

# Youth Network Assembly 2017

## Official Meeting Documentation

### 14 November 2017

### Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

## Table of Contents

Agenda 1	
Information .....	1
Reference Documents.....	2
Voting Procedures.....	2
Approval of the Minutes.....	3
Draft Minutes, Youth Network Assembly, 13 October 2016, Québec City, Canada.....	3
Draft Minutes, Youth Network Representative Election 2017 .....	5
Executive Committee Elections.....	6
Adoption of a #CoopYouth Manifesto & Strategic Plan for the Youth Network .....	7
Next Meeting of the Youth Network.....	9

## Agenda

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

## Information

The Youth Network Assembly will take place on Tuesday 14 November 2017 at the conference center located in the Sunway Resort Hotel and Spa: <http://malaysia2017.coop/conference-venue>.

---

This meeting will take place in conjunction with the Global Conference of the International Co-operative Alliance: [www.malasia2017.coop](http://www.malasia2017.coop). There will be a number of other events created by and for youth during the week. Learn more by visiting <http://malaysia2017.coop/coopyouth-programme>.

There will be Spanish interpretation provided during the meeting. Should interpretation be required for other languages, please bring your interpreter with you.

## Reference Documents

The following links and publications contain information relevant to the Youth Network and this Assembly:

- **Youth Network Constitution:** <http://ica.coop/sites/default/files/attachments/GVC%20-%202014%2006%2005%20-%20Youth%20Network%20Constitution%20FINAL.pdf>
- Youth Network Newsletters which include updates on our activities during the year:
- October 2017: <http://mailchi.mp/a8128d3a33b2/april-2017-newsletter-294597>
- April 2017: <http://mailchi.mp/29cf0afe6007/april-2017-newsletter-136181>
- December 2016: <http://createsend.com/t/t-1CF36C6E79D2C9B7>
- Youth Network website: [www.globalyouth.coop](http://www.globalyouth.coop)

Please note we will not be distributing copies of any of the documentation. Please bring these with you to Kuala Lumpur.

## Voting Procedures

The only persons allowed to vote are members who have submitted a **nomination form**. Members will be those persons up to 35 years inclusive and associated to organizations belonging to the Alliance. Individuals will need to submit a form to the Youth Network secretariat. This form must be signed by a **member organisation** of the Alliance.

Should a member not be able to attend the meeting, they can submit a proxy in writing to the Youth Network secretariat ([Hacquard@ica.coop](mailto:Hacquard@ica.coop)). For a current list of members who you could give a proxy to, please ask the secretariat. A sample proxy letter is provided below:

### Sample Proxy Letter

I hereby authorize <individual name> in <country> to represent me and vote on my behalf at the Youth Network Assembly to be held on 14 November 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

(include your signature, full name, contact email, and country)

All other individuals who attend the meeting are observers.

Members who wish to vote should arrive at 13h30 to pick up their voting materials. Members will not be able to pick up their materials after meeting has started at 13h45. When picking up the voting materials, members will be asked to sign that they picked up their materials.

---

---

All votes will be by show of voting card, except if there is a call for a paper vote. Should this be required, members will receive generic ballots which they can use to make their vote by checking either yes, no, or abstain. Should there be a call for a paper vote, these will be secretly counted by:

- the observer assigned by the Alliance, and
- two persons nominated by the members.

Following the count, the results will be announced during the meeting. While the votes are being counted, the meeting will continue.

If ballots need to be used, the observer will collect them. The ballots remain in the possession of the observer until counted. Each ballot will be counted twice, by different individuals.

Results will be tallied on a summary sheet and signed by each of the individuals present at the count. The summary sheet will be preserved by the global office until the next election. The ballots will be destroyed following the election. During the counting of votes, candidates and members are not entitled to be present nor to be advised of the number of votes cast for a specific candidate. The observer will announce the results of the election.

## Approval of the Minutes

The approval of the minutes will be conducted by show of voting card. The Chair will give the opportunity for members to express their vote in favour, against or to abstain.

## Draft Minutes, Youth Network Assembly, 13 October 2016, Québec City, Canada

### Opening & Welcome

The President of the Youth Network, Gabriella Buffa, formally opened the Assembly and welcomed those who were present. The 2016 Assembly was convened in the context of the International Summit of Co-operatives.

The primary purpose of this Assembly is to fill vacant seats on the Executive Committee and approve amendments to the Youth Network constitution.

Mr Jean-Louis Bancel from Crédit Coopératif in France and the Alliance Board was present and agreed to serve as the election observer. 19 out of 32 voting materials were distributed either by members present or by proxy and thus a quorum was reached.

### Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

Approval of draft minutes from Antalya November 2015

The minutes were approved unanimously.

### Executive Committee Elections

#### Vice Presidents

The following Vice Presidents were ratified unanimously:

- **Americas:** Mr Aquileo Mena, nominated to represent the Americas Youth Committee on the Global Youth Network instead of their President Mr Carlos Medrano
-

- 
- **Europe:** Mr Sébastien Chaillou

### **Executive Committee At Large**

Given that there was only one candidate for the open seat in the Africa region, the Chair called for a vote by voting cards. One voting member felt that votes should not be done by voting card, only by secret ballot, in order to allow for voters to be able to be honest without embarrassing the candidate. Given that this is the usual practice of the Alliance and that there were no secondees to the opinion to vote by ballot, the vote continued by show of voting cards. Ms Hilda Ojall from Kenya was nominated unanimously.

### **Proposed Amendments to the Constitution**

Buffa explained that the constitution of the Youth Network was drafted for input at the Youth Network meeting in Cape Town in 2013, was amended and implemented, and further discussion was had in Antalya in 2015. There have been a number of proposed changes to the constitution which have been tabled to become part of a global consultative process including the role of the Youth Network of the International Co-operative Alliance, to be fully discussed at the Assembly in 2017.

There was meaningful discussion as to the amount of changes proposed, the accessibility and availability of the changes to be reviewed prior to the meeting, and whether or not the group (some of which had only joined the network that day) was ready or equipped to approve the changes. The Executive Committee contextualized the changes for the group as correcting typos, conforming them to existing governance standards, and updating pieces to reflect what the network had been doing for the last couple years - rather than making any significant changes in operation or intention. It was further shared that the changes were accessible and available to network members via email weeks ahead of the meeting – additional avenues for distribution were not available, but would be desirable. Many were unaware of their ability to participate in the network until or shortly prior to the event, making it difficult to impossible to access the changes ahead of time.

The approval of the proposed amendments to the Youth network Constitution were conducted by show of voting card at one time. The Chair will give the opportunity for members to express their vote in favour, against or to abstain.

All amendments were agreed to unanimously.

### **Any Other Business**

Buffa opened the meeting for members to express any thoughts or concerns that they had. Many members were disappointed that the International Summit did not inform the Youth Leader participants that the Assembly was taking place, and thus many had arranged their flights to leave earlier. There was also agreement that the International Summit should do a better job of incorporating youth into all panels and discussion during the week. Many youth could not afford to pay the high youth fees to attend as the reduced fee was still CAD 700 and many could not afford to pay travel and accommodation costs. Other members who felt that this complaint was said at the last Summit's and that youth were not taking the time to find and apply to the funding that is available for these sorts of activities.

The next meeting of the Youth Network will take place during the week of the next General Assembly of the International Co-operative Alliance in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during the week of 14-17 November 2017.

Buffa thanked everyone for a good meeting, and the Youth Network Workshop commenced immediately after the Assembly closed.

---

---

## Draft Minutes, Youth Network Representative Election 2017

The Elections Committee of the Youth Network was made up of four members of the Youth Network Executive Committee and one observer :

- Gabriela Buffa
- Dr. Sukesh Zamwar
- Mattia Affini
- Hilda Ojall
- Seah Kian Peng (observer)

There were two staff running the elections :

- Gretchen Hacquard, Youth Network Coordinator
- Padmanabhan Jayasrinath (Shree), IT for the ICA Asia-Pacific Office

The Youth Network held the online electronic vote to elect the Youth Representative. Three nomination forms were received :

1. Mr. Sébastien Chaillou, from France, nominated by Coop FR, date of birth 4 November 1987.
2. Mr. Tonny Okoth Otieno, from Kenya, nominated by African Confederation of Cooperatives Savings and Credit Associations, date of birth 27 March 1984.
3. Mr. Raeisinejad Mohsen, from Iran, nominated by the Iran Central Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC), date of birth 23 April 1983.

Mr Otieno from Kenya and Mr. Mohsen from Iran were considered invalid by the Election Committee because they would exceed the age limit of 35 during their four-year term in office. Therefore, it was only Mr Chaillou from France who was put forward as the only candidate for election.

Based on the availability of the election observer, Mr Seah Kian Peng from Singapore (GST), it was decided to hold the election for the 48-hour period from 8h45am Singapore time on 11 September to 8h45am Singapore time on 13 September.

Voting members received login credentials and were given all information necessary to cast their votes. No members had difficulty using the system to cast their vote.

Gabriela, Shree and Gretchen opened the election on time at 8h45 GST (2h30 EST).

One challenge was the regulation in the Youth Network constitution that electronic elections require a 2/3 majority. This meant that, as there were 73 voters, 49 had to vote. As a quorum had not been reached by the close of business at 17h30 EST (23h30 SGT) on 12 September, the Election Committee agreed to extend the deadline to keep the election open until a quorum could be reached. We were able to reach a quorum at about 16h00 EST (22h00 SGT) on 13 September and the Election Committee agreed to close the election at 16h23 EST.

The result of the election is here:

**TOTAL VOTES CAST = 50**

**TOTAL UNIQUE VOTES CAST = 49** (because 1 person voted on both websites)

---

---

The voters voted the following way:

- 49 votes for Sébastien
- 1 votes for Abstain

### **FINAL RESULT OF ELECTION**

The 1 duplicate registrant voted for Sébastien on both websites, so the final results are:

- **48 votes for Sébastien**
- **1 votes for Abstain**

Sébastien Chaillou won the election. The Election Committee of the Youth Network formally signed off on the results.

## **Executive Committee Elections**

There are two open seats on the Executive Committee, one for a member at-large in the Africa Region and one for a member at-large in the European region.

The nominees for the Executive Committee will each be given no more than five minutes to make a presentation before the vote. The election of the at-large candidates will be by show of voting card since the number of candidates is less than the available seats. The Chair will give the opportunity for embers to express their vote in favour, against or to abstain.

The Alliance only received a nomination from the European region. Therefore, we will have an election to fill the at-large position in Africa at the next Assembly.

The following are the eligible candidates:



**Andrea Sangiorgi**

**Nominated by:** Confederazione Cooperative Italiane (CONFCOOPERATIVE)

**Country:** Italy

**Date of birth:** 14 July 1988

**About:** I'm working in the cooperative world at Consortium Solco from 10 years. Our goal is to make available of our cooperatives associated an organization that can improve their services with more quality and innovation through human resources and financial instruments. We realize services for people and we adopt new projects of sharing economy such as social-housing. All this kind of thinks has allowed me to become the person I am now; a professional and hardworking man that always try to reach the goals I set. I find really exiting to work in team building because it's always nice to push yourself further and relate to other people to continue growing. On the last years, I rediscovered the value of communication and empathy with others, realizing that it's necessary to build human cooperative relationships to achieve goals that alone would be impossible. I think that people are the most important resource in any business reality especially in co-operation, if you want to build something you have to start from the basics. Young people must to have the humility to learn, but also the madness and the desire to push it all the way further.

---

---

## 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.

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.

### WHY ENGAGE YOUTH

1. Youth have long been, and increasingly are, disproportionately affected by unemployment, underemployment, disempowerment and disengagement. Through effective involvement with cooperatives, youth can work together with governments, civil society and other stakeholders, to overcome these challenges.
2. The engagement of youth with cooperatives is a viable and promising option for their transition to full economic and social participation.
3. If the co-op model succeeds to meet and merge with the aspirations of youth to change the world, then everything is possible! This co-operative future is not so far away but it requires that the whole movement stand united to build bridges between youth and co-ops.
4. We are building the movement for current and future generations. We call on the broader cooperative movement to join us in this important work by implementing these changes to foster a brave, loving, just, and intergenerational cooperative movement.
5. Empowering young cooperators not only directly benefits the youth but will positively impact the whole movement. In the context of multiple global crises, youth led social movements and the need for a new development consensus, we recognize that youth development is an increasingly urgent concern that encompasses social, economic, political and environmental dimensions and has taken a more central focus for decision-makers at all levels.
6. We believe in the co-operative principles and cooperative values.
7. The role of youth is vital to carry out the social changes that promote the well-being of the people and life in more egalitarian communities.
8. The participation of youth is a challenge to strengthen democracies

### WHAT CAN CO-OPS DO?

1. A generational divide exists between the younger and older generations leading to difficulty in integration of youth into the cooperative movement. Youth see cooperatives as outdated or do not perceive them as viable job options. Youth who have integrated into cooperatives face vertical mobility and representation barriers. The older generation perceives youth as competition, or as lacking commitment. These recommendations address these concerns.
-

- 
2. We want our movement to be fully participatory and truly democratic. We believe in participatory processes that engage a diversity of voices and a larger number of people.
  3. In order for our movement to maintain relevance and be truly representative, we must have strong leadership succession practices and diverse representation of all the co-operative movement in leadership. We need more diversity and gender equity in order to balance and rejuvenate the movement.
  4. In order for our movement to be truly democratic, we must utilize **participatory processes** to openly discuss strategy, vision, and challenges.
  5. In order for our movement to maintain relevance and be truly **governed** by the people, we must have strong **leadership** succession practices and diverse representation of peoples in leadership.
  6. In order to continue to **innovate** in the cooperative movement, both the autonomy of youth needs to be respected and the autonomous youth organizations need support.
    - Redistribute the cooperative movement's wealth of resources to support marginalized peoples, including youth, to build autonomous networks and innovate the cooperative business model.
  7. Engage with youth in order to adapt to changing environments, sustain and develop.
  8. Work together with us to address effective youth engagement with the cooperative sector.
  9. We need a policy environment that facilitates effective youth engagement.
  10. We need financial and technical support for cooperative development.
  11. To effectively track and assess youth engagement, we call upon the international cooperative and governmental communities to collaboratively establish benchmarks and measures of youth engagement in cooperatives alongside indicators of their social and economic development.
  12. Allow the inclusion of youth representatives on cooperative boards, including full voting rights and responsibilities.
  13. Our vision and expectation of the global cooperative movement is for it to transform an economy based on the individual accumulation of wealth and power into a system that serves the collective wellbeing of people and our planet through redistribution of resources and common ownership.
  14. It is necessary for the movement to work from the bottom up not the top down, where a diversity of voices are valued and heard, a movement that it is fully participatory and democratic.
  15. Co-ops should create free, accessible and useful resources for youth.
  16. Enhance youth engagement in co-operatives and further the awareness of youth on the cooperative enterprise model.
  17. Ensure youth become advocates for gender equality inside and outside the co-operative movements to build an equitable society.
  18. Increase the participation of youth in co-operative management and leadership boards
  19. IMPLEMENT policies within all levels of the co-operative organisations to facilitate the promotion of young members to the levels of management and access to the decision-making processes of co-operatives;
-

- 
20. Pay more attention to the challenges, needs, and problems of youth and give them the right to EDUCATION, EMPOWERMENT, and EMPLOYMENT!
  21. Stimulate the creation and strengthening of networks of youth.
  22. We want to empower young people, enabling them to create a world where they have more control over their own livelihoods. Through developing co-operative enterprises and initiatives we seek to build a future founded on economic resilience, environmental sustainability, and positive social change.
  23. Working together, we are able to support each other through sharing knowledge, solutions, and skills.

## **ACTIONS**

24. Employ large group participatory processes.
25. Utilize online participation tools to engage cooperative movement members in conversation year-round on topics under consideration by our International, Regional, and National federation Board of Directors.
26. Apply consensus-building and -seeking models to the decision-making processes of our ICA, regional, and national federation Boards. We propose a move away from our false model of overly representational democracy.
27. Maintain term limits and gender equity for the Boards of the ICA, regional, and national federations.
28. Adopt a commitment to develop and maintain shared management structures among leadership and executives to avoid the consolidation of power and foster turnover of leadership in perpetuity.
29. Proactively include youth on the ICA, regional, and national federation Boards through statutory seats.
30. Allow for youth organizations to be autonomous at the ICA, regional, and national levels. More specifically, the ICA Board should allow the Global Youth Network to decide who and how people can be members of our network.
31. Redistribute the cooperative movement's wealth of resources to support marginalized peoples, including youth, to build autonomous networks and innovate the cooperative business model.

## **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.

---