Uniting, representing and serving cooperatives worldwide

The international cooperative movement and the ICA
The cooperative movement

- Above 1.2 billion members (900 million at least making up for double counting);
- Almost 3 million enterprises worldwide
- 280 million jobs or economic activities: 10% of the world’s employed population
- The cooperative share of GDP in the 10 biggest economies is equivalent to the GDP of Italy
10% of Germany’s rental stock is with housing cooperatives

18% of EU market shares in deposits are in cooperative bank

30% of farmers’ products in the USA are marketed through co-ops

60% of the collection, processing and marketing of agricultural products in the EU are in the hands of agricultural cooperatives
A number of cooperatives begin to appear between the end of the 17th Century and the beginning of the 18th Century in several countries, particularly the United Kingdom, France and the USA.
Birth of the cooperative idea

Drafting the cooperative practices: the Rochdale Pioneers
Birth of the cooperative idea

Building scales: the Cooperative Wholesale Society
Birth of the cooperative idea

French and German contributions

Charles Gide  Friedrich Raiffeisen
Birth of the cooperative idea

Extends to Italy, Russia, the Americas

Exchanges and trips multiply: birth of an international movement
The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)

Established in 1895
The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)

Worked for 100 years on the common denominators of cooperatives
The cooperative identity

- 1944 Rochdale “practices”
- 1937 ICA Paris Congress: first review of the “Rochdale Principles”
- 1966 ICA Vienna Congress: second review of the cooperative principles
- 1995 ICA Manchester Congress: third review of the cooperative principles (7 years of consultation) and publication of the ICA Statement on the Cooperative Identity
ICA Statement on the Cooperative Identity

It is the first time the cooperative movement has a clear and explicit common identity, which all components of the cooperative movement can fully identify with.

It helps cooperatives be proud of being cooperatives.

It makes it easier to express and develop differences among different types of cooperatives, and to create new ones.

It provides an instrument for cooperatives to be properly regulated, audited and monitored.
Cooperatives as a world wide movement

Cooperatives are a world wide movement because:

- They have a world-wide identity
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- They are organized in national representative organizations
- They participate in the life of an international organizational system, in which they build and share knowledge
Cooperatives as an inter-cooperative democratic entrepreneurial system

The cooperative movement has developed thanks to meso-level institutions providing a whole array of business support functions like incubation, training, financing, consulting, R&D, innovation, internationalization etc.

These institutions are democratic and organized among cooperatives.
Cooperatives as an actor of local and regional development

The social movement component + the cooperative entrepreneurial system creates a strong leverage on local and regional development in general.

It shows resilience in periods of crisis.
Recognizes “that cooperatives, in their various forms, promote the fullest possible participation in the economic and social development of all people, including women, youth, older persons and people with disabilities, and are becoming a major factor of economic and social development”
ICA-EU Partnership

“Cooperatives in Development
People-centred businesses in action”
Cooperatives and sustainable development

A common grid of analysis
The ICA as a global voice of cooperatives

• Observer status at the United Nations since 1946;

• Continuous relations with the ILO since 1920;

• Actively engaged with other UN organizations like FAO and IFAD and with the EU institutions;

• Secure recognition for cooperatives as a source of sustainable growth, decent work, food security, production, consumption, habitat, credit, insurance, social inclusion, peace, etc. within the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals
First intergovernmental text spelling out the whole Statement on the Cooperative Identity and providing policy guidance on cooperatives

Approved almost unanimously by governments, employers’ organizations and trade unions (except for 2 abstentions)

Only ILO text mentioning a civil society organization

Mentions decent work and all the main labour standards
The first international standards on cooperative statistics were approved at the ILO’s International Conference of Labour Statisticians in October 2019.
In 2019 the International Labour Organization (ILO), established in 1919, is having 100 years.

Through the ICA lobby, cooperatives have been mentioned in a foundational ILO text: the *ILO Centenary Declaration on the Future of Work*, approved on 21 June 2019 in Geneva.

The ICA organized a special conference with the ILO on 24 June: “Cooperatives and the Future of Work”
Internal organization of the ICA system

- Regional organizations:
  - Cooperatives Europe
  - Cooperatives of the Americas
  - ICA - Africa
  - ICA - Asia Pacific
Domains.coop and the global cooperative marque

• The internet domain exclusively for cooperatives
  • An internet namespace exclusively for cooperatives
  • An important asset for the cooperative movement, launched 2002 when the internet was still very small
  • Used in web and e-mail addresses by thousands of cooperatives who are actively promoting their identity to the 3B+ internet users across the world

The co-operative marque

• A visual identifier available for all cooperatives to use;
• A new visual identity for use in online and offline communications;
• Sets cooperatives apart from investor or privately-owned business.

These two assets for promoting the cooperative movement, the Marque and .coop, are provided and supported by Domains.coop Limited, an entity wholly owned by the International Co-operative Alliance. Apply for the cooperative marque and a .coop at www.identity.coop or by contacting our colleagues at Domains.coop (support@domains.coop)
New presidency, new board, new team, new strategy

Ariel Guarco,
ICA president
10-year strategy emerging with 4 strategic directions:

• Promotion of the cooperative identity
• Growth of the cooperative movement
• Inter-cooperation
• Contribution to global sustainable development
New presidency, new board, new team, new strategy

Strong request from members: more coordination between

• The ICA Global Office
• The ICA Regions
• The ICA Sectoral Organizations
• The ICA Thematic Committees and Youth Network
New presidency, new board, new team, new strategy

In the Global Office, a reshaping of activities and staff is in progress:

• Policy
• Legislation
• Communication
• Membership
• Development
• Think tank
• Events
ICA Congress 2020 in Seoul on cooperative identity
December 2020
GLOBAL COOPERATIVE IMPACT FUND
Dank u!