meeting**

The Chair:

- Thanked all delegations for their contributions
- Encouraged continued engagement and dialogue

The meeting was formally adjourned at 4:30 pm.