



RESOLUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE BANKING ASSOCIATION

GLOBAL COOPERATIVE FINANCIAL SUMMIT

Monday, 8th of October 2012, Québec

“Financial cooperatives contribute to a better world”

While the financial market crisis has hit some major banks fairly hard, the economic crisis could hit all of them even harder. A flagging economy will inevitably affect the bankers that finance it on a day-to-day basis.

Cooperative banks, which are more involved in financing the real economy, have on the whole been more resilient than other banks. Despite the bleak outlook, cooperative banks need to remain forward-looking and above all attentive to their members' needs. They must be positive and keep their responsibilities in mind. Financial cooperatives must do what they can to get people out of this crisis by banking on their members' confidence in the future and their initiative. By giving our members the solutions and support they need, we will revitalize our respective territories. We can do this with the support of the powerful cooperative movement worldwide. Our strength as cooperatives lies in our shared values and identity. And the strength of the cooperative banking movement lies in its ability to create new economic relationships based on intercooperation.

This Resolution is intended to pursue a dual objective: on the one hand, it represents a roadmap for cooperative banks to improve their business practices and their principles. On the other hand, this resolution aims to challenge public authorities at national and international levels to promote the cooperative model.

Firstly, cooperative banks have to enhance their assets and promote themselves as:

- **Retail banks who have deep roots on their communities with a final objective to render the best possible returns and services to their members.**

Cooperative banks have to better finance the local level with their local savings based on a mutual support model: cooperative banks support members who are developing the cooperative bank in return.

- **Banks based on a long term business to protect savings.**

Cooperative banks have to remain outside of investment banking in order to protect their members and their cooperative identity. Cooperative banks share similarity around the world: a solid and sustainable base facing economic crisis. They improve by a prudent financial management transparency and avoid possible diversions of speculation: The only way to gain the confidence of members and to create competitive advantage.

- **Cooperative banks are key players play in the area of intercooperation within the cooperative movement.**



They have to support cooperatives, mutuals and civil society organizations. This strategic direction can serve to affirm and promote the cooperative business model. In order to achieve this goal, we must promote the coordination of the cooperative banks' policies and existing programmes as the Global cooperative development fund.

- **Cooperative banks voluntarily contribute to making the world a better place.**

Wherever the cooperative banks operate, they deeply changing the economy by fostering:

- financial inclusion,
- democratic expression and control by the members-clients,
- responsibility and self-help solutions,
- transparency for the members and the public authorities,
- a quality service at the better and competitive price,
- the heterogeneity of the banking landscape and by avoiding a dominant market position of commercial banks.
- Thus, Cooperative banks work fully to the benefit of the entire economy. In spite of the evidence of their positive effects, cooperative banks are not sufficiently developed in the world.

- **The ICBA calls on public authorities to develop programmes to improve:**

- The creation and reinforcement of cooperative banks throughout the world and to apply a programme of accompanying measures;
- The support intercooperation'programmes driven by a goal to help people to develop their own activities by a cooperative bank model;

- **The ICBA calls on cooperative banks to :**

- become actors of change pull together into the next decade of strengthening cooperation which will be announced to the General Assembly of the International Cooperative Alliance, and the Manchester ICA exhibition.
- make the proof of their capacity to change the world: in this manner it is requested that cooperative banks communicate before the end of the year their examples of good practices. The gathered data will be presented to the General Assembly of the ICA in 2013.

We have to build a better world.