



International
Co-operative
Alliance

Government Entities:
Join the International
Co-operative Alliance
Be part of a global movement



Representing the Global Co-operative Movement, including Government Entities

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 co-ordinated action for and about co-operatives. The Alliance is the apex organisation for co-operatives worldwide, representing 272 members across 100 countries (figures of January 2014).

The Alliance is also a founding member of the Committee on the Promotion and Advancement of Co-operatives (COPAC), whose members include the UN, FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations) the World Farmer's Organisation (WFO), and the ILO (International Labour Organisation).

In 2012, the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives, members agreed the admission of governmental agencies into associate membership. This nonvoting category of membership allows governmental agencies with a co-operative mandate to network with colleagues around the world, to participate in relevant conferences, and to influence and benefit from contemporary thought on key co-operative issues.

Services & Structure

The Alliance maintains a database of key statistical information on co-operatives. Drawing on this database, it publishes an annual report called the World Co-operative Monitor, which includes the Global 300 Report, ranking the 300 largest co-operatives in the world, by annual turnover/revenue. (www.monitor.coop)

The Alliance regularly communicates with its members and interested constituents, through a monthly e-Digest. Its web site includes a Global News Hub, which channels news on important co-operative activities. Regions and sectors also publish periodic communications vehicles for their members.

Through numerous workshops and conferences, the Alliance disseminates knowledge to its members and other participants on best practices in governance and development. Every two years, a global conference is held in conjunction with a business session of its General Assembly. The regions also conduct theme conferences on a regular basis as well as training and other capacity building programmes.

To accomplish its purposes, the Alliance is organised with a Global Office, four Regional Offices (Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, and Europe), and eight Sectoral Organisations (Agriculture, Banking, Consumer, Fisheries, Health, Housing, Insurance, and Worker Co-operatives).

The Global Office represents the co-operative movement at such global bodies as the United Nations and its agencies. The Alliance was among the first organisations to be granted consultative status with the UN-ECOSOC when it was established in 1947.

The regional offices represent the co-operative movement at such regional bodies as the European Union, the Organisation of American States, and the African Union. In addition, regional representa-

In select regions, the Alliance convenes ministers whose portfolios include co-operative enterprise in periodic meetings. These ministerial meetings include the presentation of country reports. Ministers and senior government representatives agree strategies for co-operative development, focusing on the potential for such development to improve conditions of women and youth, and to advance reform in policy, legal, and financial areas. Ministerial meetings provide the opportunity for governments to express their support for key reform and enabling strategies.

The regions also arrange for periodic study tours for members to learn from other co-operatives.

Government Entity Membership

As an associate member, governmental agencies benefit by:

- Participating in the Alliance as the forum for inter-cooperation
 - Accessing the Alliance network
 - Interacting with representatives from other governmental agencies around the world that have an interest in co-operative issues
- Accessing co-operative knowledge
 - Drawing on reports and data, including the World Co-operative Monitor
 - Receiving communications
 - Participating in capacity building and training programmes
- Influencing the global co-operative voice
 - Providing input on key issues of importance to co-operative development and practice

Annual subscription for associate membership for governmental agencies or departments is set according to the member's country level in the World Bank Country Income Index:

Low	CHF 3,000
Low middle	CHF 5,000
Upper middle	CHF 7,000
Upper	CHF 10,000

How to apply

Governmental departments and agencies interested in applying for associate membership are required to complete an application form, which can be downloaded from the website at www.ica.coop or by contacting us at hacquard@ica.coop. Please submit your application to:

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Director of Membership
E-mail: hacquard@ica.coop
Address: P.O. Box 2100
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