

## Youth Network Assembly 2017

### Draft Minutes

### 14 November 2017

### Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

## Agenda

The agenda was approved as follows:

Agenda Item	Time
Pick up voting materials	13h30
Welcome from the Chairperson	13h45
Approval of the draft minutes from Quebec 2016 Approval of the draft minutes from election of the President	13h55
Election to fill vacant seat on the Executive Committee	14h00
Report on activities since November 2015	14h10
Adoption of a #CoopYouth Manifesto	14h30
Break	15h00
Adoption of a Strategic Plan for the Youth Network	15h30
Assembly Adjourned	16h00

## Welcome

Gabriela Buffa introduced herself and thanked all of the participants for attending this important meeting. She asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves.

Buffa introduced Sébastien Chaillou, the new Chairperson elected by the Youth Network electronically in October 2017. Chaillou was invited to make a presentation. Members marked their approval by an applause for winning the presidency.

Buffa thanked the Executive Committee members for all of their hard work during the year, as well as Gretchen Hacquard, the coordinator for the Youth Network.

The Youth Network has a total of 75 eligible voters of which 16 were present and an additional 29 votes were given by proxy. Therefore a quorum of 60 percent was reached.

## Approval of the Minutes

The draft minutes from Québec 2016 were unanimously approved by show of voting card.

## Executive Committee Elections

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Andrea Sangiorgi from Italy was unanimously elected as the at-large member in the European Region. The following individuals were ratified as Vice Presidents for their region since they were elected as the Chairperson in their region:

- Hilda Ojall from Africa
- Ahsan Thakur from Asia-Pacific

There are now vacant seats for members-at-large in the Africa and Asia-Pacific region. There is also a vacant seat for the Vice President in the European region due to the election of Sébastien Chaillou as Chair.

## Report on activities since November 2015

Buffa presented the Youth Network, the work it has been doing, the changes in 2008 that allowed for successful execution of the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives and for the Alliance to engage in the comprehensive planning that resulted in the Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade. The presentation is available at <https://youtu.be/7wFIUIsZHBg>.

Presentations were then made by representatives from each of the Regional Committees: Ahsan Ali Thakur, Adary Oviedo, Sebastien Chaillou and Hilda Ojall.

Ahsan Ali Thakur presented the book on the Coop History of Pakistan named, "Cooperation in Cooperatives: Future Solution to Socio-Economic Problems".

## Adoption of a #CoopYouth Manifesto & Strategic Plan for the Youth Network

We are young people, we have been gathering in different countries, different continents and would like to express and share our thoughts.

We take part in different co-operative models, and we are all committed to the co-operative movement.

We appear and we are diverse and yet stand united as a young generation.

We want to promote youth empowerment through engagement with co-operatives.

Emily Lippold Cheney presented this work. The Youth Network Executive has, over the past few months, analysed the many different statements and manifestos that have come out of different co-op youth events over the past few years. They have picked out the following key statements that are repeated in many or all. It is proposed that the attendees work with these statements in the morning session to begin drafting a manifesto that we will push for adoption in various national, regional and global assemblies of the movement. We also recommend working to prioritise these statements to become the strategic plan for the Youth Network for the next few years.

The participants were asked to move into four breakout groups to discuss four different topics:

### **AUTONOMY** (Sebastien)

Despite we're bylawed by the regional sector, it is important to choose ownership! We are part an ICA body so we need quotas. We need direct participation. We need balance between the governance of ICA and the youth national associations that join us.

### **REDISTRIBUTION** (EMILY)

Create a model to redistribute wealth that provides better participation

3 stakeholders

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-ICA

-COOPS

-Youth

Give grants, mandatory allocation for youth. Money can be get from qualified coops to invest in programmes to improve capacity, building projects, training skills and financial management, sustainability. Implement a re-grant that is subject to performance indicators (create a KEEP PERFORMANCE INDICATOR to obtain accountability!)

### **PARTICIPATION (Ahsan)**

Use online platforms, social media, rumia (unknown social media), strengthen networks representing regional and national members, connect to already existing networks, communicate clearly and describe what is urgent. Motivate people to participate, re-Brand coops and the youth movement. Impact hearts and minds of people. Utilise social media management tools.

Use hashtag: #coopyouth

### **REPRESENTATION (Gaby)**

Qualities representatives should have and haven't.

-Have:

Capacity and ability to represent, justice, democratically elected, potential, good spirit, be honest, responsible, and share, transparent, committed, respectful, dedicate time for the necessary activities,

-Haven't:

Lack of communication skills, too much of a personal interest, lack of priority for youth activities, lack of knowledge,

Participants were then asked to go back into the breakout groups to discuss what the Youth Network should be doing.

### **FIT IN THE EXISTENT ACTIVITIES**

### **COMMUNICATION**

Big point suggested: each region has different social media: Wapp, line, etc.

Social networks should be diverse. Communicate to different audience through different medias.

Transitioning the newsletter by emails to newsletter in website and blogs. Stablish brand ambassadors, people who instigate Brand coops around de world.

### **COORDINATION**

A lot of things are already aimed, they just need to be in place to close the gap and enjoy the full benefit. I believe this way we will be more coordinated.

Crossed actors' collaboration: they have a funding that can support the youth. If they're willing, that money could fund youth. Bring together various actors.

Exchange information should be done off line and online. Committees of the ICA should support us. There is a lot of knowledge but it need to be coordinated. Make an online visibility campaign.

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## **PARTICIPATION**

Spent years creating programmes, statements. Being an active participant for the ICA board.

Net surplus allocation for youth.

Cover expenses on youth reps to participate.

Those who can't participate should participate online.

Bursary system to cover expenses on youth reps.

Constantly draft position papers on issues. Take a position on every statutory issue by participating in every single committee.

Provide templates of policy proposal for youth. Different languages.

## **CONSULTATION**

Get all Youth participants emails. Map youth initiatives, getting statistics for ICA, do research, have an inventory of existent coops. Include youth national associations, support youth in national ICA board, figure out if there is strong youth organisations, show strength, show assets. Surveys need people who can properly fulfill surveys, find good contacts to fill surveys.

Ideas achieved in this session will be included in our strategic plan, things will be presented during the plenary session. All this will address growth and challenges of the youth committee.

## **Next Meeting of the Youth Network**

The Youth Network would like to organise a Global Youth Summit in 2018. The next meeting of the Youth Network will take place during the week of the next General Assembly of the International Co-operative Alliance.

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