



Constitution of Alliance Youth Network

PREAMBLE

The International Co-operative Alliance, hereinafter the "Alliance", formed the Youth Network in 2003 as an advisory, assistance and representation body for the co-operative youth movement with the purpose of organizing to address its singularity and complexity; promoting education and co-operative principles, encouraging the participation and development of youth from all nationalities within the co-operative movement; and undertaking actions to build more just and equitable societies.

Article I: NAME AND SCOPE

The "Youth Network of the International Co-operative Alliance" or "Alliance Youth Network" will be the official names and may be used interchangeably. It is formed by people committed to the co-operative youth movement, according to the criteria for membership.

Article II: REGULATORY PROVISIONS

The Alliance Youth Network operates in accordance with this constitution and the resolutions adopted by the bodies that comprise it - the Articles and ByLaws of the Alliance and the resolutions of its General Assembly.

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

Members will be those persons up to 35 years inclusive and associated to organizations belonging to the Alliance. Members vote and participate in the Alliance Youth Network, and therefore need to be nominated by a member organization.

The request for membership should be sent to the secretariat who will be responsible for maintaining the registrar of members. Member organisations of the Alliance can amend the voting members representing them prior to each Assembly of the Youth Network.

There will be no membership fee. However, participation in various activities may require a registration fee.

Article IV: STRUCTURE

The Alliance Youth Network will have the following structure:

- a) Executive Committee: shall consist of the following voting members:
 1. President who is the Youth Representative on the Alliance Board (Alliance ByLaws, Article 23, paragraph 4),
 2. Vice Chairpersons who are the elected from each Regional Youth Committee or Network, and
 3. Members at Large who are nominated by Alliance members, but no more than one member at large from each region. The minimum must be 3 members.

The Executive Committee shall be made up of youth who will not exceed the age of 35 during their time in office and shall serve for a period of four years.

- b) The secretariat shall be designated by the Director General of the Alliance.

Article V: AIMS

The aims of the Alliance Youth Network shall be:

- a) To provide consultation to the Alliance on matters and issues of the co-operative youth

- movement.
- b) To support the Alliance in defence of the movement and coordination with international and government agencies advocating for policies and programs for youth.
 - c) To promote opportunities for reflection, discussion, exchange, research and training to facilitate the participation and integration of youth in co-operatives.
 - d) To promote the dissemination of information on issues involving co-operative youth.
 - e) To facilitate interaction between regional youth committees.
 - f) To encourage the work of youth in co-operatives and related associations.

Article VI: FUNCTIONS

Executive Committee:

It will be a permanent body with the following functions:

- a) To build an effective network linking all relevant bodies within and outside the Alliance who are active in youth work and co-operatives.
- b) To assist in the design and implementation of the strategic plan of the Alliance.
- c) To promote the inclusion of issues related to youth in the agendas of Alliance bodies.
- d) Support the work of the Regional Youth Committees associated with the Alliance and promote their creation in areas where they do not exist.
- f) To interact with external structures of the Alliance involved with youth and co-operatives that the Alliance Youth Network considers relevant.
- g) To perform any other relevant activities related to the promotion and implementation of the objectives of the Alliance.
- h) To define the internal organization and distribution of roles of the Executive Committee.

When necessary, resolutions of the Executive Committee shall be approved by absolute majority of the members present at each meeting.

In case of a tie, the President shall have a casting vote. The Executive Committee may accept votes in writing or using electronic media.

President of the Executive Committee:

The President will have, in addition to the specific functions that may be assigned by the Executive Committee, the following functions:

- a) To call and preside meetings of the Alliance Youth Network and the Executive Committee.
- b) To serve as liaison and promote dialogue between the Alliance Youth Network and the Executive Committee with International Co-operative Alliance and related structures.
- c) Represent the Alliance Youth Network before third parties and international bodies as required.

Secretariat:

The secretariat will support the programs and activities of the Alliance Youth Network.

Article VII: REPRESENTATION

- a) The President of the Alliance Youth Network will be the worldwide representative of youth in the co-operative movement. He/she shall be ratified by the General Assembly of the Alliance.
- b) The regional representatives of the Executive Committee shall be the Presidents of the Regional Youth Committees/Network. Each Regional Committee/Network shall formally notify the Secretariat of the Alliance Youth Network if a permanent or temporary vacancy has occurred and inform the replacement. Replacements will serve as voting interim Vice Presidents from when the Alliance is notified to when they are ratified by the next Assembly.
- c) Where a Vice President is unable to serve on the Executive Committee for any reason, such as exceeding the age stipulated in Article 3 paragraph a) of this constitution, the appropriate regional body shall appoint a new representative to fill the vacancy.

- d) The Executive Committee and its members must adhere to the codes of conduct and procedures of the Alliance.

Article VIII: MEETINGS

a) The Alliance Youth Network will hold an Assembly in the framework of the Alliance Meeting of members or General Assembly every one or two years. Other meetings may occur according to the requirements. Electronic decisions may also be called for in certain instances where the input of the members is needed, and cannot include binding changes to the constitution or election of members at large of the Executive Committee. Ratification of the appointment of the Vice Presidents may be made electronically.

b) Assemblies shall be convened by the President of the Alliance Youth Network. The Secretariat shall inform the members one month in advance of the place and the agenda for the meeting. The relevant reports, reference materials and other documents necessary for the meeting shall be provided at least one week in advance.

Elections for the members at large shall be held at every fourth year, starting in 2015. Retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election provided they meet the age criteria at the time of election.

Special elections will occur to fill vacancies at the Alliance Youth Network Assembly. The President is elected by the Assembly and the Regional Vice Presidents are only ratified. The nominees do not have to attend the meeting.

c) The quorum for a meeting shall be simple majority of those present in the assembly (more than half of the members (including those absent who are voting by proxy and those present but abstaining from that particular vote)). The quorum for electronic decisions shall be a supermajority (2/3 of all members, with no proxies allowed).

d) The official language of the meetings and Assemblies of the Alliance Youth Network will be English. Translation may be provided pending the budget. Participants requiring translation may bring a personal translator at their own expense.

d) The Alliance recognizes the cultural and linguistic diversity of its members and will use at least three working languages. The Board will determine which and to what extent different languages are used, taking into consideration the balance between diversity and resources available. (Alliance ByLaws Article 3)

The Executive Committee will create an Elections Committee of three to five members that cannot include members running for election. The task of the Elections Committee will be to:

- i. Seek out and encourage nominations of candidates, as needed;
- ii. Approve an election observer nominated by the Alliance;
- iii. Confirm the eligibility of the candidates, and if needed create rules on eligibility;
- iv. Draft and approve elections procedures and ensure that elections are conducted in accordance with said procedures;
- v. Advise the full Executive Committee on elections issues;

The Executive Committee election, as a rule, is conducted by secret ballot. During the assembly, the members who are present during the meeting will nominate counters. The counters and observer will certify the voting.

e) The Executive Committee will meet in the framework of the global conference of the Alliance, and other meetings, in person or online according to the possibilities. Each meeting shall have the minutes recorded.

f) The official language of the meetings of the Executive Committee shall be English. Participants requiring translation into other languages may provide a personal translator at their own expense.

g) The quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be simple majority. In the absence of the President, the remaining members shall elect among the Vice-presidents a President for the sole purpose of conducting the meeting.

Article IX: REPORTING

- a) The Executive Committee shall submit reports to the Alliance Board on its activities, programs and other matters relevant.
- b) Written reports will be given to the relevant bodies of the Alliance as required.
- c) The Executive Committee shall report orally or in writing at each meeting of the Youth Network and, if necessary, notify the network of important issues between sessions, using the communication channels that the Executive Committee considers appropriate.

Article X: FINANCING

Any expenses of the members of the Alliance Youth Network will be covered by co-operative organizations from which they are members or not.

The budget of the Alliance Youth Network will be designed and administered by the Alliance.

In the rare event that the Executive Committee administers funds for specific activities, they must submit financial reports to the Alliance.

The Executive Committee may require institutional and financial support, as it deems appropriate and relevant.

The accounts of the Alliance Youth Network will be audited annually as part of the overall audit of the Alliance. The fiscal year of the Youth Network coincides with the calendar year.

Article XI: AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution may be made by the Executive Committee and approved by three-fourths majority of the members of the Alliance Youth Network who are present at the meeting. The Alliance Board shall make the final approval to any amendments.

Article XII: OTHER PROVISIONS

- a) The Executive Committee may also nominate no more than two advisors older than 35 to sit on the Committee. The advisors will have voice but not have a vote.
- b) Any discount on the registration fee required for attending the global conference of the Alliance for youth, will be decided by the Alliance Board when deciding registration fees.
- c) Any person who supports and is interested in youth co-operatives may request to be added to the mailing list of the Alliance Youth Network as an adherent. Adherents will be persons that although they are not associated with members from Alliance support the co-operative youth movement or want to develop it. Adherents may be consulted with and make recommendations. Adherents may attend as an observer at meetings, conferences, seminars or panels of the Alliance Youth Network without prejudice to age. A written request must be sent in advance to the Secretariat to be properly registered.

FINAL COMMENT

To begin the functions of the Youth Network, an Interim Executive Committee was nominated by members of the Alliance during the Youth Network Meeting of the 2013 Global Conference & General Assembly held in Cape Town. This Interim Executive Committee served until 2015.

Approved

The first draft of this constitution was approved by the Youth Network on 2 October 2013.

The Alliance Board approved an amended constitution based on feedback received in Cape Town on 6 June 2014.

The Governance Committee of the Alliance Board approved without any changes on 8 March 2017 the proposed modifications made by the Youth Network at its meeting in Québec City on 17 October 2016.