



ICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Geneva, Switzerland

Towards a Sustainable Energy Economy Resolution adopted unanimously on 20 November 2009

The ICA at its General Assembly in Geneva on 20 November 2009,

ACKNOWLEDGING that the world faces unprecedented threats of global economic failure, rising energy prices and real time impacts of climate change on the earth's ecosystems, particularly on agriculture and food production,

RECOGNISING that policy-makers lack a clear economic vision and plan of action to address the challenges of global economic recovery, energy security and climate change for the 21st century,

NOTING that renewable forms of energy—solar, wind, hydro, geothermal and biomass – are becoming increasingly competitive and that to maximise the potential of intermittent renewable energies, an enhanced energy infrastructure and storage technologies will need to be developed,

FURTHER NOTING that residential, commercial and industrial buildings worldwide consume a significant percentage of all energy produced and therefore represent a major opportunity for energy innovation through efficiency improvements and on-site generation,

CONSIDERING that a reconfiguration of the power grid that takes advantage of new communication technologies will allow enterprises and individuals to have much greater control over their future energy use,

BELIEVING that if millions of individuals and communities around the world take control of their own energy future through the local commitment to renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency improvements, the result would be a profound shift in the configuration of power where local peoples would be less subject to the will of remote decision-making and communities would be better enabled to produce goods and services locally, thus contributing to a democratisation of the energy sector and to sustainable economic development worldwide,

RECOGNISING that co-operatives with their unique set of values and principles as well as their geographical coverage are particularly well placed to lead this initiative,

CALLS on ICA members and the worldwide co-operative movement to play a central role in fostering new frameworks for the democratisation of energy by engaging co-operatives in all sectors to encourage the implementation of a renewable energy/energy efficiency vision.