



# INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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## Memorandum 744

**To:** Delegates to the Standing Committee, Coordinating Agencies and Members of the Private Sector Advisory Panel

**From:** Executive Director

**Subject:** 63<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Meeting in 2004

**Date:** July 24, 2003

At the 59<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting in 2000 in Cairns, the Private Sector Advisory Panel recommended that the Secretariat work with potential host organizations in member countries to ensure a rotation of plenary meeting locations from producing to consuming countries and among regions. Accordingly, the Secretariat encouraged the Government of Argentina to host the 63<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Meeting in 2004, following the meeting this year in Poland. Argentina was gracious in initially agreeing to serve as a plenary meeting host in 2004. However, circumstances in the cotton industry have changed substantially since 2000, and the cotton industry of Argentina remains in crisis due to low prices. Argentina is now producing just one-fifth of the cotton formerly grown, and Argentina is now an importer of cotton. Accordingly, the Government of Argentina wishes to postpone its invitation to host a plenary meeting to a later year. The efforts of Argentina to make arrangements for 2004 are much appreciated.

The Secretariat will work with host organizations in other countries that have expressed an interest in hosting a plenary meeting to arrange for an alternative venue for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Meeting as quickly as possible. Countries with an interest in exploring the possibilities of hosting the ICAC in 2004 are invited to contact the Secretariat for more information about technical requirements and potential meeting dates.