

Rules of the ICA Youth Committee

ARTICLE 1: NAME AND STATUS

1.1 The name of the Thematic Committee is the ICA Youth Committee hereafter referred to as "ICA YC".

1.2 This Committee is constituted as a Thematic Committee of the International Cooperative Alliance hereafter referred to as "ICA" as per its Bylaws.

ARTICLE 2: VISION, MISSION AND ROLE

2.1. The vision of the ICA YC is to effectively and inclusively, unite, promote, and represent youth in cooperatives at the global level.

2.2. The mission of the ICA YC is to complement and contribute to the work and initiatives of the ICA in line with the ICA Global Strategy and build a cooperative movement in which youth participate on fully equal terms with other persons.

2.3. ICA-YC has the role of promoting youth at the behest of the ICA and providing thematic advice to all ICA bodies to support their actions toward young people. In addition, it has the role of promoting education in general, and in particular training and information on the ICA Statement on the Cooperative Identity.

2.4. Members of the ICA-YC encourage and support youth to play an important role of strengthening and when necessary, rejuvenating cooperatives with the aim of protecting and promoting the social, cultural, environmental, and economic aspirations of present and future generations.

ARTICLE 3: AIMS

3.1 Promote cooperative values and principles as described in Articles 4 through 7 of the ICA Bylaws, the mission of the ICA as provided in Article 1 of the ICA By Laws and the aims and objectives reflected in the ICA strategy, through the promotion of youth in the cooperative movement.

3.2 Ensure youth inclusion and mainstreaming youth in ICA policies, strategies, and activities, including in its regional and sectoral bodies.

3.3 Increase the active participation of young people in the governance and operations of their cooperatives and in cooperative structures affiliated to the ICA.

ARTICLE 4: ACTIVITIES

4.1 The ICA YC shall enact measures to achieve youth inclusion within the cooperative movement, including, but not limited to:

- Promoting cooperative entrepreneurship to empower youth in ICA bodies;
- Advising the ICA and through it, its member organisations on matters concerning youth;
- Encouraging cooperatives to adopt and implement youth inclusion strategies;
- Encouraging ICA member organizations to identify youth representatives to participate in the activities of ICA, in particular of the ICA-YC, Representing and facilitating the participation of youth cooperators and their concerns, at various fora at the global level.

4.2 Develop and implement the youth action plan and any short or long term youth strategies approved by the ICA Global Board.

4.3 In addition to maintaining a membership register, ICA-YC shall maintain a global register of youth cooperators with their names, affiliations and contact information called 'ICA Youth Network' (Hereinafter Network) and support and coordinate its activities and communications.

4.4. Funds permitting, initiate and manage, where possible, educational and research activities relevant to the promotion of youth inclusion within cooperatives, in coordination with the ICA Committee on Cooperative Research.

4.5 Report regularly to the ICA Global Board on the status and progress of the ICA-YC and its aims set out in Article 3.

ARTICLE 5: MEMBERSHIP OF THE ICA YC

5.1 ICA member organizations may nominate two youth representatives (hereafter named representatives) under the age of 35 years to the ICA YC. The term of membership is linked to the tenure of the Executive Committee as per Article 6 or at the time when a member completes the age of 35 years, whichever is earlier

5.2 To apply for membership in the ICA YC, interested member organisations must submit an application to the Secretary of ICA YC and the President of the ICA YC at least six weeks before the Annual Plenary Meeting, for the consideration of the application by Executive Committee members.

5.2. A. In order to increase the involvement of youth in the ICA, Representatives nominated by ICA member organizations as per Article 5.1 may themselves nominate a maximum of 10 other appropriate youth from their own countries as youth representatives.

5.3 Representatives may voluntarily resign from the ICA YC at any time by notifying the ICA YC Secretary and Executive Committee. Representatives may be no longer eligible to participate in the ICA YC, in the event of non-compliance with the present rules or cessation of their nominating organisation from ICA membership.

5.4 Member organisations may change their nominated representative to the ICA YC at any time, by completing and sending a nomination form to the ICA YC Secretary and the President. Member organisations are allowed to send a limited number of observers to participate in ICA YC meetings.

5.5 The approval of a new representative is recorded in the membership register. The ICA YC Secretary of the ICA YC keeps the membership register, in electronic form. The register is available to the ICA member organizations and representatives on request.

5.6 Any nominee of an ICA member organization to the ICA YC whose application is not accepted, or any representative who is asked to leave the ICA YC, has the right of appeal at the Annual Plenary Meeting at which the decision is taken, or at the next Annual Plenary Meeting.

5.7 Youth Representatives are nominated by ICA member organizations to adequately represent national youth cooperative movements and youth cooperators at the ICA YC. In addition to actively participating in ICA YC meetings and activities under Article 4, representatives shall strive to achieve the maximum potential of youth participation from their countries at the ICA YC, inter alia, by liaising with under-represented and non-represented ICA member organizations to nominate representatives to the Youth Committee as per [as per Article 5.2.A](#), as well as appropriate persons to the ICA Youth Network as per Article 4.3

ARTICLE 6: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

6.1 The Executive Committee of the ICA YC shall consist of four Vice-presidents elected by regional youth committees, four Members at large and President elected directly by representatives of the Annual Plenary Meeting.

6.2 The Role of the Executive Committee is to ensure that the ICA YC achieves its aims and provide overall leadership and management. The Executive Committee will convene an Annual Plenary Meeting of the ICA-YC and other meetings related to its work with youth cooperators. It shall regularly review the ICA YC work plan, set benchmarks for success, and report progress to the ICA Board and ICA General Assembly.

6.3 Role of President of the ICA YC

The role of the President of the ICA YC is to represent all young cooperators at the global level. In addition to the specific functions that may be assigned by the Executive Committee, s/he shall have the following functions:

- a. Call and preside meetings of the ICA Youth Committee, ICA Youth Network and the ICA YC Executive Committee;
- b. Represent youth cooperators at the ICA Board as the ICA Youth Representative;
- c. Oversee the implementation of ICA YC action plan;
- d. Serve as liaison and promote dialogue between the ICA Youth Network and the Executive Committee with International Cooperative Alliance and related bodies;
- e. Represent the ICA before third parties and international bodies as required with the prior approval of the ICA- YC;

6.4 ICA YC Vice Presidents

ICA YC Vice Presidents are elected by regional youth committees or their equivalent which is recognized by the ICA as a body within a region.

They shall be responsible for facilitating engagement of ICA member organizations at the regional level, on youth activities promoted by the ICA YC, and in supporting the Executive Committee, and in particular the President with the tasks outlined 6.3.

They present an annual youth activity report to ICA Regional Assemblies and represent youth cooperators at the ICA Regional Boards.

6.5 Members at large

ICA-YC Members at large one per ICA Region, shall be nominated by ICA members. They are elected directly by the ICA YC representatives at the time of electing the President.

They shall be responsible for facilitating engagement of ICA member organizations at the regional level, on youth activities promoted by the ICA YC, and in supporting the Executive Committee with the tasks outlined in Article 6.2.

6.6 Should a vacancy on the Executive Committee become available outside of the regularly scheduled elections, an election for that vacancy will take place at the next Annual Plenary Meeting, and the term of office will last until the next regular elections. The Executive Committee still regularly functions with the remaining members.

6.7 Meetings of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a year, and usually one meeting must be in person. One of these meetings will be in conjunction with the Annual Plenary Meeting. Any member of the Executive Committee can request additional meetings.

6.8 The Executive Committee upon exhausting its own funding options including ICA member organizations nominating youth members may, through the ICA YC President, place a request to the ICA Global Board to consider, if possible, financial assistance for the participation of Executive Committee members at annual meetings.

ARTICLE 7: ROLE OF THE STAFF

7.1 ICA Director General shall appoint ICA Global Office Staff to coordinate the activities of the committee.

7.2 The Staff is responsible for:

- Maintaining the membership register of the ICA Youth Committee;
- Maintaining the register of the ICA Youth Network;
- Preparing meeting documentation and organising meeting logistics;

- Distributing meeting documentation no later than two weeks prior to meetings;
- Overseeing the preparation of Executive Committee elections;
- Collecting new membership applications;
- Preparing Minutes of ICA YC meetings;
- Reporting ICA YC activities to the ICA Global Office;
- Publicizing the work of the ICA YC, where financial resources permit;
- Undertaking other operational and administrative work of the ICA YC; and
- Any other task related to the work of the ICA YC and the ICA Youth Network.

ARTICLE 8: ELECTIONS

8.1 Elections for the Executive Committee shall be held every four years at an Annual Plenary Meeting of the ICA- YC.

8.2 Except for the cases concerning vacancy under Article 6.6, the terms for the President, Vice Presidents, and rest of the Executive Committee members shall be for four years from the date of their elections.

8.3 Notice of elections must be communicated to all ICA YC members at least 60 days before the Annual Plenary Meeting at which elections will take place, and the nominations process will align with those of the ICA Global Board.

8.4 ICA Member organisations may nominate candidates from the already nominated Youth Representatives under Article 5.1 and 5.2 to the elections of ICA-YC Executive Committee at least six weeks before date of voting, which can be electronic. Representatives running for the Executive Committee can indicate on the nomination form whether they intend to stand for the post of the YC President, or Members at large.

8.5 The ICA YC will create a five-person Elections Committee to facilitate its Executive Committee elections, in the manner of the ICA Board as outlined in Article 33 of the ICA Bylaws.

8.6 Elections of Members-at-large

The election for Members at large shall be conducted as per the following weightage-based methodology, wherein, the weightage of the votes cast per candidate are divided equally between candidates’ own regions, and other regions.

The weightage-based methodology divides the number 50 by the number of representatives voting in the candidates’ own regions, as well as by the number of representatives voting in other regions, and then multiplies the results of such divisions with the number of votes cast per candidate in the candidates’ own regions as well as other regions and adds the results to determine the final-result per candidate.

Illustration

Candidates A and B are from the Americas region and are contesting for the position of American member-at- large in the ICA-YC Executive Committee.

There are 7 voting representatives from Americas, 10 from Europe, 6 from Asia and Pacific and 7 from Africa. Candidate A wins the election as per the votes cast below.

Region	Representatives (votes)	Weighted votes	Vote		Result	
			Candidate A	Candidate B	Candidate A	Candidate B
Americas	7	$50 / 7 = 7.14$	4	3	$4 * 7.14$	$3 * 7.14$
Europe	10	$50 / (10+6+7) = 2.17$	15	8	$15 * 2.17$	$8 * 2.17$
Asia-Pacific	6					
Africa	7					
			TOTAL		61.11	38.78

8.7 Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected as representatives of their organisations, not as organisations. Member organisations from one country may not have more than one representative in the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 9: ANNUAL PLENARY MEETING AND OTHER MEETINGS

9.1 A plenary meeting of the ICA YC shall be convened once a year, in conjunction with the ICA General Assembly or ICA Members Meeting, if possible. Extraordinary plenary meetings shall be convened at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

9.2 Member organisations shall be entitled to send any number of observers to the Annual Plenary Meetings, in addition to their nominated representatives. All participants have the right to take the floor.

9.3 Decisions at the Annual Plenary Meeting shall be taken by a simple majority of those member participating in person or by proxy. Each member shall have one vote. The President will have a casting vote, except in elections (see Article 8.7).

9.4 The function of the Annual Plenary Meeting shall be to discuss and review the ICA YC work plan, report progress towards achieving the ICA YC objectives, share experiences and ideas on youth policies, and, when applicable, election in case of vacancy.

ARTICLE 10: AMENDMENT TO THE RULES

Amendment to the Rules requires approval by a two-thirds majority of those member organisations voting in person or by proxy at the Annual Plenary Meeting. Any rule changes must be approved at a Plenary Meeting.

ARTICLE 11: DISSOLUTION

The ICA YC may be dissolved by the unanimous decision of two consecutive Annual Plenary Meetings. Dissolution requires a three-quarter majority of all representatives on both occasions, and this will need to be approved at a Plenary meeting and by the ICA General Assembly.

Approved by the ICA Board, 29 November 2021