



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

**The International Cooperative Alliance** 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: there are more than one billion cooperative members on the planet. It is the apex body representing cooperatives at the global level, 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 International Cooperative Alliance. The ICA's members are international and national cooperative organisations from all sectors of the economy.

## **Cooperative identity**

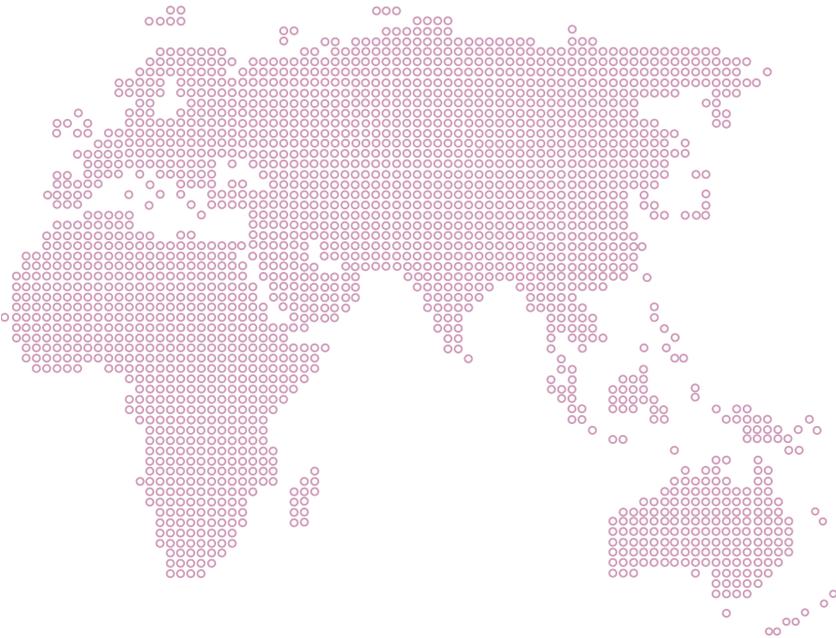
The ICA is the guardian of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity, which includes a definition, 10 values and 7 operational principles: it is the minimum common denominator for all cooperatives in all sectors and all regions.

## **A rooted structure**

To implement its activities, the International Cooperative Alliance 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 Thematic 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.



# Benefits of Membership



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.



# Policy & Legislation



The ICA represents its members and the wider cooperative movement towards international organisations, advocating for their concerns and interests in global policy. The ICA was one of the first organisations recognised as having consultative status with the United Nations in 1946 and also has long-standing agreements of partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), in the latter case since 1920. In addition, the ICA has established relationships with the B20, World Bank, and others.

Advocacy and representation are also done at regional and sectoral level by the ICA's regional and sectoral bodies: the regional bodies directly influence regional institutions such as the European Union, Mercosur, the African Union, ASEAN, and the sectoral ones directly influence international organizations of a sectoral nature like the World Health Organization.

As an example, it was thanks to the advocacy efforts of the international cooperative movement coordinated by the ICA that the ILO approved, in 2002, its Recommendation 193 on the promotion of cooperatives. More recently, the ICA secured the recognition of cooperatives as partners for the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, as well as the Guidelines on the Cooperative Statistics by the ILO's International Conference of Labour Statisticians

Members also have access to and are able to participate in different expert groups, networks, conferences and more. This participation enables them to provide opinions and recommendations on issues that affect cooperatives and to have access to knowledge, contacts and expertise.

In different regions, the ICA periodically convenes ministerial or parliamentarians' conferences where members, ministers, parliamentarians and senior government representatives agree on common strategies for cooperative development to improve their socio-economic conditions and more specifically of women and youth, and to advance reform in policy, legal and financial areas. Ministerial conferences provide the opportunity for government to express their support for key reform and enabling strategies, which also include the presentation of country reports.

The ICA participates in several high-level platforms to increase the cooperative movement's influence in policy processes: the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy ([UN SSE, www.unsse.org](http://www.unsse.org)), and the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC, [www.copac.coop](http://www.copac.coop)).

# Membership for government entities



## How do we apply?

National-level government entities are eligible as Associate Members. The annual subscription fee for government entities is set according to the members country level in the World Bank Country Income Index:

World Bank Country Income Index Level	Annual subscription (in Swiss francs)
Low	CHF 3,000
Low middle	CHF 5,000
Upper middle	CHF 7,000
High	CHF 10,000

Candidates for membership must fill in a Membership Application Form in English, French or Spanish. Government entities do not need to submit the required documents if they are not applicable.



Avenue Milcamps 105, 1030 Brussels, Belgium  
T +32.2.743.10.30 | [ica@ica.coop](mailto:ica@ica.coop)  
[www.ica.coop](http://www.ica.coop)      

To learn more and start  
the application process, contact :

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**Mrs Gretchen Hacquard**  
**Director of Membership**  
**International Cooperative Alliance**

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[hacquard@ica.coop](mailto:hacquard@ica.coop)