



Co-operative Law Committee

Rules

Article 1. Name and Status

- 1.1 The name of the Committee is the Co-operative Law Committee.
- 1.2 The Committee is constituted as a thematic committee of the International Co-operative Alliance (Alliance), as defined in the Bylaws of the Alliance.

Article 2. Objective

- 2.1 The objective of the Committee is to give independent advice to the Alliance on co-operative law, broadly defined to include all legal rules that shape the co-operative institution and regulate its operations.

Article 3. Activities

- 3.1 Working with the ICA Principles Committee, develop proposals for contemporary interpretation of the definition of co-operatives and of the co-operative values and principles and the translation of these into legal principles.
- 3.2 Develop proposals to translate the legal principles into co-operative law that ensures cooperative identity.
- 3.3 Elaborate, where warranted, suggestions for the harmonization of co-operative laws.
- 3.4 Assess, advise on, propose and monitor changes in co-operative policy at national, regional, international and global level as they affect co-operative law.
- 3.5 Participate in the establishment of implementation mechanisms, such as co-operative registration, monitoring and auditing.
- 3.6 Promote the elaboration of such resources as: law commentaries; glossaries; handbooks on drafting bylaws and model bylaws; proposals for government regulation; and research on and teaching of co-operative law.
- 3.7 Liaise and coordinate with the other thematic committees, sectoral organisations, regional organisations and any organs of the Alliance as appropriate.
- 3.8 Consider specific legal issues that are referred to it from other thematic committees, sectoral organisations, regional organisations and any organs of the Alliance through its Global Board

Article 4. Membership

- 4.1 The membership of the Committee will consist of the chairpersons of the regional Co-operative Law Committees, if any; plus one member of the Alliance Global Board appointed by the Board to ensure liaison between the Committee and the Alliance Global Board; plus one additional member from each region, appointed by the Alliance Global Board, who must be an expert in co-operative law.
- 4.2 Where a regional Co-operative Law Committee does not exist, the Alliance Regional Board will be requested to appoint an individual with relevant experience to the Committee. Where the Regional Board declines, the Alliance Global Board will appoint that person.

The term of office for members of the Committee is four years. Members are eligible for re-election.

- 4.3 The Alliance Global Board will appoint a Chair for the Committee.

- 4.4 Should a member of the Committee resign or become ineligible to serve, the position will be filled by the relevant appointing body for the duration of the remaining term of Office.
- 4.5 The Committee may establish ad hoc committees to deal with specific issues as it deems appropriate.
- 4.6 The ICA Global Board endeavours that the Committee is gender balanced.

Article 5. Meetings and Reporting

- 5.1 The Committee will meet as necessary, but at least annually. Meetings may be held in person, via telephone or through electronic means.
- 5.2 The Committee reports regularly to the Alliance Global Board, through the Alliance Board member that ensures liaison between the Committee and the Alliance Global Board.
- 5.3 The Committee takes notice of the Regional Assemblies and, in alternating years, the General Assembly, in setting its agenda.

Article 6. Secretariat and Finance

- 6.1 Participation in meetings and activities will not be remunerated.
- 6.2 The Committee shall provide an annual work plan and budget to the Alliance Global Board for funding consideration.
- 6.3 The Director-General shall appoint staff to assist the Committee in coordinating its work and in securing external funding of its activities.