



## ICA General Assembly, Seoul (Korea) Resolutions Adopted 17 October 2001

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### **Co-operative Policy and Legislation**

*Submitted by the ICA Board*

The ICA General Assembly,

NOTES the importance of appropriate national and local co-operative policies and legislation for the establishment and development of co-operatives,

RECOGNISES the significant efforts of the ICA in working with international bodies to promote better understanding of co-operatives and ensuring that policy and legislation does not hinder co-operatives' ability to serve their membership,

COMMENDS the International Labour Office (ILO) and the United Nations (UN) for their efforts in putting forward policy statements and documents that will assist governments to better understand the role and of co-operatives and the government – co-operative relationship,

FURTHER COMMENDS the ICA for its support to co-operative legislative issues and endorses the Guidelines for Co-operative Legislation,

COMMITTS ICA on behalf of and with the active participation of member organisations to continue its work with the ILO and UN in the formulation, finalisation and implementation of policy instruments on co-operatives including the revision of ILO Recommendation 127. This should be done through a specific working group, representative of ICA member organisations and specialised bodies.

CALLS ON each ICA member organisation to take contact with their government to ensure that they are aware of the initiatives taken by the ILO and UN with regard to co-operatives and that they support the following:

1. The definition of a co-operative as: 'an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise'.
2. The recognition of the Co-operative Values and Principles with special emphasis on the fact that co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members.
3. Governmental policies should create enabling environments to enable the growth of co-operatives taking into consideration the special character of the co-operative model of enterprise, its goals and contributions to the economic and social development of local communities and countries.
4. Governments should in collaboration with co-operative organisations identify and remove obstacles that persist and do not allow co-operatives to compete on a real equal footing with other forms of enterprise.