

ICA General Assembly 2009

“Global Crisis — Co-operative Opportunity”

Geneva International Conference Centre
Geneva, Switzerland, 16-20 November 2009



**ica general assembly
geneva 2009**

ICA General Assembly
Meeting Documentation



Contents

Item	Page
General Information	
Governance Issues	
• Suspension of the General Assembly Standing Orders	3
• Distribution of Voting Cards and Ballot Papers	3
• Status of ICA Subscriptions	3
Minutes ICA General Assembly Singapore 2007	4
Minutes ICA Extraordinary General Assembly Rome 2008	7
ICA Board Candidates	
• President	9
• Vice-Presidents	9
• Board Members	10
Sectoralisation and the Implementation of Restructuring	15
ICA Rule: Amendments	
• ICA Rules	18
• ICA Bye-Laws	19
ICA Americas Rules	21
Motions	
• Co-operative Enterprise and the Economic Crisis	24
• Towards a Sustainable Energy Economy	25
• The Co-operative Agenda on Climate Change	26
• Co-operatives and Peace	27
• Co-operatives and Nuclear Disarmament	27

General Information



ICA General Assembly 2009 Venue

**International Convention Centre
Centre International de Conférences de Genève (CICG)
17, rue Varembeé, Geneva, Switzerland**

ICA Registration Desk

The registration desk will be found in the main hall of the CICG (level 0) opposite the main entrance of the conference centre. It will be open for registration at the following times:

- Monday, 16 November, 8:30-18:00
- Tuesday, 17 November, 8:30-18:00
- Wednesday, 18 November, 8:30-18:45
- Thursday, 19 November, 8:00-18:00
- Friday, 20 November, 8:00-11:00 (for registration and distribution of voting cards and ballot papers)





Suspension of General Assembly Standing Orders

In accordance with article 23 of the *ICA Bye-Laws*, the members below requested the suspension of the Standing Orders of the General Assembly to waive the need for the circulation of documentation to members two months before the date of the Assembly (article VI para 7 of the Bye-Laws below) due to technical reasons related to the implementation of restructuring. Nominations for the Board required an extension due to the lack of clarity of how the country option subscription dues payments impacted the eligibility of candidates. This made the circulation of official documentation impossible within the deadline established in the Bye-Laws.

1. All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Co-operatives (China)
2. Caja Popular Mexicana (Mexico)
3. Confederazione Cooperative Italiane (Italy)
4. Conseil Canadien de la Coopération et de la Mutualité (Canada)
5. Cooperativa Universitaria (Paraguay)
6. Co-operative Bank (Kenya)
7. Co-operatives UK (United Kingdom)
8. Federation of Norwegian Agricultural Co-operatives (Norway)
9. Swedish National Tenant-Owner Cooperative Housing Association—HSB Riksförbund (Sweden)
10. Groupement National de la Coopération (France)
11. Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Organisation (India)
12. National Auditing Union of Workers' Co-operatives (Poland)
13. National Co-operative Business Association (USA)
14. Organisation of Co-operatives of Brazil (Brazil)
15. Singapore National Co-operative Federation (Singapore)

Suspension of Standing Orders: Article 23.

No motion to suspend a Standing Order for any purpose will be accepted unless notice in writing is given to the Director-General by not less than 10 representatives, stating the reason for the motion. The motion to suspend Standing Orders is put to the vote after it has been moved and formally seconded and not more than one speech made in opposition. To suspend Standing Orders the motion must be approved by a three-fourths majority. If defeated, no second motion for the same purpose is permitted.

Distribution of Voting Cards and Ballot Papers

Representatives of member organisations will need to pick up ballot papers and voting cards on 20 November prior to the opening of the General Assembly Statutory Business session. These will be available from the ICA Registration Desk at the CICG (conference venue) on level '0' starting at 8:00. Please note that once voting begins, no further voting cards will be distributed.

Each representative will receive the number of voting cards and ballot papers based on the voting entitlement of each member organisation calculated according to the ICA Rules and Bye-Laws.

For ballot votes, representatives will be asked to deposit their ballot papers in the ballot boxes located at the front of the meeting room.

The President may also decide to hold a vote by a show of voting cards.

Outstanding Subscription Payments

Members are reminded that the ICA General Assembly in 2001 adopted the resolution, "ICA's Financial Stability" 2001, which approved the following

*...that lists be published before each year's assembly
of organisations not meeting their subscription obligations...*

Note that according to the ICA Rules, members that have not paid membership dues are not entitled to vote at the ICA General Assembly. See full text of resolution: www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2001/res-financial-stability.pdf





Minutes of the ICA General Assembly Singapore

18-19 October 2007

Opening

The President, Ivano Barberini, opened the General Assembly 2007 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 co-operators who had passed away.



Adoption of the Agenda

The ICA President announced that this Assembly was well attended with a total of 210 representatives, of which 37 or 5.6% were women, 461 observers of which 83 or 5.5% were women, 78 youth delegates of which 36 or 46% were women, 13 guests, 10 members of the press and 40 personal interpreters.

The President reminded the Assembly that the draft agenda had been circulated to members as part of the meeting documentation and could also be found in the registration packs. There being no proposed changes the General Assembly approved the agenda by acclamation.

Draft Minutes of the General Assembly in Cartagena 2005

The draft minutes were approved by acclamation.

Report of the ICA President

The President reported on his activities over the last two years. His report was accepted.

Report of the ICA Director-General

The Director-General reported on the activities of the ICA based on the ICA Annual Reports of 2005 and 2006. His report was accepted.

Report of the Chair of the Audit & Control Committee

Roy Pedersen, Chair of the Audit & Control Committee, presented the audited accounts of 2005 and 2006. The Assembly approved the accounts as presented.

Elections for Board and Audit & Control Committee Vacancies

Mr. S.K. Jakhar, of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Organisation (IFFCO), India, was elected unopposed to the Board.

Mr. M.G.S. de Silva, National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka and Mr. T. Yamashita, Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union (JCCU), Japan, were elected unopposed to the Audit & Control Committee.

Governance Progress Report

Gun-Britt Martensson presented the report of the Governance Working Group. Suspension of Standing Orders was agreed to allow the presentation of the Statutes of Co-operatives Europe, the Agreement with the ICA and associated amendments to the ICA Rules. Alban D'Amours then presented his report from the Restructuring Working Group.

These were agreed.



Minutes of the ICA General Assembly Singapore 18-19 October 2007

Motions and Resolutions

• Climate Change: Our Co-operative Commitment

The ICA General Assembly

AWARE that combating catastrophic climate change is a matter of pressing urgency, **REMINDS** co-operatives everywhere of their responsibility and opportunity to take a leading position in taking action to combat climate change and to reduce its harmful impacts,

CALLS on the ICA and its members to focus on the issue of climate change, which poses a serious threat to peoples throughout the world,

DECLARES that the united and co-ordinated action of ICA members, which collectively equate to the tenth largest economy in the world, will make a significant and appropriate contribution to the cause of reducing future climate change impacts,

COMMITTS, as a part of the international co-operative movement and members of the International Co-operative Alliance, co-operatives to:

- measure and reduce (pro rata) the greenhouse gas emissions that arise as a result of our activities,
- communicate with, inform and motivate members towards a lower carbon lifestyle,
- use political influence and that of co-operative members to encourage our governments to play a constructive part in the Kyoto negotiations now taking place, one that recognises the need for global emissions to reduce significantly and quickly.



• DotCoop

The ICA General Assembly

CONGRATULATES DotCooperation LLC on the extension of its agreement to continue as the Sponsor of the .coop TLD,

NOTES that with the Midcounties Co-operative (UK) serving as the registry operator, the .coop registry is owned and operated 100% by co-operatives,

RECOGNISES the contribution that .coop has made to promoting co-operatives and co-operative identity to peoples around the world since its introduction in 2002,

ASSERTS the importance of co-operatives using .coop as a unifying identity to promote co-operatives and the Co-operative Principles on the Internet - the fastest growing information medium in the world - in order to build awareness of the benefits to people throughout the world of the values of co-operative businesses and organisations,

NOTES the growing involvement of the ICA, particularly its Europe and Americas regions, in promoting the use of .coop by member co-operatives,

CALLS ON all ICA member co-operatives and co-operative organisations, as well as their members and eligible subsidiaries to:

- register their .coop domain names,
- actively use their .coop domain names for their web sites,
- actively use their .coop domain names for their primary email addresses,
- actively use their .coop domain names on all promotional media,
- actively promote the use of .coop domain names for all eligible co-operatives in the region or country,
- actively promote the use of .coop as a way to identify co-operatives on the Internet, and,

URGES all leading co-operatives and co-operative organisations to support and invest in dotCoop in order to:

- ensure a truly multi-national co-operative ownership of .coop as was always intended
- reduce the cost of future registrations to encourage more and wider use of .coop and
- raise the profile of co-operatives and co-operation throughout the world.





Minutes of the ICA General Assembly Singapore 18-19 October 2007 *(continued)*

- **Protecting our children against violence**

The ICA General Assembly

RECOGNISES that there has been a substantial increase in the number of crimes committed by children and adolescents in the last few years all over the world,

IS AWARE that the negative effect of science fiction movies and computer games which contain elements of violence as well as bloody fight shows staged under the title of sports events is an established fact accepted by all the specialists,

APPRECIATES that some toys we give our children affect their development in a negative way and that when family problems and children driven out to the streets are introduced to the picture, violence turns into a world wide culture,

ACKNOWLEDGES that it is becoming urgent that governments should take more social responsibility to solve this problem and that, as co-operatives are also responsible for the development of a sense of peace, love and brotherhood in societies in which they exist, as well as economic development, they should also work together with governments,

FURTHER RECOGNISES the pioneering role of the International Co-operative Alliance in this field will also be considered to be a reflection of the respect to the co-operative values.

CALLS FOR the ICA to work with the United Nations and European Union in order to substantially reduce violence and towards the elimination of child labour.

Rochdale Pioneer Awards 2007

The following persons were presented with the 2007 Rochdale Pioneer Award:

- **Esther Gicheru**, Principal, Co-operative College of Kenya
- **Professor U. A. Aziz**, President, National Co-operative Organisation of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Malaysia
- **Francisco Ceballo Herrero**, Unión de Cooperativas de Consumidores y Usuarios de España - Union of Consumer and User-Owned Co-operatives of Spain (UNCCUE), Spain

Invitation to the General Assembly 2009

A presentation by Co-operative Development Scotland was received by the Assembly who agreed that the General Assembly of 2009 should be held in Glasgow, Scotland.

Closing of the GA Statutory Business

On closing, the President expressed great appreciation to the hosts, Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF), and the entire Co-operative Movement from Singapore for their tremendous efforts. He said that the efficient arrangements had enabled a very successful meeting. He thanked Seah Kian Peng in particular, his organising committee and the Singaporean movement for all their hard work.

The President also thanked ICA staff for their hard work. Thanks went also to the interpreters who had facilitated the discussions and assisted during the meeting.

He finally thanked the ICA members who had come to Singapore in such large numbers. He said that it was only through their continued support that ICA can carry out its role – and it is thanks to them that ICA exists. He said that the future of Co-operation was in the Assembly's hands and asked them to join together to make the co-operative difference to members, communities and nations of the world.



ICA Extraordinary General Assembly Rome (Italy) 5-6 June 2008

Opening

The ICA President, Mr. Ivano Barberini, wished all a warm welcome to the Extraordinary General Assembly 2008 and called the Assembly to order and introduced the podium – Rita Levi Montalcini and representatives of the Italian Co-operative Movement. All strongly welcomed the presence of the global co-operative leaders in Rome. A greetings message was also read out from the President of the Italian Republic.

Following a statement by Li Chunsheng, a minute of silence was observed on behalf of the victims of the Chinese and Myanmar disasters.

Address

Ivano Barberini then addressed the Assembly reminding them of the importance of the business before them. He thanked the members of the Restructuring Working Group for their hard work, the staff, and in particular, Alban D'Amours for his firm, but fair, approach to chairing that body. He felt we now had a proposed structure which would stand ICA in good stead in the future.

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Director-General outlined the timetable for the Assembly explaining the structure of business, documents, seating, voting, tellers and speaking arrangements.

He then introduced a motion on behalf of 15 member organisations requesting the suspension of the ICA Standing Orders. The motion was put forward to waive the need for the circulation of documentation to members two months before the date of the Assembly (article VI para 7 of the Standing Orders) in order to enable the Assembly to consider the ICA Board Report on Restructuring and amendments to the ICA Rules, Policies, Procedures & Standing Orders. The delay was due to the fact that the Restructuring Report was amended and adopted by the ICA Board on 2 April 2008 at its meeting in Washington, DC (USA), and thus required that the decisions taken be incorporated into the document. These decisions also have direct implications for amendments to the ICA Rules, Policies, Procedures and Standing Orders which have also had to be amended to reflect these decisions.

This was unanimously agreed by show of voting cards.

Restructuring Report

The ICA President invited Alban D'Amours, chair of the Restructuring Working Group (pictured right), to introduce the recommendations, subscription formula and guiding principles which were approved by the Board and were being presented for consideration by the General Assembly.

Mr. D'Amours presented and explained the twenty recommendations pertaining to the restructuring of the ICA, a new subscription formula based on membership rather than economic criteria and the implementation plan to transition to the new formula. He also presented a new method of allocating votes among members which like the subscription formula was based on number of members.

The President thanked Alban D'Amours for his in-depth explanation and invited contributions from the floor. He reminded the Assembly that all decisions in connection with the report would be taken on the following day.

Several members took the opportunity to speak for and against the various recommendations.





Minutes of the ICA Extraordinary General Assembly Rome

5-6 June 2008 *(continued)*

Other Issues of Debate

Following the end of the discussion on the restructuring report, Pauline Green reminded delegates to support the campaign conducted by Co-operatives Europe, 'Hands off our Co-ops!'. Jean-Claude Detilleux also provided an update on the work of the International Accounting Standards Working Group and urged support for their work.



Restructuring Decisions

The Director-General informed the Assembly how the voting procedure would be undertaken. He proposed that recommendations from #1 to #20 were taken as one block. This was agreed. The Assembly adopted recommendations #1 through #20 and by a large majority. Recommendation #21 was equally adopted by a large majority.

Following the voting, the President declared that the Restructuring Report had been agreed. He thanked once again Alban D'Amours and the Restructuring Working Group for their work.

Rule changes

The Director-General described how the presentation and voting on the new ICA Rules and Bye-Laws would take place. He then explained each clause to the Assembly and whether amendments had been submitted to the original documentation.

After considerable discussion the ICA Rules and Bye-laws were approved by a large majority.

ICA Board Vacancy

The Assembly elected Mr Won-Byung Choi, Chairperson of the National Agricultural Co-operative Federation (NACF) of Korea, to the ICA Board to fill a board vacancy.

Any other business

Paul Hazen gave a presentation on the proposed Dotcoop Global Award for Co-operative Excellence.



Closing remarks

In closing the meeting the President declared his satisfaction with the proceedings of the past two days.

He thanked the Italian Co-operative Movement for hosting the Extraordinary General Assembly in Rome and noted the excellent arrangements.

He further thanked all participants for their discipline in completing the business at hand and felt that the ICA would benefit in the future from their deliberations.



ICA Board Candidates



The ICA General Assembly will be called on to elect the new ICA Board for the period 2009-2012. Accordingly, the following candidates that were nominated by ICA member organisations, reviewed by the ICA Election Committee who verified and confirmed their eligibility, are presented to the Assembly for consideration.

President

There is one candidate for the ICA Presidency to be voted by a show of voting cards.

- **Pauline Green**

Dame Pauline Green has been part of the Co-operative Movement for the past 35 years from its youth movement to being its advocate on European affairs to the European Parliament as a co-operative member of Parliament. She was Chief Executive and General Secretary of Co-operatives UK, a position she held from 2000 to October 2009. She currently serves as Co-President of Co-operatives Europe and ICA Vice-President for Europe. Dame Pauline has played an active role in the international co-operative movement particularly in Co-operatives Europe and strongly supported the restructuring process of the ICA. If elected, Dame Pauline will step down as ICA Vice-President and Co-President of Co-operatives Europe.

Vice-Presidents

Three of the four ICA Vice-Presidents—Africa, Americas and Asia-Pacific—are to be elected by the Assembly. Pauline Green, Vice-President for Europe was elected by the General Assembly in 2007 for a four-year term ending 2011 and therefore will not be put to election in Geneva.

The vote will be taken by a show of voting cards.

- **Africa: Stanley Muchiri**

Mr. Muchiri was elected by ICA members in the Africa region as President in 2003 and re-elected in 2008. He is currently the Chairperson of the Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd, as well as of the Kenya National Federation of Co-operatives (KNFC), the apex body for co-operatives in Kenya. Prior to joining the Co-operative Bank, Mr. Muchiri served for 22 years as General Manager of the Muranga Farmers' District Co-operative Union Ltd. A certified public accountant, he also studied administration, book-keeping and management. He holds diplomas in Co-operative Management from the ILO International Institute for Advanced Vocational and Technical Training and from the University of Wisconsin (USA).

- **Americas: Ramón Imperial Zuñiga**

Mr. Imperial was elected by ICA members in the Americas region as President of ICA Americas. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Caja Popular Mexicana. He has been active in the co-operative movement since 1987 primarily in the financial sector. He has served as President of the Mexican Association of Savings and Loans Institutions (AMSAP) from 1998-2000 and President of the Confederation of Saving and Credit Co-operatives of Latin America (COLAC) from 2004-2006. He was also member of the Board of the International Raffeissen Union (IRU) from 2004-2006. He has been a member of the ICA Board since 2005. Mr. Imperial has an industrial engineering degree.

- **Asia-Pacific: Li Chunsheng**

Mr. Li Chunsheng was re-elected by ICA members in the Asia-Pacific region as the President of ICA Asia-Pacific, a position he has held since 2005. He is the Vice-President of All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC) and holds a doctorate degree in botany. During his long period of service, he worked with Helihe farm in Heilongjiang Province, Ministry of Forestry, and the State Council in China. During his service in the State Council, he was engaged in strategic planning and policy-making for rural areas and contributed significantly to co-operative development in China. He joined ACFSMC in 1995 and has held a number of positions including Deputy Secretary-General and Director of the Farm Inputs Bureau, Secretary-General, Director of International Co-operation Department and was elected the Vice President of ACFSMC in 2000 and re-elected in 2005.



ICA Board Candidates *(continued)*



Board

The General Assembly will be invited to elect a total of 18 members of the Board—15 persons from the general membership, 2 persons nominated by the ICA Sectoral Organisations (indicated below) and 1 person nominated by youth co-operators (indicated below).

Elections will be undertaken by secret ballot.

- **Jean-Louis Bancel, Nominated by the Sectoral Organisations**

Mr. Bancel has served as the Chairperson of the International Co-operative Banking Association (ICBA) since 2006 and is currently the President of the Crédit Coopératif Group in France. He joined Crédit Coopératif in 2005. Prior to that he was active in the insurance mutual sector serving as Chief Executive Officer of the Fédération Nationale de la Mutualité Française and Secretary-General of the Groupement des Entreprises Mutuelles d'Assurances. In addition, Mr. Bancel has been active in the International Co-operative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF) and its European region (ACME) since 1993. Within ICMIF, he chaired the Development Committee (1999-2001) and was Chair of ICMIF from 2001-2005. He was co-opted to the Board in 2008 representing the sectoral organisations.

- **Kathy Bardswick, Canadian Co-operative Association CCA (Canada)**

Ms. Bardwick is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Co-operators Group Ltd (insurance). She began her career at the *The Co-operators* in 1978. Prior to her appointment as President and CEO in 2002, Ms. Bardwick served as Chief Operating Officer of Sovereign General and l'Union Canadienne, subsidiaries of the The Co-operators. She is Chairperson of the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction and Chair of the International Co-operative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF). In addition, she is a member of the Executive Committee of the Conference Board of Canada and is Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors of the University of Guelph in Canada. Ms. Bardwick holds a Masters in Business and mathematics degree.

- **Deepak Prakash Baskota, National Co-operative Federation NCF (Nepal)**

Mr. Deepak Prakash Baskota has served as Executive Chairperson of the National Co-operative Federation of Nepal since 1994. He has a long experience as a promoter of the movement. He was State Minister of Home Affairs in 1997, and within the ICA has served as Chairperson of the ICA Asia-Pacific Agricultural Committee (2000-2003) and as a member of the ICA Asia-Pacific Standing Committee (2004-2008). Mr. Baskota is also the Vice-President of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) regional committee. Mr. Bakota has authored a number of books on co-operative and social issues.

- **José Antonio Chávez Villanueva, Nominated by Youth Co-operators**

Mr. Chávez has been the youth co-operator representative on the ICA Americas Board since 2007. He is employed by the Federación de Cajas Populares Alianza, a financial co-operative in Mexico. Mr. Chávez established the first national youth co-operative committee in Mexico and has participated in the activities of ICA Americas to develop regional activities for youth co-operators.

- **Won-Byong Choi, National Agricultural Co-operative Federation NACF (Korea)**

Mr. Won-Byung Choi was elected as Chairperson of the National Agricultural Co-operative Federation (NACF) of Korea in December 2007. He began his co-operative career in 1972 when he joined the Angang Agricultural Co-operative in his hometown. In 1986 he was elected as the President of this co-operative and served six consecutive terms. He has also served as President of the NACF Rice Processing Complex Business Operation Council. His contributions to strengthening the Korean agricultural industry and in particular the rice industry were honoured by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in 1987 when he received the Meritorious Achievement Award and again in 2000 when he was further recognised by the President of Korea and received the Meritorious Achievement Award for outstanding performance in the rice business. In 2003 he was also awarded the Suktop Industrial Medal. Mr. Choi has served as a member and Chairperson of the Gyeongsanbuk-do Provincial Council where he was a leader in local politics. Mr. Choi holds degrees in Fisheries Business Administration, a Bachelor of Science, and a Master of Business Administration. He has been a member of the ICA Board since 2008.



ICA Board Candidates

- **Jean-Claude Detilleux, Groupement National de la Coopération GNC (France)**

Mr. Detilleux has served since 1998 as President of GNC, the apex organisation of the French co-operative movement. GNC counts 21,000 enterprises, employs more than 900,000 and is active in all sectors. Mr. Detilleux was formerly the President of Crédit Coopératif and now heads its Foundation. An active member of the ICA Board since 2001, he is currently Chair of the ICA International Accounting Standards Working Group. He has participated in the past on the ICA President's Committee and ICA Audit & Control Committee. He also served for six years as one of the ICA representatives to DotCoop LLC.

- **Steinar Dvergsdal, Federation of Norwegian Agricultural Co-operatives (Norway)**

Mr. Dvergsdal is currently Chairperson of the Agricultural Purchasing and Marketing Co-operative and member of the board of the Federation of Norwegian Agricultural Co-operatives. He is a farmer producing milk and beef. Active in the co-operative movement since he began farming as a young man, he has been a member not only of agricultural co-operatives but also served as a board member of consumer co-operatives at the local, regional and national levels. Within the agricultural co-operative movement, he has held a variety of position including a term as President of the Federation of Norwegian Agricultural Co-operatives. Mr. Dvergsdal has served as an ICA Board member since 2001.

- **Juan Carlos Fissore, Confederación Cooperativa de la República Argentina COOPERAR (Argentina)**

Mr. Fissore is currently heading the International Relations Department of COOPERAR, the apex organisation of the Argentine co-operative movement. He has been active in the co-operative movement since 1970 holding a number of leadership positions in various co-operative sectors including President of the telephone co-operative federation FECOTEL, President of the Argentine Chamber of Co-operatives, Mutuals and Community Providers of Radio (CARCO) and President of COOPERAR from 1998-2009. He was the founder of a number of co-operatives—telephone and workers—as well as initiator of a co-operative diploma in the administration of co-operative and mutual enterprises. He has served as a member of the Executive Committee of ICA Americas as well as in its financial committee. Mr. Fissore is currently a Board member of ICA Americas.

- **Hajah Armi Zainudin, National Co-operative Union of Malaysia ANGKASA (Malaysia)**

Madam Hajah Armi has been actively involved in co-operative development in Malaysia for more than 30 years. She is currently the Vice-President of ANGKASA, a position she held 1979-1988 and from November 2004 to the present. Given her expertise in the co-operative movement, she has also served as the Director of the Co-operative College of Malaysia (CCM) from 1970-2004. Madam Hajah Armi is also involved in non-governmental organisations within Malaysia. She has continuously participated in co-operative activities internationally and had previously served as the Council Member of ASEAN Co-operative Organisation (ACO) and ICA Asia-Pacific.

- **Paul Hazen, National Co-operative Business Association (USA)**

Mr. Paul Hazen is President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Co-operative Business Association (NCBA), the leading co-operative membership association in the United States. The NCBA represents over 20,000 co-operative businesses and 120 million people. Mr. Hazen leads NCBA's robust public policy legislative initiatives promoting co-operatives as a better business model for economic and social progress. Widely known for his knowledge of the co-op sector, he speaks at national and international forums on the role of co-operatives in community and economic development. He has also led several NCBA initiatives, including the creation of .coop, a top-level Internet domain exclusively for co-operatives. Under Mr. Hazen's direction, NCBA's international co-operative development programme has grown to more than USD 20 million in annual funding, with 30 projects in 18 countries. Mr Hazen serves as a Board Member of the Consumer Federation of America, the ICA, and the Overseas Co-operative Development Council.



ICA Board Candidates *(continued)*

- **Lennart Hjalmarson, Kooperativa Förbundet KF / HSB / Riksbyggen (Sweden)**

Mr. Hjalmarson has been Chief Executive Officer of the Swedish Co-operative Centre (SCC) since 2000 and of Vi Agroforestry since 2003. He has a long experience in the co-operative movement starting in 1967 with various appointments with KF (Federation of Consumer Co-operatives) where he was head of research (1974), Director of Training and Education (1979-1983), and Executive Vice-President (1990-2000). He also served as Chief Executive Officer of a local Consumer Co-operative Society Sörmland (1983-89). Mr. Hjalmarson serves as Vice-Chair of the Board of OK (an energy co-operative), a position held since 2003, and is a member of the Board of OKQ8, the largest petrol company in Sweden. He is Chairperson of the Board of a university in Sweden and Deputy member of the Board of the Olof Palmes International Centre since 2007. Mr. Hjalmarson holds degrees in political science and management.

- **Surinder Kumar Jakhar, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Limited IFFCO / Indian Farm Forestry Development Co-operative IFFDC (India)**

Mr. Jakhar is currently the Chairperson of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Limited (IFFCO) having been recently re-elected unanimously for a second term. He has been associated with the co-operative movement for more than 32 years during which time he has held a variety of important positions. Through IFFCO he interacts with more than 55 million farmers in 40,000 co-operative societies. Mr. Jakhar is Chair of the IFFCO Foundation, IFFCO Kisan Sewa Trust, Kisan International FZE and Board Director of IFFCO-Tokio General Insurance company. He has travelled widely in Asia, the Americas, and Europe to acquaint himself with agriculture and co-operatives in numerous countries. He has served on the ICA Board since 2005.

- **Evgeny Kuznetsov, Central Union of Consumer Societies of the Russian Federation Centrosoyuz (Russia)**

Mr. Kuznetsov was elected as President of the Central Union of Consumer Societies of Russia in May 2009 and is also President of the Association of the League or National Unions of Co-operative Organisations of Consumer Co-operation in CIS countries. He is also currently a member of the Board of Co-operatives Europe. He has served as Chairperson of the Council of Centrosoyuz and has held a number of governmental positions including administrator of the President of the Russian Federation. He holds a number of board positions working with community action groups, agrarian policy issues, the fisheries industry, and health care and is on the Presidium of the Board of a non-profit partnership, the Association of Entrepreneurial Organisations of Russia. Mr. Kuznetsov holds degrees in law, management and a PhD in economics.

- **Mamoru Moteki, Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives JA-Zenchu (Japan)**

Mr. Mamoru Moteki was elected as President of the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (JA-Zenchu) by its General Assembly in August 2008 replacing Mr. Isami Miyata, current ICA Board member. Mr. Moteki began his career in the co-operative movement in 1985 as an auditor. He quickly moved into leadership positions in local agricultural co-operatives and prefectural agricultural co-operative unions. Mr. Moteki is Chairperson of the Japan Joint Committee of Co-operatives (JJC) and President of the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia (IDACA).

- **Janusz Paszkowski, National Association of Co-operative Savings and Credit Unions / National Auditing Union of Workers' Co-operatives / National Supervision Union of Consumer Co-operatives (SPOLEM) (Poland)**

Mr. Paszkowski is President of the National Auditing Union of Workers' Co-operatives. He also serves on a number of boards and advisory committees including the Executive Committee of CICOPA, Board of the European Confederation of Workers' Co-operatives, Social Co-operatives and Participative Enterprises (CECOP). He has made thoughtful contributions in promoting the co-operative movement on national and international levels since his engagement with the movement in 1976. He has published numerous articles and papers in professional journals and been involved in developing co-operative legislation. Mr. Paszkowski has a degree in co-operative marketing and management.



ICA Board Candidates

- **Anne Santamäki, Nominated by the Sectoral Organisations**

Ms. Santamäki has been President of Eurocoop since 2006 and is a member of Consumer Co-operatives Worldwide (CCW). A member of the Executive Board of Co-operatives Europe and former Vice-President (2003-2006), she is also a Board member of SOK Association SOKL (Finland). Ms. Santamäki has been working with SOK Corporation in Helsinki, Finland, since 2000 where she is currently the Director of International Relations. Prior to this, she was responsible within SOK for sponsorship agreements and market awareness actions for the entire S Group, a leader in the retail market in Finland with a 42.4% market share. She has prior employment experience with the advertising agency Publicis, Finnish Rails and Nielsen. She has degrees in business and administration, and marketing management.

- **Felice Scalvini, Associazione Generale Cooperative Italiane (AGCI) / Confederazione delle Cooperative Italiane (CONFCOOPERATIVE) / Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue (Legacoop)**

Mr. Felice Scalvini has a degree in law from the Pavia University in Italy. A solicitor and auditor, he first became involved with the co-operative movement when in 1976 he participated in the founding of one of the first social solidarity co-operatives in Italy. After 1981 he devoted himself to the development of legislation on social co-operatives, work that led 10 years later to the enactment of Law 381/91. During his career, he had held various positions in the sector social co-operatives in the financial sector and in Confcooperative's national and local governing bodies. At present, he is member of the Board of Confcooperative Brescia, President of 'Koinon' for training and co-operative studies, and President of the Social Housing Foundation. At the European and international levels, he is President of CECOP, Vice-President of CICOPA and a member of the Executive Committee of Co-operatives Europe. Mr. Scalvini has served as a member of the ICA Board since 2005.

- **Lourdes Ortellado Sienna, Cooperativa Universitaria Ltda. (Paraguay)**

Ms. Ortellado is a Board Member of Panal Cie de Seguros Generales, an insurance company owned by Cooperativa Universitaria Ltda. and Cabal. She has been a member of Cooperativa Universitaria since 1976 and served a member of the Board from 1997-2002 and in 2001 was President. She has also served in 1997-1998 as President of CENCOPAN Ltda., a national co-operative federation, and in 1999 -2000 she was President of the Auditing Committee of CABAL, a co-operative financial institution operating in Latin American countries. In 2003 she was appointed Director of PANAL and continues to hold the position today. In addition Ms. Ortellado served as chairperson of the ICA Americas Regional Committee Women's Committee (CRAMC) from 2002-2006. In 2005 she was elected as an ICA Board Member. Ms. Ortellado has degrees in management and bookkeeping.

- **Seah Kian Peng, Singapore National Co-operative Federation SNCF (Singapore)**

Mr. Seah Kian Peng is a Trustee of Singapore National Co-operative Federation, the apex body representing the co-operative movement in Singapore. Concurrently, Mr Seah is also the Managing Director (Group Business) of NTUC FairPrice Co-operative Limited – the leading supermarket retailer in Singapore with over 230 supermarkets, hypermarkets and convenience stores, an annual turnover of over USD 1.38b and 7,000 employees. Mr. Seah was elected to the ICA Board in 2005 and is an active board member. He was a member of the ICA Restructuring Working Committee and is currently a member of the ICA Board Human Resource Committee. Besides his involvement in the co-operative sector – both locally, regionally and internationally, Mr. Seah is also a Member of Parliament of the Republic of Singapore, Co-chair of Social Enterprise Association and Vice-President of the Singapore Compact for Corporate Social Responsibility.

- **Muhammad Sharif Bhajji, Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union Ltd (Pakistan)**

Mr. Muhammad Sharif Bhajji is currently Managing Director of Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union Ltd which umbrellas 24 societies involved in the construction of hospitals, schools, colleges, orphan villages and mosques. In 2008 he was re-elected as Managing Director to serve an additional four-year term. Mr. Sharif Bhajji is also the Director of Kokan Co-operative Housing where he had opened a fair price shop and developed a Kokan Park for the residents. He is the General Secretary of Union Co-operative Club and Secretary of Sindh Provincial Co-operative Union which heads 2700 societies of Sindh. He also laid the stone of the Co-operative Bank in Hyderabad. Mr. Sharif Bhajji has had a long experience with co-operatives. He has been working with co-operatives since 1952 but is well associated with the movement due to his father's involvement as a co-operative leader and promoter.



ICA Board Candidates *(continued)*

- **Petar Ivanov Stefanov, Central Co-operative Union CCU (Bulgaria)**

Mr. Stefanov has been President of the Central Co-operative Union since 2003. The Union has 162,000 co-operative members, 850 co-operatives and 34 regional co-operative unions. Mr. Stefanov is an active co-operative leader at the national level participating as a member of the Supervisory Board of Central Co-operative Bank, and Board of Directors of Coop Media. He is a Board member of Co-operatives Europe and also active in the sectoral organisations as a member of the Executive of Consumer Co-operatives Worldwide (CCW), a member of EUROCOOP, a member of the Board of ICA Housing-Europe, and a member of the Supervisory Board of the Buying Alliance of Purchasing Association in Central Europe COOPEURO. In 2008, Mr. Stefanov received the Medal of the Republic of Bulgaria, “Civil Merits”, for his contribution to the development and promotion of the values and institutions of the co-operative movement in Bulgaria over two decades of continuous business management.

- **Thomas Tar, Co-operative Federation of Nigeria CFN (Nigeria)**

Mr. Tar has been the Executive-Secretary of the Co-operative Federation of Nigeria, the apex co-operative organisation, since 1992. He joined CFN in 1988 as Public Relations Officer. He has also served as the National MATCOM Liaison Officer in Nigeria in 1990-1992 and worked with Co-operative Education Projects of the European Economic Community in Nigeria. Mr. Tar has served on the ICA Board since 2008. He holds a degree in communications and has attended professional training on co-operative management at the ILO International Institute for Advanced Vocational and Technical Training.

- **Ilhami Teke, Central Union of Turkish Agricultural Credit Co-operatives (Turkey)**

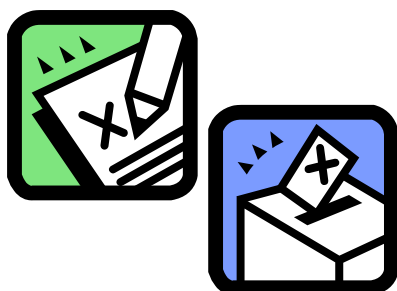
Mr. Teke is currently President of the Board of the Central Union of Turkish Agricultural Credit Co-operatives, a position he has held since 2003. He has served as the President of the National Union of Agricultural Purpose Co-operatives (TARIM-KOOP) from 2004-2006 and Vice President of the Council of the Polath Chamber of Agriculture from 2005-2007. Mr. Teke has been President of the Board of the Polath Chamber of Agriculture since 2001, President of the Board of Directors of the Polath Farmer Association since 2002, and President of the Board of the Joint Venture of Agricultural Purpose Co-operatives (TAKOG) since 2001. He has a degree in public administration and is a farmer.

- **Americo Utumi, Organisation of Co-operatives of Brazil OCB (Brazil)**

Mr. Utumi is currently the International Advisor to OCB. His leadership role in the co-operative movement began in 1972 when he was elected Director of one of the largest agricultural co-operatives in Latin America, Cooperativa Agrícola de Cotia, where he served for 24 years by successive re-elections. In 1981 he was elected President of the São Paulo State organisation of Co-operatives and Vice-president of OCB, the apex organisation of the Brazilian Co-operative Movement. Mr. Utumi has served on the ICA Board since 2001.

- **Len Wardle, Co-operative Group / Co-operatives^{UK} (United Kingdom)**

Mr Len Wardle is Chairperson of the Co-operative Group of the United Kingdom. The Group has four million members in the UK and business interests in food, pharmacy, funerals, travel, banking, insurance and farming. As Chairperson he oversees the strategic direction of the businesses so that they fulfil co-operative principles, and adopt ethical values such as fair trade and responsible retailing. Mr Wardle is also a member of the Board of the Co-operative Insurance Society, Co-operative Financial Services and the Co-operative Bank. He is a graduate in economics and has experience in teaching, management and strategic planning.



Voting

Representatives will be asked to fill out their ballot papers using an “X” to select their candidates for the ICA Board.

The ballot papers should be deposited in the ballot boxes that will be found in front of the General Assembly hall.

Election results will be announced at the beginning of the afternoon session of the General Assembly.



Sectoralisation and Implementation of Restructuring

Introduction

The proposal below is a working document which was prepared by the Governance Committee for the ICA Board meeting held in Skei (Norway) in September 2009.

The ICA Board agreed in Norway on the approach proposed by the working document—one that foresees that :

- global sectoral organisations should be replaced by a central co-ordinating unit which will work with a network of sectoral experts;
- emphasis be placed on regional sectoral organisations; and
- the proposal of the Governance Committee be used to begin formal consultations with the Sectoral Organisations to enable the Board to take decisions in 2010 for formal approval by the ICA General Assembly in 2011.

Consultation Meeting with Sectoral Organisations

A first consultation meeting was held on 24 October 2009 in Paris (France) hosted by Crédit Coopératif where Chairpersons of the ICA Sectoral Organisations were invited to discuss the proposal.

The Governance Committee proposal did not receive the support of the Sectoral Organisations. However, there was agreement that the Sectoral Organisations of the ICA were currently weak primarily due to lack of resources, limited participation of ICA members and the difficulty to address global issues at a sectoral level. There was also agreement on the need for more co-ordination between the Sectoral Organisations, the Central and Regional Offices as well as increased co-ordination among the Sectoral Organisations themselves. Although they did not agree to a new sectoral set-up, they did support the idea of a co-ordination unit. No alternate proposals were made by the Sectoral Organisations with regard to how to realistically maximise the value-added services to ICA members on sectoral issues within the current and foreseeable resourcing of the ICA and within the principles agreed within the ICA Restructuring Report regarding one global membership.

The Future

The Governance Committee will continue its work having regular consultations with the Sectoral Organisations, Regions and Board. Its proposal will aim at ensuring that :

- ICA members be assured value-added services on sectoral issues
- the ICA Board is able to access information on sectoral issues to enable them to be effective in their policy-making role
- the ICA Board is able to balance the needs of members for a global ICA that is able to address global, regional and sectoral issues within its current and foreseeable future resource base



ICA Governance Committee Report: Proposal on Sectoral Issues

Introduction

The ICA Governance Committee was given the mandate to address the outstanding restructuring issue with regard to the ICA sectoral organisations and make proposals to the Board.

The aim of the Governance Committee was to find a way to maximise the value-added services to ICA members on sectoral issues. It also has the mandate to look at all options for improving ICA's capacity to address sectoral questions and enhance sectoral output. It was clear on the final goal – enhancing ICA sectoral capacity, but has struggled with the most appropriate means to achieve its goal.

Therefore, the Committee's proposal is aimed to start the discussion on the sectoral question in the scope of the decisions of restructuring which are the ICA is based on three pillars, centre, regions, and sectors and the specificity of service at the regional level that should equally apply at the sectoral level. It therefore does not intend for the current Board to take a final decision on the sectoral question, but rather to decide on timeframes for final decisions, leaving the new Board with a solid basis for on-going discussion and decision.

Methodology

The ICA Board had during the restructuring process requested a SWOT analysis to be provided by each sectoral organisation. This was the evidence base on which the Committee worked. Discussions were enriched by the fact that each of the members were members of existing ICA sectoral organisations and indeed had been involved in their organisations as Chairs, Secretaries and Board members. The Committee also sought input from the ICA Regions to understand the relationships between ICA's global sectoral organisations and their regional counterparts.

Conclusions

The Committee unanimously agreed that the SWOT (strengths, weakness, opportunities, threats) analysis showed that global Sectoral Organisations themselves questioned their ability to be effective organisations due to lack of member participation, the challenge of addressing key sectoral issues at a global level, limited human and financial resources. They acknowledged too that at the global level there was little, if no, collaboration among sectors and limited contact, if any, with regional sectoral organisations. It should be noted that International Co-operative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF), a legally registered entity, was not considered in the SWOT analysis.

The Committee however also acknowledged that at the regional level, sectoral organisations were more effectively providing fora for exchange of best practice as well as addressing technical issues in ways more appropriate to the region.

- In Europe, the sectoral organisations are in the majority legal entities – COGECA (agriculture), EUROCOOP (consumer), CECOP (worker), CECODHAS (housing), etc. The majority of these organisations are members of Co-operatives Europe which presents an added challenge when we consider that other sectoral organisations are part of the global ICA structure.
- In the Americas and Asia-Pacific the regional sectoral organisations are managed and supported by their respective regional offices. This organisational set-up was considered to be more effective in linking the work at the sectoral level to the overall strategic plan of the ICA and made better use of limited resources.

The Committee agreed that the current set up of sectoral organisations was therefore not the most efficient and effective means to deliver services to members to address important sectoral issues and that the restructuring considered was in the form of rebuilding sectoral capacity using a bottom up approach – i.e. building on regional capacity to create capacity at the global level.

Proposal

The Committee puts forward the following proposal based on the concept of a matrix organisation to improve ICA delivery of services on sectoral issues. It is based on the recognition that the restructuring of



Sectorialisation and Implementation of Restructuring

the ICA has led to an enhanced collaboration and co-ordination between the centre and regions and believes that the further integration and co-ordination of activities on sectoral issues will enhance ICA services to members.

- Create a co-ordinating unit at the Central Office to enhance the ability of the ICA to monitor work on sectoral issues that is undertaken at the regional level, identify common concerns and create networks to be able to address these issues. The unit will essentially have the role of coordination, identification of key technical contacts, information exchange, link ICA major activities to sectoral concerns and vice-versa, and organise or assist organise global sectoral events. Secondments could be an option for ensuring technical capacity and more operational efficiency.
- Restructure the current global sectoral organisations – designate chairs or focal points for each sector who would work with the co-ordination unit to identify key actors willing to network with the co-ordination unit and among themselves to address sectoral issues. It is proposed that at the outset the sectoral focal points be the current chairs of the sectoral organisations or other person designated by the current sectoral organisations. They would be the people on which the ICA will call to develop a work programme to address sectoral issues within the overall ICA Strategic Plan. They would also be the persons called upon for technical issues and assist in identifying people to represent the ICA in global and regional for a (lobby and advocacy) when technical expertise of a sectoral nature is required. A system to appoint future chairs or focal points will be required. Possibilities include nominations through the regional sectoral organisations, by direct nomination by members, or possibly also by appointment by the Board (in recognition of particular sectoral expertise).
- Create links from the new unit with the regional sectoral organisations and sectoral focal points to ensure co-ordination, collaboration and implementation of the programme of work pertaining to sectoral issues.
- Use the current budgetary allocation to sectoral organisations to finance the unit (human resources) and sectoral activities – global seminars/conferences, etc.
- Establish a system to nominate the two Board representatives from the sectoral organisations for election – nominations by the regional sectoral organisations is one option.

The proposal above presupposes that many of the traditional secretariat functions would be taken over by the co-ordinating unit and that members operating in a sector would be included in a network managed by the co-ordinating unit to enhance activity on sectoral issues.

The proposal also foresees that for some sectoral organisations (regional or global) that have the capacity to participate as ICA members, these be invited to apply for full or associate ICA membership – i.e. European sectoral organisations and International Co-operative Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF).

Finally, given that the proposal is aimed to rebuild sectoral capacity, it does not preclude the possibility in future that sectoral organisations be set up either being part of the ICA structure or indeed being members of the ICA.

Timeline

The Committee proposed that a first Board discussion be held during its meeting in September 2009 in Skei, Norway and that the November 2009 Board meeting provide the new Board with some proposals for continued discussion and refinement during 2010.

A decision however should be taken during 2010 to enable preparation of the 2011 budget (given that the transition period dispositions regarding financing of the current sectoral organisations will end in December 2010).

It is envisaged that the 2011 General Assembly should consider and approve ICA rule changes as required.



ICA Rule Amendments



The following are proposed changes to the ICA Rules as proposed by the ICA Board for consideration by the General Assembly.

Deleted text = Deleted text
Proposed text = Proposed text

Final text with changes highlighted in red

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE ~~RULES~~ STATUTES

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE STATUTES

As adopted by the General Assembly, 6 June 2008 for enactment 1 January 2008

As adopted by the General Assembly, 6 June 2008 for enactment 1 January 2009 and revised by the General Assembly on 20 November 2009.

Article 8. Cessation of Membership

Membership of ICA ceases:

by resolution of the General Assembly in the case of a member organisation's acting contrary to the ~~Rules~~ **Statutes** or interests of ICA.

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Membership of ICA ceases:

by resolution of the General Assembly in the case of a member organisation's acting contrary to the **Statutes** or interests of ICA.

Article 16. Powers of the General Assembly

The General Assembly has the following powers:

amend the ICA Rules Statutes and Bye-Laws by a majority of two-thirds of the votes represented;

Article 16. Powers of the General Assembly

The General Assembly has the following powers:

amend the ICA **Statutes** and Bye-Laws by a majority of two-thirds of the votes represented;

Article 22. Entities of the ICA with distinct legal personality

b. In case of discrepancies between the ~~statutes rules~~ of the concerned regional or sectoral entity previously approved by the General Assembly of ICA and the articles 20, 21, 23, 24 and 28 of the ICA ~~Rules Statutes~~, the ~~statutes rules~~ of the concerned entity will apply.

c. The members of the concerned regional entity will remain or become members of the ICA according to Section II of the ICA ~~Rules Statutes~~.

Article 22. Entities of the ICA with distinct legal personality

b. In case of discrepancies between the **rules** of the concerned regional or sectoral entity previously approved by the General Assembly of ICA and the articles 20, 21, 23, 24 and 28 of the ICA **Statutes**, the **rules** of the concerned entity will apply.

c. The members of the concerned regional entity will remain or become members of the ICA according to Section II of the ICA **Statutes**.

Article 25. President

The President:

- is the chief representative of ICA and presides over the General Assembly and Board of ICA;
- provides the policy and organisational leadership of ICA, in collaboration with the Director-General;
- has the right to attend the meetings of ICA entities.

Should the presidency remain vacant for longer than six (6) months, the ICA Board will call for an Extraordinary General Assembly be held to fill the vacancy and elect a new President.

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ICA Rule Amendments

Article 32. Amendments to the ~~Rules~~ Statutes

Proposals to amend the ~~Rules~~ Statutes may only be submitted by the Board to the General Assembly, or by a special committee appointed by the General Assembly for that purpose, or by not fewer than five members.

Article 33. Definitive Text of the ~~Rules~~ Statutes

The definitive text of the ~~Rules~~ Statutes is that of the English language.

Article 32. Amendments to the Statutes

Proposals to amend the Statutes may only be submitted by the Board to the General Assembly, or by a special committee appointed by the General Assembly for that purpose, or by not fewer than five members.

Article 33. Definitive Text of the Statutes

The definitive text of the Statutes is that of the English language.

ICA Bye-Laws Amendments

Deleted text = Deleted text Proposed text = Proposed text	Final text with changes highlighted in red
<p>I. Membership Application and Admission Requirements</p> <p>1. The ICA Board establishes membership evaluation criteria for applications for ICA membership in conformity to Article 7 of the ICA Rules Statutes.</p>	<p>I. Membership Application and Admission Requirements</p> <p>1. The ICA Board establishes membership evaluation criteria for applications for ICA membership in conformity to Article 7 of the ICA Statutes.</p>
<p>II. Subscription Formula</p> <p>9. Members of a given country may enter into an institutional arrangement with the ICA under which they determine how the aggregate subscription fees will be paid in accordance with ICA Rules Statutes Article 12.</p>	<p>II. Subscription Formula</p> <p>9. Members of a given country may enter into an institutional arrangement with the ICA under which they determine how the aggregate subscription fees will be paid in accordance with ICA Statutes Article 12.</p>
<p>III. Representation at the General Assembly</p> <p>2. Each Member, or a group of Members, from one country is entitled to at least one voting representative for each complete payment of their total subscription with a maximum of 25 representatives per country, excluding the President of ICA, as laid down in Article 15 of the Rules Statutes.</p>	<p>III. Representation at the General Assembly</p> <p>2. Each Member, or a group of Members, from one country is entitled to at least one voting representative for each complete payment of their total subscription with a maximum of 25 representatives per country, excluding the President of ICA, as laid down in Article 15 of the Statutes.</p>
<p>IV. Standing Orders for the General Assembly Procedures</p> <p>7. General Assembly documentation is issued two months one month before the date of the meeting.</p> <p>8. All Members who have fully paid their subscriptions may submit motions and amendments are submitted to the Director-General two months one month before the date of the meeting for consideration by the Board, which determines their admissibility.</p> <p>9. Amendments to a motion must be submitted in writing to the Director-General seven (7) days before the discussion upon the motion begins, and are considered in the order in which they occur. At the close of the discussion, each amendment is put to the vote before the original motion.</p>	<p>IV. Standing Orders for the General Assembly Procedures</p> <p>7. General Assembly documentation is issued one month before the date of the meeting.</p> <p>8. Members who have fully paid their subscriptions may submit motions and amendments to the Director-General one month before the date of the meeting for consideration by the Board, which determines their admissibility.</p> <p>9. Amendments to a motion must be submitted in writing to the Director-General seven (7) days before the discussion upon the motion begins. At the close of the discussion, each amendment is put to the vote before the original motion.</p>



ICA Bye-Laws Amendments *(continued)*

Deleted text = Deleted text Proposed text = Proposed text	Final text with changes highlighted in red
<p>V. Standing Orders for Board Election</p> <p>5. The ICA Board appoints an Elections Committee. The Committee is composed of at least six five persons, including the Vice-Presidents retiring Board members supplemented as needed by members as decided by the Board, and will be gender-balanced. The Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. seeks out and encourages the nomination of candidates, as needed; b. supervises the conduct of elections at the General Assembly; c. rules upon the eligibility of candidates; d. ensures that elections are conducted in accordance with established procedures; e. advises the Board as required on election issues. <p>7. ICA Members have the right to nominate directly candidates for election as President and to the ICA Board, with the exception of Vice-Presidents, representatives of the sectoral organisations and the youth representative. All nominations must be received by the ICA Director-General not less than two months before the General Assembly in accordance with a timetable set by the Board in order to be included in the final agenda and documentation issued two months one month before the meeting.</p>	<p>V. Standing Orders for Board Election</p> <p>5. The ICA Board appoints an Elections Committee. The Committee is composed of at least five persons including retiring Board members supplemented as needed by members as decided by the Board, and will be gender-balanced. The Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. seeks out and encourages the nomination of candidates, as needed; b. supervises the conduct of elections at the General Assembly; c. rules upon the eligibility of candidates; d. ensures that elections are conducted in accordance with established procedures; e. advises the Board as required on election issues. <p>7. ICA Members have the right to nominate directly candidates for election as President and to the ICA Board, with the exception of Vice-Presidents, representatives of the sectoral organisations and the youth representative. All nominations must be received by the ICA Director-General not less than two months before the General Assembly in accordance with a timetable set by the Board in order to be included in the final agenda and documentation issued one month before the meeting.</p>
<p>VI. ICA Sectoral Organisations and Thematic Committees</p> <p>In accordance with Articles 29 and 30 of ICA Rules Statutes, the ICA General Assembly recognises the following bodies as ICA Sectoral Organisations and Thematic Committees:</p> <p>ICA Sectoral Organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Co-operative Agricultural Organisation (ICAO) • International Co-operative Banking Association (ICBA) • Consumer Co-operatives Worldwide (CCW) • International Co-operative Fisheries Organisation (ICFO) • International Health Co-operative Organisation (IHCO) • International Co-operative Housing Organisation (ICA Housing) • International Co-operative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF) • International Organisation of Industrial, Artisanal and Service Producers' Co-operatives (CICOPA) • International Association of Tourism Co-operatives (TICA) 	<p>VI. ICA Sectoral Organisations and Thematic Committees</p> <p>In accordance with Articles 29 and 30 of ICA Statutes, the ICA General Assembly recognises the following bodies as ICA Sectoral Organisations and Thematic Committees:</p> <p>ICA Sectoral Organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Co-operative Agricultural Organisation (ICAO) • International Co-operative Banking Association (ICBA) • Consumer Co-operatives Worldwide (CCW) • International Co-operative Fisheries Organisation (ICFO) • International Health Co-operative Organisation (IHCO) • International Co-operative Housing Organisation (ICA Housing) • International Co-operative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF) • International Organisation of Industrial, Artisanal and Service Producers' Co-operatives (CICOPA)



ICA Americas Rules



Article 21 stipulates that the ICA Regional Assemblies may draw up their own rules subject to the approval of the ICA General Assembly.

The ICA Board has reviewed the ICA Americas Rules to ensure conformity with the ICA Rules and Bye-Laws and submits these for approval of the General Assembly. Note the original Rules adopted the Regional Assembly are in Spanish. Further note all references to “ICA Rules” have been replaced with references to “ICA Statutes” given the proposal for ICA rule amendments.

1. Regional Assembly

The Regional Assembly of ICA Americas is part of the governing structure of the International Co-operative Alliance in accordance with Article 19 of the ICA Statutes.

2. Objective

The main objective of the Regional Assembly is to promote co-operation among ICA member organisations in the Americas and provide a forum to analyse regional and global issues concerning co-operative development.

1. Functions

The Regional Assembly will:

- a. Know and resolve proposals and resolutions to present in the ICA General Assembly.
- b. Establish priorities for the ICA Work Programme in the region.
- c. Establish general policies for funding ICA activities in the region.
- d. Approve the establishment of Regional Sectoral Organisations and Thematic Committees, under recommendation from the Regional Board.
- e. Assure regional compliance with the decisions of the ICA General Assembly.
- f. Endorse the Regional Board Members, according to Article 10 of these Rules.
- g. Approve the Bye-Laws and Rules, subject to the approval of the ICA General Assembly.
- h. Elect the President of ICA Americas as established in the ICA Statutes in accordance with Article 9 of these Rules.
- i. Choose an Audit Committee composed of 3 Delegates members of the Regional Board, which are not at the same time, members of the Executive Committee. The Chair of this committee must have accounting experience and knowledge.

4. Representation

- a. The Regional Assembly will be formed of delegations assigned by:
 - i. Member Organisations of each country
 - ii. Regional Member Organisations
 - iii. Regional Sectoral Organisations
 - iv. Regional Thematic CommitteesEach delegation will consist of 1 head, 1 alternate and up to 3 observer.
- b. Delegates will end its mandate in the Assembly for which they were appointed. Non-member organisations, International Organisations, Governments and governmental organisations, research institutes and educational co-operatives and other organisations related to the promotion of co-operative principles and co-operatives, or which support ICA, may be invited to the Regional Assembly as observers and will have the right to attend following payment of the established registration fee.

5. Voting

- a. Each member organisation will have the right to one vote in the Regional Assembly.
- b. All issues discussed at the Regional Assembly will be decided by simple majority of votes.
- c. Regional Sectoral Organisations and Thematic Committees will not have the right to vote, but will have the right to speak.
- d. One delegate can represent up to two member organisations of the same country, besides its own, in accordance with the procedure established by the Regional Board.



ICA Americas Rules *(continued)*

6. Meetings

- a. The Regional Assembly might be ordinary or extraordinary. The first will be convened by the Regional Board and shall meet every two years alternating with the ICA General Assembly.
- b. Extraordinary Regional Assembly meetings may be convened by decision of the Regional Board or at the request of one-third of the member organisations.
- c. The Regional Director, in coordination with the Presidency, will be responsible for the preparation and circulation of documents for the meeting and, along with the host organisations, for logistical aspects concerning organisation of the Regional Assembly.

7. Languages

The official languages of the Regional Assembly will be Spanish, Portuguese and English.

8. Financing

- a. Delegates and their respective organisations will have to cover the cost related to their participation in the Regional Assembly.
- b. Participation of the Delegates to the Regional Ordinary or Extraordinary Assembly will not have any costs. The Regional Board might establish a registration fee to cover the costs of participation in complementary additional activities.

9. Elections

- a. The Regional Assembly will be presided by the President of ICA Americas.
- b. To be elected President is required:
 - i. to be member of the Regional Board,
 - ii. to have served minimum two years in one of the governance bodies of ICA Americas,
 - iii. to have the financial backing of his/her organisation, for both the post as President of the ICA Americas as well as Vice-president of ICA.
- c. Nominations for President must be submitted at least two months before the date of the Regional Assembly that must elect him. The Regional Director will circulate information on the proposed candidates among the members of the Regional Board and the ICA member organisations.
- d. Voting will be by secret ballot.
- e. The President term of office is four years with possibility of only one re-election.
- f. The nomination for the President to be elected as Vice-president of ICA must be made by the Regional Board with not less than three months before the ICA General Assembly.

10. Regional Board

- a. The Regional Board shall be integrated by one Member and one Alternate Member for each country; one member for each Regional Organisation affiliated; a member for the Regional Sectoral Organisation; one representative for the American Women Co-operators Regional Committee and one representative for the Youth Network of ICA Americas.
- b. Members of each country shall be nominated by the majority of votes from the Member Organisations of the respective country, the members of the Regional Organisations affiliated will be proposed by each one of them. The member of the Regional Sectoral Organisations will be nominated by the majority of them. The member of the American Women Co-operators Regional Committee and will be nominated by the same committee, the youth representative by the Youth Network of ICA Americas.

Organisations applying to President of the Sectoral and Thematic Committees must assume the costs that these duties entail. Should members representing these committees in the Regional Board are not the Presidents of these Committees; their organisations must finance the costs of participation in the Regional Board.

The names of the nominees will be communicated in writing to the President in advance not less than one month from the date of the Regional Assembly to be formally designated.



ICA Americas Rules

- c. Members of the Regional Board will have a term of office of four (4) years, with the possibility of re-election.

In the event of resignation or replacement by the organisations that proposed them which will be formally communicated to the President and copied to the Regional Director, the Regional Board member's mandate will be terminated. The respective organisations should propose a new member to replace him/her subject to accreditation of the next Regional Assembly, previous confirmation of the compliance of all the requirements established in the regulation for the election of such representative.

- c. The President of ICA Americas will be the President of the Regional Board.
- d. The Regional Board will meet at least twice a year.

11. Duties and Powers of the Regional Board

- a. The Regional Board will appoint, from among its members, an Executive Committee composed of the President, two Vice-presidents, a Secretary and three members from countries other than those of the Presidents and the Vice-presidents. The duties of that Committee will consist in addressing the ordinary or urgent business of the ICA Americas when the Regional Board is unable to meet.
- b. Elect one of its members as Senior Vice-president, who will replace the President in the event of absence or resignation until the end of his term, and in the case of leave until it ends. In this cases the member organisation of the Senior Vice-president will assume the costs that the fulfilment of his/her duties as President as required.
- c. Elect one of its members as Second Vice-president.
- d. Elect one of its members as Secretary.
- e. Ensure the preparation of the Regional Assemblies with the support of the Regional Office.
- f. Support the formulation and implementation of policies and work of the ICA Americas.
- g. Facilitate communication and strengthen ICA Americas presence in each of the sub-regions.
- h. Support the formulation of ICA global and sectoral strategies in the Americas.
- i. Consider requests and proposals from Member Organisations with respect to ICA actions in the Americas.
- j. Adopt its own rules of operation on issues that these Rule do not provide.
- k. Carry out any other task commended by the Regional Assembly.

12. Special Dispositions

- a. By default and in matters not covered by this regulation the ICA Statutes and Bye-Laws will govern.
- b. The rules and procedures of the ICA Americas and any subsequent amendment will be subject to approval by the General Assembly, as established in article 21 of ICA Statutes.
- c. The First Regional Assembly for the constitution of this structure was held in São Paulo, Brazil, on 21-22 November 1994. Due to its special character, all organisations affiliated before November 1994 were invited.
- d. These Rules were reviewed and approved at the Extraordinary Regional Assembly held in Bogota, Colombia on 21 November 2008.

Transitional Provisions

Articles 5 d) and 9 b) of the Rules, apply as of the assemblies from the Extraordinary Regional Assembly of 21 November 2008. These Rules shall take effect upon its approval by the General Assembly of the ICA according to the provisions of Article 21 e) of the ICA Rules.



Motions

“Co-operative Enterprise and the Economic Crisis”

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

AWARE of the fact that economic conditions rapidly declined on a global scale since the 2008 financial crisis,

RECALLING that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects that the growth rate of real gross domestic product (GDP) for the world as a whole is expected to turn negative for the first time since the end of World War II as the situation takes on all the appearances of an economic crisis,



CONSIDERING this crisis, attributable to profit seeking driven by excessive market fundamentalism, has lowered corporate profits, decreased employment and has impacted co-operatives, dealing a direct blow to the production activities and daily lives of co-operative members and leading to financial suffering for co-operatives,

RECOGNISING that despite this, co-operatives are more resilient to the crises than investor owned companies,

CALLS on ICA Members and co-operatives worldwide to widely disseminate to the general public, including non-co-operative members, information on the value of the co-operative model of enterprise as a voluntary and democratic business model that addresses people’s needs, and protects the productive activities and livelihoods of co-operative members,

URGES co-operatives to undertake organisational and business administration in line with their co-operative values and principles.

WELCOMES efforts of co-operative leadership to take measures to upgrade co-operative management and enhance efficiency while cultivating new businesses,

URGES co-operatives to collaborate with their communities and spare no effort for the sake of maintaining and creating employment and pursuing sustainable development of communities,

AFFIRMS that through these efforts, co-operative will be able to promote the recruitment of new members as well as increase members’ use of and participation in their co-operatives,

WELCOMES the development of a diversity of collaborative efforts and networks in communities to expand the new circle of co-operation, and

CALLS on ICA members to enhance co-operation with more vulnerable co-operatives in developing countries.



“Towards a Sustainable Energy Economy”

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.





Motions *(continued)*

“The Co-operative Agenda on Climate Change”

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

RECALLING that the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) represents 1 billion co-operators throughout the world active in many important sectors of the world's economy, including agriculture, food production and fisheries, energy, communications, banking and insurance, housing, health and welfare provision and in the distribution of goods and services as consumer co-operatives,

REMINING that the ICA is the largest membership-based NGO recognised by the United Nations,

NOTING that the ICA is well qualified to understand the complex issues involved in the climate threat that the world faces, from the many perspectives of the countries and sectors of the economy of its membership,

EMPHASISING that the unique set of co-operative values, especially those of equity and social responsibility, incite co-operative action on Climate Change,

ISSUES the urgent call below to the United Nations and to the governments of all countries participating in the Conference of Parties (COP) 15 Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, in December 2009 to secure a fair, ambitious and binding agreement at the global climate negotiations by:

- Recognising that global warming exceeding 20 C above pre-industrial levels that is currently predicted for later this century would create seriously adverse consequences for many peoples and countries;
- Committing to peak global greenhouse gas emissions by no later than 2020 (preferably earlier) and to reduce them by at least 50% relative to 1990 levels by 2050;
- For developed countries, recognising their historical contribution to global warming, and committing to emissions reductions of at least 80% relative to 1990, by 2050, with challenging intermediate targets to be set;
- For developing countries, committing by Copenhagen to significant gains in energy efficiency, reductions in carbon intensity, and cuts in non-CO2 greenhouse gas emissions over the next 2 decades, to support sustainable development and to lead to a substantial reduction in business-as-usual emissions;
- Recognising that the impacts of changes in climate are mainly due to past emissions by developed countries, and that unless the burden of poverty in developing nations is alleviated by significant financial support for mitigation, adaptation and the reduction of deforestation, the ability of developing countries to pursue sustainable development is likely to diminish, to the economic and environmental detriment of all,

CALLS on ICA members to take this message to their governments for action.





“Co-operatives and Peace”

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

RECALLING that global peace is the shared goal of all mankind, but peace on earth is a goal as yet unachieved,

AWARE that violence and hatred threaten peace between groups and communities no less than between nations and states,

REAFFIRMING that understanding, trust, confidence and joint endeavour are fundamental to the peaceful resolution of conflicts,

REMINING that enduring peace can only be realistically achieved when conflict resolution is linked to sustainable human development, so that peace brings people a better life today and a greater hope for tomorrow,

RECALLING that the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) has been committed to the advancement of peace since its birth in 1895,

EMPHASISING that co-operative thought is rooted in the search for a more peaceful world and co-operative values further that search,

NOTING that the ICA and its member co-operatives have successfully engaged and linked together people divided by social, economic, cultural, political and religious differences through projects and organisations devoted to the common good,

REAFFIRMING that the co-operative model, through its emphasis on inclusion and democratic process, has proved to be an effective way in which tensions can be reduced within communities, in nations and across regions,

CONSIDERING that co-operatives and co-operative organisations can effectively create and support people-to-people initiatives which are central to achieving peace,

FURTHER CONSIDERING that co-operatives and co-operative organisations can serve as effective agents in linking sustainable human development and conflict resolution,

REAFFIRMS its longstanding and ongoing commitment to the furtherance of peace everywhere in the world and its readiness to contribute actively to its achievement,

CALLS on the peacemaking institutions – international agencies, governments and civil society bodies – to recognise ICA and the co-operative movement as effective partners at the table of the peacemakers,

ENCOURAGES co-operatives around the world to further develop their peace-building activities and to make better known their work in promoting peace and social inclusion.





Motions *(continued)*

“Co-operatives and Nuclear Disarmament”

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

NOTING that twenty years have passed since the end of the Cold War and that at the time there was the view that the world would be extricated from the stress of the war and that a new period of peace and affluence would begin,

AWARE that economic inequality will lead to an increasing number of disputes and conflicts around the world and these will continue to challenge the attainment of international peace,

FURTHER NOTING that pandemics, natural disasters, starvation and poverty, climate change and the depletion of biological diversity create additional instability,

RECOGNISING that we live in a time propitious to coming together as co-operators with the same philosophy to enable us to face the difficult challenges in our time,

AFFIRMING that the world needs Co-operation today more than ever before

NOTING that for more than 60 years, the existence of nuclear weapons has constituted one the greatest challenges to mankind alongside that of Global Warming,

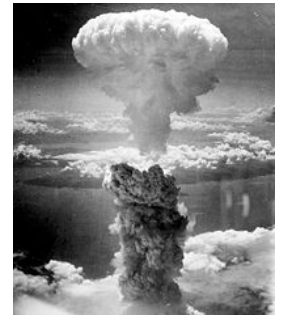
FURTHER NOTING that these nuclear weapons can destroy all life on our planet,

CONCERNED that despite the continuous efforts of world leaders and the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates and peoples' movements calling on-going movements in the world today for nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, there continues to be a proliferation of nuclear weapons and an increasing risk of their use,

AWARE that in 2010, the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT) member states will hold a review conference on the treaty,

CALLS on ICA member organisations to lobby their governments to support concrete action towards nuclear disarmament and the destruction of nuclear weapons,

URGES that co-operators worldwide appeal for the elimination of starvation and poverty, call for world stabilisation and prosperity and build a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.



International Co-operative Alliance (ICA)

15 Route des Morillons
1218 Grand Saconnex
Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 929 8838

Fax: +41 22 798 4122

E-mail: ica@ica.coop

Website: www.ica.coop