



**9th ICA Africa
Regional
Assembly 2010**

**October 2010
Maseru, Lesotho**

Meeting Documentation

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Minutes of the 8th ICA Africa Regional Assembly

12TH - 13TH NOVEMBER, 2008. ABUJA, NIGERIA

List of Participants: See Annex 1

AGENDA:

- Opening remarks and welcome speeches
- Approval of the draft agenda
- Confirmation of the previous Minutes
- Matters Arising
- Address by Iain Macdonald, ICA Director-General
- Address by Professor Suleman A. Chambo on Restructuring of ICA Africa
- Report from ICA Africa
- Conclusions and Recommendations of the Workshops and Side Events: Members Forum, Gender Forum and COOPAfrica meeting
- Adoption of the new ICA Africa Four Year Strategy Plan
- Elections and Nominations
- Membership Policy and Recruitment Drive
- Report on ICA Service Delivery including Development Projects
- Information on Future Meetings
- Date and Venue of the 2010 Regional Assembly
- Any Other Business
- Closing remarks



Min 1/2008 Official Opening

Engineer Akilaba, Director, opened the 8th ICA Africa Regional at the Abuja International Conference Centre, Nigeria. Eng. Akilaba represented the Hon. Minister in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. In his opening remarks he called upon the co-operative movement to help complement government efforts in areas of poverty reduction and food security. To meet this challenge the co-operative movement should reform.

The official opening ceremony also had the following key speakers:

- Co-operative Federation of Nigeria (CFN) President, Sir Clement Ayoola, who welcomed participants to Nigeria, and gave a status and challenges of the Nigerian movement. He challenged co-operatives in his country to focus on food production rather than oil drilling.
- The ICA Africa President, Stanley Muchiri, highlighted the significant role of co-operatives in



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job creation in the world.

- ICA Director-General, Iain Macdonald, focused on the strength of the co-operative movement, especially in this time of economic crisis. State control of co-operatives is not viable. Businesses should be run by the values and principles of co-operatives.
- The representative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Dr. Emmanuel Kamdem, focused on collaboration between the ILO, the Pan African Conference and ICA. He also stated that it is time to rediscover co-operatives in economic and social development.
- A vote of thanks was given by Tom Wakigoma, Chairman of the Uganda Co-operative Alliance (UCA).

Min1/1/2008 Regional Assembly called to order

The 8th ICA Africa Regional Assembly was called to order by the ICA Africa President, Stanley Muchiri, in his capacity as Chairperson at 16.35 hrs.

He welcomed all delegates, officials and observers to the meeting and thanked the Nigerian co-operators for their hospitality and was confident that the meeting would be another success.

Min2/2008 Approval of the Agenda

The draft Agenda was presented and approved.

Motion proposed by Hassan Wakasuvi from Tanzania and seconded by Albert Prempeh from Ghana.

Min 3/2008 Confirmation of the previous Minutes of the 7th ICA Africa Regional Assembly

The Chairperson led the delegates page by page through the Minutes of the Arusha Regional Assembly.

Amendments: a) On page 4, the Tanzanian representative who addressed the Assembly was Chief Executive and not Chairperson. b) UCA General Secretary proposed that in future draft minutes be signed by the Chairperson and Regional Director in conformity with standard procedures.

The Minutes of the 7th ICA Africa Regional Assembly were approved as amended to be a true record.

Motion proposed by Japheth Magomere of Kenya and seconded by Sir Clement Ayoola of Nigeria.

Min 4/2008 Matters Arising

Since matters arising were covered by substantive items on the agenda no matters were raised.



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Min 5/2008 Address by Iain Macdonald, ICA Director-General

Iain Macdonald, Director-General of ICA, spoke about the restructuring of the ICA, the Global Strategy Plan, and the services that the ICA offers.

Min 6/2008 Address by Professor Suleman A. Chambo on Restructuring of ICA Africa

Professor Chambo opened his presentation that Africa cannot support failures, only successes. He noted that development used to be driven by partners, but now African countries must drive the process themselves. He affirmed that ICA has had a huge role in the history of the co-operative movement in Africa through its research, education, training, lobbying and advocacy; nonetheless, all these have been funded by development partners.

He then presented the Members Forum Report which stated the problems and potentials of co-operatives in Africa and the role of ICA Africa office. The severe financial problems of ICA Africa were caused largely because the office used to be supported by strong unions/apexes which declined in financial performance then stopped paying ICA annual subscriptions.

To overcome the financial challenges of the office, the Members Forum recommended the establishment of an Endowment Fund. The Fund will provide the office with more flexibility to respond to and adapt to changes. It will attract professional management staff, allow for sustainable funding without continuous member contributions, and will cover basic staff costs so that the office can carry out activities. The income (interest) made on the fund will be spent every year but not the principal.

The Endowment Fund will be started in Abuja. The Co-operative Bank of Kenya will be the custodian of the fund. The leadership of Nigeria will guide the process and as a symbolic show of support, Professor Chambo gave the first 1,000 naira.

Pledges and contributions made:

- Co-operative Federation of Nigeria launched the fund with USD 5,000 (600,000 naira) and will work to increase the membership of the ICA following year.
- 1,000 naira from Tom Tar, CEO of CFN
- 1,000 naira from Sir Clement Ayoola
- 1,000 naira from Mr Muchiri personally. Mr Muchiri will talk to his Board of Directors about how much the Co-operative Bank of Kenya will contribute.
- \$1,000 from the Tanzania Federation of Co-operatives
- \$3,000 from the Uganda Co-operative Alliance
- \$1,000 from the African Co-operative Conference
- \$100 from the Kingdom of Lesotho. Mr. Matla, the Assistant Minister promised to organize the movement in Lesotho when he returns.
- Mr Prempeh will speak with the Board of the Ghana Co-operative Council about their contribution. 1,000 naira from Mr Prempeh.
- \$5,000 from Nelson Kuria, CIC of Kenya



Minutes, cont.

Vincent Lubasi and Tom Tar were to collect the cash donations and give to ICA Africa office management.

Professor Chambo later presented the ICA Africa Strategy Plan, explaining that the Framework is the same as the global Strategy Plan; however, the Strategic Initiatives are different for each regional office.

Min 7/2008 Report from ICA Africa

Jan-Eirik Imbsen, Interim Director of ICA Africa gave his report on ICA Africa. He spoke of the restructuring of the ICA and reported that the restructuring was a focused process aimed at re-establishing ICA Africa as a member driven organisation of the African co-operative movement that contributes to co-operative development in the Africa region, through a delivery of relevant services that add value to membership and to partners' co-operative development programmes. He stressed that member involvement and support was a must for the successful restructuring of ICA and emphasised the importance of increased membership in Africa and that organisations can take advantage of the global co-operative network when they become members.

The Regional Director's Report was adopted.

Motion proposed by Magomere, Co-operative Insurance Company of Kenya (CIC) and seconded by Wakavasu of Tanzania Federation of Co-operatives (TFC)

Min 8/2008 Conclusions and Recommendations of the Workshops and Side Events

- The Members workshop report presented by Agnes Namuhisa of Tanzania was accepted as a true record of what was covered on the 1st day.
- Namaka Tamarana from Lesotho presented the gender report. Dr. Esther Gicheru, Africa Gender Committee Chairperson, from Kenya, presented a regional Gender Strategy Framework for adoption by the Regional Assembly.
- The ICA Africa 4 Year Strategy Plan was presented by Prof. Chambo from Tanzania and approved.
- Francis Munyao of CIC Kenya presented the report of the discussions about the role and operations of ILO's COOPAfrica project.

Min 9/2008 Adoption of the new ICA Africa Four Year Strategy Plan

Professor Chambo summarized the discussions stating that the conclusions given were based on an analysis by members of ICA Africa. He recommended that instead of fundraising, an Endowment Fund should be established. A task force will produce a concept note.

The Strategy Plan was approved by acclamation.



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Min 10/2008 Elections and Nominations

Tom Wakigona of the Uganda Co-operative Alliance (UCA) chaired the session. He stated that with the challenges facing ICA Africa the Regional Assembly should elect men and women who were going to take the Regional Office forward.

Vincent Lubasi, ICA Senior Adviser, outlined the election procedures which were approved by the Executive Committee on 12 November 2008. The current Executive Committee, hereafter named the Regional Board, was elected at the Cape Verde Regional Assembly in 2004. Individuals are elected for four-year terms and may be re-elected. In August, 2008 the Regional Director announced the elections and invited nominations. Three names were received:

- Candidate for ICA Africa President (who becomes the Vice President on the ICA Global Board):
- Mr. Stanley Charles Muchiri, nominated by the Co-operative Bank of Kenya
- Two candidates for the Regional Board:
- Sir Clement Ayoola nominated by the Co-operative Federation of Nigeria and
- Mr Patrick Kavishe nominated by the Tanzania Federation of Co-operatives.

The Executive Committee recommended that nominations be received from the floor. The following fully-paid up members could nominate a candidate for the Executive Board:

- Uganda Co-operative Alliance
- Tanzania Federation of Co-operatives
- The Mauritius Co-operative Union Ltd. (MCUL)
- Co-operative Bank of Kenya
- CIC Kenya
- Co-operative Federation of Nigeria

The following were duly elected by the Regional Assembly:

- Stanley Muchiri, Chairman of the Co-operative Bank of Kenya
- Sir Clement Ayoola, Chairman of the Co-operative Federation of Nigeria
- Mr A. P. M. Kavishe, Kilimanjaro Native Co-operative Union representing the Tanzania Federation of Co-operatives
- Mr Japheth A. Magomere, Chairman, The Co-operative Insurance Company of Kenya
- Mr Tibamwenda Tom Wa-Kighoma, Chairman, Uganda Co-operative Alliance

It was recommended that the Regional Board may co-opt candidates from other regions of Africa if the members are fully paid. This was accepted by the Regional Assembly.

Stanley Muchiri, ICA Africa President, on behalf of his colleagues thanked the Regional Assembly for electing the new Board. The challenges ahead are enormous. In order to increase membership he challenged each Board member to recruit two members before the next Regional



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Assembly. He also thanked the delegates for the mandate to co-opt members from sub-regions which are not represented in order to have a Board that represents all the regions of Africa.

Min 11/2008 ICA Membership Policy and Recruitment Drive

Gretchen Warner, Membership & Development Manager of the ICA, presented the ICA's new membership policy and urged organisations to join the ICA.

Min 12/2008 Report on ICA Service Delivery including Development Projects

Stephen Kiwanuka, Project Manager for ICA Africa, gave a report on ICA's service delivery and development projects.

Min 13/2008 Information on Future Meetings

The next three meetings will be discussed by the new Regional Board:

- Date and Venue of the African Co-operative Ministers Conference in 2009: Kenya or Uganda in October.
- Date and Venue of 9th Regional Assembly
- ICA Africa Members Forum

The ICA General Assembly in 2009 will be in Scotland. The theme is Business and Sustainability through Responsibility.

Min 14/2008 Date and Venue of the 2010 Regional Assembly

It was agreed that the venue and date of the 9th ICA Africa Regional Assembly will be decided at the Members' Forum in 2009

Min 15/2008 Any Other Business

Jan-Eirik Imbsen, Interim Regional Director, asked the Regional Assembly to approve Professor Suleman Chambo as the Representative on the COOPAfrica Steering Committee. Prof Chambo's representation on the Steering Committee was approved.

Tom Tar, CEO of CFN, announced the collections for the Endowment Fund. (The following was given in cash:

- 17,000 naira
- CHF 10,000
- 100 USD

Pledges included:

- USD 5,000 from CFN

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- USD 5,000 from CIC Kenya
- USD 3,000 from UCA
- USD 1,000 from the Pan African Conference
- USD 1,000 from TFC

Total USD 15,000

The UCA suggested that each ICA member contribute a flat rate in order to realize the fund.

Min 16/2008 Closing Remarks

Closing remarks were made by the Chairman of CFN, the Regional Director, the ICA Africa President and the Assistant Minister of Trade and Industry, Co-operatives and Marketing.

The CFN Chairman, Sir Clement Ayoola called on the delegates to help in recruiting more members by talking to their neighbours. If Africa becomes strong we can participate in many activities at the global level.

Jan-Eirik Imbsen thanked the Regional Assembly for standing up and being willing to take action. He said that ICA staff will do whatever they can to fulfill the vision expressed by the Regional Assembly.

The ICA Africa President challenged the co-operatives in Africa to ensure good governance at all levels.

In conclusion, the Minister from Lesotho, Hon. Mahtla Khotso thanked the Nigerian co-operators for coming in large numbers to be with their colleagues from other parts of Africa. He summarised the highlights of the week and called the participants to go back home and implement what had been agreed.

There being no other business, the 8th ICA Africa Regional Assembly was adjourned at 17:19 hrs.

More Information on last Regional Assembly?

For more information and documentation on the last Regional Assembly, visit <http://www.ica.coop/africa/ra2008/index.html>



INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE Regional Office for Africa

House No. 11, Lenana Road - Milimani, P.O. Box 67595,
Nairobi 00200, Kenya
Tel: +254 20 2711959 -- Fax: +254 20 2711959 --
Email: ica@icaafrica.coop Website: www.icaafrica.coop

