



INTERNATIONAL COTTON RESEARCHERS ASSOCIATION

1629 K Street NW, Suite 702, Washington DC 20006 USA

Telephone +1-202-292-1687 • email: keshav@icac.org

Montpellier, Thursday 10th December 2020

To: All members of the Executive Committee

Subject: Resignation

Dear Members of the Executive Committee:

I have taken the decision with immediate effect, as authorized by Article III, Section 4 of ICRA's Bylaws, to resign from my position as Chairman of the Executive Committee of ICRA.

The latest emails received indicate that a crisis is felt in relation with my decision on Monday 7 December 2020 to suspend the process to elect the members of the next Executive Committee. I gave the reasons of the decision in the message suspending the election process that wholly correspond to insufficient preparation for the organization of a fair and equitable election.

I resign, acknowledging my responsibility for the turmoil created within ICRA and in its relations with ICAC. My primary responsibility lies in having agreed to initiate an election process that does not correspond to the current provisions of our Bylaws and having given in to the opinion of the Committee members to postpone to a later date the amendment of the Bylaws required by the election process out of the General Assembly. When setting-up the Nominating Committee, I probably should have insisted that it refers to the Executive Committee before launching the election. It was only at the start of the election process that I discovered the terms of reference established by the Nominating Committee, like many other members of the Executive Committee. I hence was faced with a fait accompli.

My responsibility, as I perceive it, reflects a collective willingness within the Executive Committee to move ICRA forward, with the risks that precipitation can bring. If crisis can be perceived by some, then it could be seen as a crisis of growth and it carries more optimism than pessimism.

I had the honor to take part in the ICRA Executive Committee from 2011 and to chair it since 2016. The time I have gotten to spend is more than compensated by the growing interest in ICRA. Such a situation convinces me of the relevance of the functioning of this Association.

As I will soon be retiring and having already expressed my unwillingness to continue to participate in the next Executive Committee, I am stepping down as President of the Executive Committee without bitterness but with the satisfaction of having participated in giving substance to ICRA and with the conviction that it will continue to grow.

Sincerely

Michel FOK