

## Working Paper I

# Election of Standing Committee Officers

Recommendation from the Standing Committee to the 70<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting of the

## INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Buenos Aires and Sáenz Peña, Argentina

September 2011

A nominating committee conducted two meetings at the Embassy of Germany on April 28, 2011 and May 9, 2011 to propose a slate of officers for the Standing Committee for the coming year. Delegates of Argentina, Australia, China (Taiwan), Egypt, Germany, Greece, Nigeria, Spain and the USA participated in the first meeting. Delegates of Australia, China (Taiwan), Egypt, Germany and Greece participated in the second meeting. The executive director attended both meetings, and Ms. Antonette Debuse, delegate of Germany, was asked to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

The Rules and Regulations specify that when practicable, the first vice chair will be nominated to succeed the outgoing chair and the second vice chair nominated to succeed the first vice chair. The current first vice chair of the Standing Committee, Mrs. Lily Munanka, Head of Chancery, Embassy of Tanzania, will be able to serve as an officer next year. The current second vice chair, Mr. François Schmidt, Head of Commercial Service, Swiss Business Hub, Embassy of Switzerland, will also be able to serve as an officer during 2011-12. Accordingly, there was a consensus to nominate Mrs. Munanka to serve as Chair and Mr. Schmidt to serve as First Vice Chair.

The Rules and Regulations say that the election of officers should take into account:

1. Rotation on as broad a geographical basis as possible.
2. Adequate representation to importing and exporting countries.
3. Ability, interest and participation in the work of the Committee.
4. Timely payment of assessments.

After consideration of these factors, the Nominating Committee agreed that Dr. Christopher Parker, Minister-Counselor (Agriculture), Embassy of Australia should be nominated to serve as second vice chair. Dr. Parker arrived in Washington in July 2011 and became the delegate of Australia to the Standing Committee. Members of the Nominating Committee noted that each delegate from Australia over many years had always taken a strong interest in the work of the ICAC, and that by nominating officers early in their assignments to embassies in Washington there would be a greater chance that succession from second vice chair-to-first vice chair-to-chair could be completed. It was noted that the proposed slate of officers represented a good geographic balance of member countries and included both producing and consuming countries.

The nominations received provisional approval from the Standing Committee at the 511th meeting on May 26, 2011.

Accordingly, the Standing Committee proposes the following slate of officers to the plenary meeting for the period from the end of the 70th Plenary Meeting in 2011 to the end of the 71st Plenary Meeting in 2012:

Mrs. Lily Munanka, Tanzania, for Chair,  
Mr. François Schmidt, Switzerland, for First Vice Chair.  
Dr. Christopher Parker, Australia, for Second Vice Chair