

Join the International Co-operative Alliance Be part of the global co-operative movement



Uniting, serving, representing co-operatives worldwide

The International Co-operative Alliance is an independent, non-governmental organisation established in 1895 to unite, represent and serve co-operatives worldwide. It provides a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and co-ordinated action for and about co-operatives.



The Alliance's delegation at the 2015 B20 Summit, led by Monique Leroux, Alliance President. The Alliance represents the co-operative movement in multilateral organisations including the UN, the International Accounting Standards Board, the European Union, and others.

The Alliance's members are international and national co-operative organisations from all sectors of the economy, including agriculture, banking, consumer, fisheries, health, housing, insurance, and industry & services. The Alliance has members from almost one hundred countries, representing one billion individuals worldwide. 250 million people organise their livelihoods through a co-operative.

The Alliance is the guardian of the Co-operative Identity, Values and Principles.

To accomplish its purpose, the Alliance is organised with a Global Office, four Regional Offices (Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, and Europe), and eight Global Sectorial Organisations (Agriculture, Banking, Consumer Co-operatives, Fisheries, Health, Housing, Insurance, Industrial, Artisanal & services production).

Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade

The United Nations International Year of Co-operatives marked the beginning of a worldwide campaign to take the co-operative way of doing business to a new level. At the close of the International Year, the Alliance's members approved The Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade. The ambitious plan in this Blueprint - the 2020 Vision - is for the co-operative form of business by 2020 to become:

- The acknowledged leader in economic, social and environmental sustainability
- The model preferred by people
- The fastest growing form of enterprise

The 2020 Vision seeks to build on the achievements of the International Year of Co-operatives and the resilience demonstrated by the co-operative movement since the financial collapse of 2007-2008. By pursuing the strategy outlined in this Blueprint, we aim to make 2012-2020 a Co-operative Decade of meaningful progress.

Co-operatives boast a long heritage of constant and significant achievements, but they need to be seen in the context of the dominant emerging trends that are likely to shape our politics, societies and economies for the foreseeable future. Co-operatives already make a significant contribution towards alleviating these pressing global problems. But, with appropriate support and greater understanding and recognition, they could contribute much more.

The Alliance is invigorating its commitments to serve the global co-operative community with exciting Blueprint initiatives. These are on the cutting edge of delivering intelligence, resources, statistics, and actionable tools to Alliance members. The Blueprint initiatives are based and built upon the achievements of members and intend to help fill the remaining needs of Alliance members in ensuring co-operatives are at the forefront of peoples' and decision-makers' minds as communities and nations seek to address today's global challenges.

Benefits of Membership

As a member, you will gain from the leadership of the International Co-operative Alliance in a number of areas and be entitled to a number of benefits.

The Alliance is the Forum for Inter-cooperation:

- Develop business relationships and partnerships with members
- Access to the Alliance's network
- Connection to the global development network

The Alliance convenes Co-operative Knowledge and Information:

- Gain access to the Alliance as a resource for co-operative expertise, in particular co-operative statistics, information and intelligence.
- Participate in capacity building/training programmes
- Exchange of information and technical resources
- Receive and access information on co-operatives including regular publications
- Access member only resources including member contacts, member only information releases, and global co-operative statistics as requested.

The Alliance provides a Global Voice to the movement:

- The global co-operative Marque and a .coop domain name - symbols of the global co-operative movement and of our collective identity.



The Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade has sparked numerous projects and reports on co-operative economy and business. Read these and learn more at: <http://ica.coop/en/blueprint-co-op-decade>

Apply to use
the Marque and a
.coop domain name at
www.identity.coop
and help promote
our co-operative
difference!

- Defines and promotes the co-operative difference with media and policy-makers
- Represents the co-operative movement in multilateral organisations including the United Nations system, the International Accounting Standards Board, the European Union, and others
- Defends the co-operative movement towards national governments at the request of members
- Members participate in the governance of the Alliance

Who is Eligible?

We offer two types of membership: co-operatives and organisations that unite or federate groups of co-operatives may become Members while other kinds of organisations that support co-operatives can become Associate Members. Membership subscriptions are calculated based on a formula for Members and a flat fee for Associate Members.

Those eligible to become Full Members are:

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

Those eligible to become Associate Members are:

- Organisations that are not otherwise eligible to be full members, including:
 - Organisations that are supporters of co-operatives
 - Government departments and agencies
 - Organisations that are owned and controlled by co-operatives (entities that are not co-ops themselves but that are owned entirely by co-ops (not individuals))
 - Educational, research and other institutions that promote or finance co-operatives and the co-operative movement (training institutions and semi-autonomous institutions with no co-operative members)
- Organisations entitled to full member status, but that are not ready to apply for full membership

How to Apply

You can start the application process by speaking to either the global office or any of the regional and sectoral organisations. Your application will be reviewed at the national, global and regional levels before it is submitted for consideration by the Membership Committee of the Global Board. The candidate organisation will be advised of the decision shortly after it is made.

Candidate organisations should complete the Membership Application Form and send the required supporting documents to:

Gretchen Hacquard, Director of Membership

E-mail: hacquard@ica.coop

Or post it to the Global Office at the address in the contacts section.

Global Office

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Sectoral Organizations

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Secretary General

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**International Co-operative
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Chief Executive Officer

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Contact: Mr José A. Pérez, Secretariat

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Membership and Administration Officer