

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE

YOUTH RESOLUTION

▪ APPROVED BY THE ICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 17 OCTOBER 2019, IN KIGALI (RWANDA) ▪

As youth, we understand that the cooperative model is a crucial tool for economic, political and social sustainable development of the global scenario. Where people, their needs, human and community growth are at the core of the movement.

For years we have worked in different initiatives within the global and regional level, and the system has given us the space to raise our voices. Yet, we are ready to step up, to bring more to the network, to re-build and re-designed the frame of collaboration and the future of the cooperative model enabling a self-lead space for the younger generation.

In 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, for the first time as youth, we elected our own president. This action gave us the legitimacy to design and implement an ambitious plan that included: a mapping of youth coops and the first Cooperative Global Youth Forum fully dedicated and designed by youth. This action plan will end with the GA in Seoul.

As youth committee we have put it upon ourselves to leave a clear path of collaboration and hand in hand work with the ICA global. We owe it to the next team to leave the best possible game scenario for action. To have the collaboration agreement and working structure scratched off their to-do list, no where near their worry.

For that, we call upon all of you today to help us build that play field. We have had spaces for “Youth Declaration” year after year, you’ve listened, you’ve agreed. This year, we decided to write a resolution, so all of us can contribute actively to that well-hearted call for youth empowerment. We all know, actions speak louder than words so, “it is time to walk the talk”.

In order to make that happen, we call all of you in this 17th of October, with representatives from 95 countries, to join your voices to ours, by supporting this resolution with your vote, and, together, ask the board of the ICA to review the bylaws, articles and budget regarding youth for a more efficient, more self determined and better working collaboration by raising the following points:

- **Harmonizing the position of the youth regional network and committees:** We call for regional support for regional level representatives, as well as the empowerment of the youth networks. Understanding that the youth should be granted autonomy and self-determination to best serve the ICA purpose. And that in order to be empowered and fully own the position in this structure, we advocate for the inclusion of a youth representative in the boards of the ICA regions and the

granting of a vote to that representative. Which is already in place in the regions of Africa and the Americas.

- Reinforce the youth committee by including the **youth action plan in the ICA global strategy** with an allocated budget for the implementation of such plan.
- **Support the youth representatives** with the resources to be able to attend the official international ICA events, assuring a once a year “in-person” meeting of the youth committee.
- **Develop the Global Youth Network by making it more accesible**, using more inclusive tools and bylaws to foster the participation of the wider youth. For example, the inclusion of technology and it's best use in the governance of the youth network.

The younger generation is eager to participate in the cooperative movement and not only grow but contribute to the global scale of the development of coops. Young people are ready for action and looking for support and guidance to best channel their energies. To find a model that is environmentally respectful and humanly sustainable. And we are certain that the cooperative model is the answer to a lot of those questions.

Our work is in place, and now is time to stand together, by supporting this resolution with your vote, because one thing is clear, we do better together.

Thank you very much

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Presented by the ICA Youth Network to ICA members present at the ICA General Assembly on 17 October 2019

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