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Representing the Global Co-operative Movement

The International Co-operative Alliance is a non-profit international association established in 1895 to advance the co-operative social enterprise model. The Alliance provides a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and coordinated action for and about co-operatives. The Alliance is the apex organisation for co-operatives worldwide, representing 272 co-operative federations and organisations across 100 countries (figures of January 2014). Operating from a global office in Brussels, Belgium, the Alliance is organised with four Regional Offices (Europe, Africa, Americas, and Asia-Pacific), and eight Sectoral Organisations (Banking, Agriculture, Fisheries, Insurance, Health, Housing, Consumer Co-operatives, and Worker Co-operatives).

Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade

The United Nations International Year of Co-operatives marked the beginning of a world-wide 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 in 100 countries 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 great financial collapse. By pursuing the strategy outlined in this Blueprint, we aim to make 2011-2020 a Co-operative Decade of confident growth. The International Year of Co-operatives had a number of 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, and members world-wide are adapting the strategy to their local realities. Join us in achieving our 2020 vision.