



INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

General Assembly – Seoul – 17 October 2001



Draft Minutes

1. Opening

The ICA President, Mr. Roberto Rodrigues wished all warmly welcome to the General Assembly 2001 and called the General Assembly to order.

Before turning to the business at hand, the President asked the Assembly to stand and observe a minute of silence in recognition of the following co-operators that had passed away: Mr. G.K. Sharma, Mr. Yvon Daneau, Sir Robert Southern, Mr. Peter Soiland and Mr. Jack Shaffer and in recognition of the victims of the tragic events in the United States.

The ICA President announced that this Assembly was well attended with 216 representatives, with 12% of the representatives being women; 410 observers, with 26% women; 12 guests, 9 members of the press and 37 personal interpreters.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The President suggested the following changes to the agenda that had been circulated prior to the Assembly:

- that there be no reporting from the business forums during the meeting – the conclusions will be made available on the ICA website
- that the amendments of the Standing Orders be discussed prior to the presentation of the candidates to the elections.

There being no other proposed changes the General Assembly approved the amended agenda by acclamation.

3. Draft Minutes of the General Assembly in Quebec in 1999

The draft minutes were approved by acclamation.

4. Report of the ICA President

The President said he would be brief as the delegates had already received a written summary of his activities in the last two years since the Québec General Assembly. Since the Assembly in Québec in 1999 the President has been participating in approximately 234 international events as well as in 137 national events in his home country, Brazil. During this two-year period he has embarked on 58 working visits and visited 38 countries. One of these meetings was about sustainable agriculture, “The Best Usage of National Resources to Ensure the Food Production Cycle”, promoted by United Nations Committee for Sustainable Agriculture. The meeting was held in New York in April 2000. It was important that the co-operative

movement participated in that meeting. In Québec a document named “Vision Statement for 2005” and an action plan was approved. We have been implementing that action plan and the ICA Board has confirmed the new administrative structure according to the four focus areas: Co-operative Identity; International Co-operative Presence; Development; Membership/ Networking with Communication as an important cross-cutting issue. During the year 2000/2001, the implementation has been underway and it is expected that the new Presidency and Board Members will continue the task. Another very important issue has been the discussions in Geneva last June on the Review of the ILO Recommendation 127 and this is an issue for comments to be taken up later on in this Assembly. About membership there are some interesting figures. At the beginning of the mandate of this Board that finishes today, we have 253 members representing a 13% increase. There have also been other changes. Until 1997, ICA was operated very centrally, specialized organizations were like satellites revolving around ICA, and today ICA has institutional co-operation with clearly all the specialized organizations. Another issue has been the creation of the Rochdale Pioneers Prize that has been awarded this year to DR. Kurien from India.

Now let me finish this short report with some comments about ICA’s financial situation. The draft final accounts for 2000 as presented is showing a loss of almost 1.2 million Swiss Francs, wiping out literally all of ICA’s reserves. The losses come from payments to Mr. Bruce Thordarson and Ms. Mary Treacy, totaling 485.000 Swiss Francs. Deficits in the Regional Office for the Americas, 392.905 Swiss Francs; for the Regional Office for Asia & the Pacific, 144.000 Swiss Francs; for the Regional Office for Eastern, Central & Southern Africa, 29.000 Swiss Francs; and for the Regional Office for West Africa, 61.000 Swiss Francs. The Secretariat has worked hard to re-plan and re-budget. Close monitoring and control has been exercised. At the Finance Committee meeting in September the projected result for 2001 indicated a small surplus meaning that the bloodletting seems to have been stopped. The Director-General, Karl-Johan Fogelstrom in his report now, will present a more detailed report.

Thank you and please DG give your report.

5. Report of the Director-General

The Director-General highlighted the four major focus areas of ICA’s work: Enhancing co-operative identity, Promoting international co-operative representation and presence, Support to co-operative development and Networking – keeping the ICA family together. He commented upon ICA’s deep involvement in the work with the revision of ILO Recommendation 127. Finally he commented upon ICA’s financial situation and the Board Motion to the General Assembly on ICA’s Financial Situation.

6. Report of the Independent Auditor

The Auditor in charge of Ernst & Young, Mr. Mark Hawkins commented upon the financial statements for the years 1999 and 2000. The consolidated statements for the two years present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the International Co-operative Alliance as of December 31, 2000 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Accounting Standards.

7. Report of the Audit & Control Committee

The Chairman of the Audit & Control Committee, Mr. Ivar O. Hansen, commented upon the way the Audit & Control Committee had worked, the financial problems encountered by the ICA as well as the sources for the deficits. He also read out the recommendations to the new Board given in the Audit & Control Committee's Report for the Years 1999 and 2000.

Finally, Mr. Hansen, on behalf of the Audit & Control Committee, submitted the recommendation to the General Assembly to approve the audited accounts for the years 1999 and 2000.

The General Assembly approved the ICA annual accounts for the years 1999 and 2000 and the report of the Audit and Control Committee.

8. Ratification of the appointment of Mr. Karl-Johan Fogelstrom to Director-General ICA

The General Assembly approved by acclaim the ratification of the appointment of Mr. Karl-Johan Fogelstrom as Director-General of the ICA.

9. Amendments to Standing Orders

The Board on further examination proposed to withdraw the proposed amendment to the ICA Standing Orders, paragraph 4 of Section III of Standing Orders.

The General Assembly agreed not to amend paragraph 4 of Section III.

The second amendment related to paragraph 20 of Section IV of Standing Orders. The proposal was to delete all after the first sentence and substitute " a ballot shall be held on the recommendation of the Board or on the demand of five member organizations"

The amended Standing Order will then read-

"All motions shall in the first instance be submitted to the vote by a show of hands. A ballot shall be held on the recommendation of the Board or on the demand of five member organizations"

The General Assembly agreed to amend paragraph 20 of Section IV of Standing Orders as read above.

10. Presentation of Board and Audit & Control Committee Candidates

The candidates present introduced themselves to the General Assembly.

11. Elections

11.1. Election of ICA President

The sole candidate for the Presidency of the ICA Mr. Ivano Barberini, of Legacoop, Italy was elected by acclaim.

11.2. Ratification of elections of ICA Vice-Presidents

The General Assembly ratified by acclamation the elections of the four Vice-Presidents, Ousseynou Dieng as Vice-President for Africa, Mr. Miguel Cardozo as Vice-President for the Americas, Mr. Mu Li as Vice-President for Asia & the Pacific and Mr. Lars Hillbom as Vice-President for Europe.

11.3. Election of ICA Board Members

The following candidates for the Board were elected to the Board:

Ms. Rahaiah Baهران, ANGKASA, Malaysia; Mr. Chung Dae-kun, National Agricultural Co-operative Federation, Korea; Mr. Jean-Claude Dettileux, Groupement National des Cooperatives, France; Mr. Steinar Dvergsdal, Federation of Norwegian Agricultural Co-operatives, Norway; Mr. Valentin Ermakov, Centrosojuz of the Russian Federation, Russia; Ms. Pauline Green, Co-operative Union, UK; Mr. Mutsumi Harada, Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives, Japan; Mr. Jens Heiser, GdW Bundesband deutscher Wohnungsunternehmen; Mr. Hosea Kiplagat, Co-operative Bank of Kenya, Kenya; Ms. Stefania Marcone, AGCI/Legacoop & CONFCOOPERATIVE Italy; Mr. David Miller, Nationwide, USA; Mr. Yehudah Paz, Central Union of Co-operative Societies, Israel; Mr. Sawai Singh Sisodia, National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI), India; Mr. Glen Tully, Conseil Canadien de la Cooperation (CCC) / Canadian Co-operative Association, Canada; and Mr. Americo Utumi, Organisation of Cooperatives, Brazil.

11.4. Election of Audit & Control Committee Members

The following candidates were elected to the Audit & Control Committee:

Mr. Pal Bartus, Co-op Hungary, Hungary; Mr. Jakub Janiak, National Auditing Union of Workers' Co-operatives, Poland; Mr. Wilhelm Kaltenborn, Gesamtverband deutscher Konsumgenossenschaften (GDK), Germany; Ms. Gun-Britt Martensson, HSB: Riksförbundet (Union of Housing Co-operatives), Sweden; and Mr. Shigenori Takemoto, Japanese Consumer Cooperative Union (JCCU), Japan.

12. Motions/Resolutions

12.1 ICA's Financial Stability

The representative for Folksam, Sweden, Mr. Ellis Wohlner proposed an amendment to the motion submitted by the Board in the form of three additional points. The proposal was approved by the General Assembly and the Board Motion on ICA's Financial Stability (Appendix 1) was unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

12.2 Food Security

The motion (Appendix 1) was unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

12.3 Co-operative Advantage

The motion (Appendix 1) was unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

12.4 Peace and Democracy

The motion (Appendix 1.) was unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

12.5 Co-op Policy and Legislation

The Motion (Appendix 1) was unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

12.6 .coop

The Motion (Appendix 1) was unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

12.7 Rio Co-operative Declaration

The Motion (Appendix 1) was unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

13. Future Meetings

The General Assembly noted with thanks the offer from the Norwegian Co-operative Movement to host the ICA General Assembly 2003 in Oslo, Norway in September 2003.

The General Assembly decided to hold the next ICA General Assembly in Oslo, Norway in September 2003.

14. Closing of the General Assembly

The outgoing ICA President, Mr. Roberto Rodrigues congratulated Mr. Ivano Barberini, the four Vice-Presidents, and the incoming Board and Audit & Control Committee members. He wished them all success in their new mandates.

Mr. Rodrigues then invited Ms. Stefania Marcone of Legacoop to the podium, where she made a presentation of the incoming ICA President, Mr. Ivano Barberini. Mr. Barberini made a brief presentation highlighting issues he considered important in his new function as ICA President.

Mr. Roberto Rodrigues on behalf of the General Assembly expressed his sincere appreciation to the host, the National Agricultural Co-operative Federation of Korea for their tremendous efforts. The efficient arrangements had enabled ICA to have a very successful meeting. He also thanked Mr. Chung Dae-Kun, Chairman of NACF, and Mr. Churll-Hee Won, ICA Board member and Mr. Shil-Kwan Lee and all their hard working staff.

Mr. Rodrigues also thanked all the ICA staff for their hard work in making the event a success. He further thanked the interpreters who had facilitated the discussions during the meetings. And finally, he thanked all the ICA members that had come to Seoul in such large numbers: “It is only through your continued support that ICA can carry out its role – and it is thanks to you that the ICA exists. I hope you all feel that our meetings here have been worthwhile and I count on you all in implementing the decisions that have been taken together here. The future of Co-operation is in your hands. Let us join together to make the co-operative difference to our members, our communities, our nations, our regions and the world.”

Mr. Rodrigues wished all a safe trip home to all and declared the ICA General Assembly 2001 officially closed.

Roberto Rodrigues
ICA President

Karl-Johan Fogelstrom
Director-General ICA



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

**1**

ICA Financial Stability

Submitted by the ICA Board

The ICA General Assembly,

DECLARES that ICA is indispensable for the co-operatives in the world as an advocate, promoter and defender of the co-operative identity, as the global representative for the co-operatives in international fora, as a promoter of co-operative development in developing countries and in countries in transition, and as the focal point in the vast network of co-operatives representing various sectors in the whole world.

NOTES that ICA has experienced a very difficult year 2000 and that all ICA member organisations, through the ICA Annual Report 2000, have received information about the financial result for the year 2000 and the main sources for the deficit.

NOTES that during this ICA General Assembly 2001 the representatives have received information about the reasons for the deficit and information about the measures taken and planned to be taken by the ICA Board and the Secretariat to rectify the situation.

NOTES that the projection of the financial result for 2001 indicates that ICA is achieving balance between revenues and expenditures, but that ICA's liquidity situation, as a result of the deficits, has developed in a negative direction requiring urgent action.

RECOGNISING that the ICA Board has decided to create a Task Force to be appointed without delay by the new Board among the ICA Board members to work together with the Director-General ICA to restructure, reform and improve the efficiency of the work of ICA in its entirety, to review its financial, organisational and subscription frameworks and relationships between the central and regional offices and report by 1 December 2001.

RECOGNISING that the ICA Board has decided that ICA shall reduce its expenditures by 10% in 2002.

ASKS, to approve the following measures in order to restore ICA's financial stability:

1. a 10% increase of the annual subscription fee, including the minimum as well maximum level subscription, for the year 2002 and onwards;
2. that ICA member organisations pay the increased subscription fee in advance upon receipt of invoice by end of October/early November 2001, and not later than 31 December 2001. In extraordinary cases the payment can be made in two instalments of 30% immediately, with the balance, 70%, paid by 31 December 2001;
3. that immediate firm action to be taken to recover as much as possible of the CHF 400,000 in unpaid subscriptions; or that memberships be terminated in accordance with Article 7A of the ICA Rules;
4. that lists be published before each year's Regional/General Assembly of organisations not meeting their obligations;

5. that Board members whose organisations do not meet their obligations in full are automatically excluded from Board meetings / activities.

2**Food Safety**

Submitted by the Japanese Consumer Co-operative Union JCCU

The ICA General Assembly,

NOTES that one of the outcomes of the globalising economy is the harmonisation of national food safety standards by international bodies inter alia the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission,

COMMENDS the ICA for taking initiatives to protect consumer rights and safeguard consumer health by its participation in international bodies dealing with food safety issues,

RECOGNISES the need to push governments and international standards organisations in formulating the international standard to secure food safety,

CALLS ON its member organisations to strengthen the business efforts to provide safe and reliable food and the international co-operation among them,

ASKS that member organisations urge governments and international standards organisations to enhance public trust in food by inter alia:

1. establishing updated legislation and social system for securing food safety to safeguard the public health and intensify the international co-operation concerning food safety;
2. promoting active participation of consumer representatives in policy-making and ensure the transparency of decisions; and intensify such measures in standard setting organizations; and
3. conducting the extensive pre-market evaluation and environmental assessment when introducing Genetically Modified foods, require clear and explicit labelling of GM foods and establish the social system for ensuring IP handling and traceability in the distribution process as a prerequisite for labelling.

PLEDGES to establish consumer rights in food safety and safeguard consumer health, by intensifying efforts to:

1. take initiatives so that consumer health becomes a priority in food standard setting organizations;
2. strengthen the international exchange of information and consultation among co-operatives on the various topics concerning food safety.

3**The Co-operative Advantage***Submitted by the ICA Board*

This General Assembly, meeting in Seoul in October 2001,

NOTES the timely focus on attention given to membership of co-operatives by the presentation at the Quebec Congress in 1999, and

RECOGNISING the opportunities that exist in today's world for the application of Co-operative Principles and the organisational form in helping solve the problems of poverty, health, unemployment and other social ills,

URGES member organisations to give renewed attention to the way in which they can promote the "co-operative advantage" in their communities based on practical examples being followed by other co-operatives, and

REQUESTS that the importance of membership be acknowledged, and consequently be a feature of all development activities.

4**Democracy and Peace***Submitted by the ICA Board*

The ICA General Assembly,

NOTING that the greatest threats to democracy and peace are cultural and religious conflicts, social exclusion and concentration of wealth,

RECOGNISING that co-operatives from all sectors and in countries around the world are generating jobs and, thus combating social and ethnic exclusion; as well as bringing together individuals who are individually weak into enterprises through which and through their strength are capable to face the wealth concentration,

REAFFIRMING that for these reasons, co-operatives are the perfect allies of governments to defend democracy and peace,

CALLS ON members to reaffirm their commitment to democracy and peace, to give greater visibility to the role of co-operatives in defending democracy and peace in a global economy and to include the phrase, "Co-operatives: Democracy and Peace" on their letterhead, envelopes and other official papers,

5**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 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.

6

.coop*Submitted by the ICA Board*

The ICA General Assembly,

WELCOMES the introduction on a new top-level Internet domain name that is restricted for the use of co-operatives,

EXPRESSES its appreciation to the National Co-operative Business Association (NCBA) of the United States for the significant efforts taken to obtain .coop for the use and benefit of the world co-operative movement,

RECOGNISES the effective partnership between ICA and NCBA in the start-up phases of .coop,

WELCOMES a continued active and leading role of the ICA in partnership with NCBA in the development and governance of .coop and its Digital Divide Fund,

CALLS ON all co-operatives within the ICA membership and their associated members to register domain names under .coop to promote their co-operative identity and take advantage of the opportunities that .coop will provide to co-operatives to improve their business efficiency, to have access to products developed specifically for the co-operative market , and to support the creation of a Digital Divide Fund for co-operatives to assist co-operatives in their technological growth.

7

The Rio Co-operative Declaration*Submitted by the ICA Board*

The ICA General Assembly,

AWARE of the support mobilised by ICA members for the Rio Co-operative Declaration of December 2000 which underlines the commitment of co-operatives to contribute to creating a more just, transparent and democratic society in which peace, social justice and respect for the environment reign,

REAFFIRMS ICA's commitment to rally the support of millions of members of co-operatives in the quest for peace, solidarity, equity, justice, equality, environmental protection and sustainable development.

AGREES that the Declaration be formally transmitted to the United Nations to convey to the world community the commitment of the co-operative movement to contribute to a more equitable social, political and economic world order, inspired by the co-operative principles and values.

THE RIO DECLARATION

The International Co-operative Alliance, meeting at RIOCOOP 2000, (3-7 December 2000), under the banner of 'Co-operative identity for the new millennium', noted

Whilst being aware of:

- The situation in which millions of human beings live who are afflicted by poverty, by a lack of employment, lack of adequate housing and by inadequate social welfare systems due to the concentration of wealth, and social exclusion;
- The growing violence due to arms transfers that worsens social conditions as stressed by the International Code of Conduct, initiated by the Commission of Nobel Peace Laureates.
- The serious degradation of the environment that limits the possibility of life for the present generation and for those not yet born, and that threatens the planet that is our only home; and
- The absence of solidarity that characterises this era with the proliferation of anti-social attitudes and conduct with impunity, and that generates public and private corruption, actors which pose an imminent danger to democratic society.

Declared:

1. Its willingness and capacity to contribute for a more just, transparent and democratic society as testified by the daily activities carried out by co-operatives all over the world;
2. Its interest in exhorting governments, political parties, organisations of civil society, and all people who love peace to join forces to fight for the reduction of weapons and the elimination of violence, and to struggle for social justice. We reaffirm at the same time, our disposition as a world organisation to work to generate more employment and decent shelter and to reduce social exclusion;
3. Its willingness to build a society in harmony with nature;
4. Its desire that the co-operative organisation shall continue to contribute to a more equitable social, political and economic world order, inspired by the co-operative principles and values, thereby giving effective support to democratic society; and that,
5. The International Co-operative Alliance assumes the commitment to rally the support of millions of members of co-operatives in the quest for peace, solidarity, equity, justice, equality, environmental protection and sustainable development.