



Join the
International
Cooperative
Alliance:
**Be part
of the global
cooperative
movement!**

The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) unites, represents and serves cooperatives worldwide. Founded in 1895, it is one of the oldest non-governmental organisations and one of the largest ones measured by the number of people represented: more than 12% of humanity. It is the apex body representing cooperatives, providing a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and co-ordinated action for and about cooperatives.

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The global cooperative network

Over 300 organisations from over 100 countries are members of the ICA. The International Cooperative Alliance's members are international and national cooperative organisations from all sectors of the economy, namely agriculture, banking, consumer, fisheries, health, housing, insurance, and industry & services.

Cooperative identity

The ICA is the guardian of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity, which includes a definition, 10 values and 7 operational principles: it is the minimum common denominator for all cooperatives in all sectors and all regions.

A rooted structure

To implement its activities, the ICA is organised with a global office based in Brussels, four regional offices (Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, and Europe), eight global sectoral organisations (agriculture, banking, retail, fisheries, health, housing, insurance, and industry & services), and five committees and networks (gender, research, law, youth, and development).

A committed team

The staff of the ICA and of its regional and sectoral bodies are based in various locations around the globe and are committed to helping members and the cooperative movement.

Why is it important to be a member of the ICA?

We provide members with a global reach to strengthen your movement locally:

Global networking

Meet and share ideas with the largest range of organisations and cooperatives in terms of sectors and size.

Global best practice

Improve the performance of your cooperative organization by learning and adopting the latest best practices globally in cooperative governance, funding, marketing, etc.

Global representation

Ensure issues important to your business sector and the cooperative movement are understood and acted on at a global level with representation at the United Nations, G20, etc.

Global decision-making

Ensure that you take part in the global decision-making process regarding the strategy of the international cooperative movement.

As the global voice for the cooperative movement, the ICA is committed to representing your interests and those of cooperative organisations worldwide. We look forward to your joining us.



Who is eligible?



We offer two types of membership:

1 Full Members with voting rights can be cooperatives and organisations that unite or federate cooperatives, at the national or international level.

2 Associate Members can be other types of organisations that support cooperatives.

Those eligible to become full Members are:

- ∞ National union or federation of cooperative organisations
- ∞ National confederation of cooperative unions (apex organisations)
- ∞ National cooperative business organisation with majority individual ownership (a cooperative society working at the national level whose members are not only people but can also be enterprises - i.e. a mixed membership cooperative)
- ∞ Individual cooperative organisation (primary or grassroots cooperatives)
- ∞ International and regional (supranational) federations or unions of cooperative organisations (organisations with membership in multiple countries)
- ∞ Mutual organisations that comply with the ICA Statement on Cooperative Identity.

Those eligible to become Associate Members are organisations that are not otherwise eligible to be full members, including:

- ∞ **Organisations that are supporters of cooperatives**
- ∞ **Government departments and agencies:** Organisations that are owned and controlled by cooperatives (entities that are not coops themselves but that are owned entirely by cooperatives (not individuals))
- ∞ **Educational, research and other institutions that promote or finance cooperatives** and the cooperative movement (training institutions and semi-autonomous institutions with no cooperative members)
- ∞ **Organisations entitled to full member status, but that are not ready to apply for full membership** (for a limited time).

Please note that full membership requires applicants to be representative of the cooperative movement in their country, such as having membership in more than one region, having a significantly large membership base, or representing many sectors. Applicants should also be well established and have the capacity to pay their subscriptions as well as participate in the regional or global General Assemblies.

How to apply



What is the cost of Membership?

Membership dues are calculated based on subscription formulae for Members and on a flat fee scale Associate Members, as described in the ByLaws.

Members pay an annual subscription based on the number of their individual members (number of individuals they represent through their member societies).

Contact us for a quote.

How do we apply?

Candidates for membership must fill in a Membership Application Form in English, French or Spanish and submit it with required documents.



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To learn more and start the application process, contact :

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