

**Salma Hachimi Alaoui**

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**To the Election Committee**

ICA Youth Committee

International Cooperative Alliance

**Subject: Candidacy for Member at Large, Africa Region, ICA Youth Committee (2026 Elections)**

Dear Members of the Election Committee,

I am writing to submit my candidacy for the position of Member at Large, Africa Region, on the ICA Youth Committee.

My journey from leading a university club to co-founding INNOVTENTION Cooperative was not by chance. I chose the cooperative structure out of a genuine conviction in its founding principles, human centred contribution and cooperativism among them. These principles shape my identity before they shape my business decisions, and they are what have guided the work I have built through INNOVTENTION and its training brand, LOCOPLC, over the past three years, and represented internationally in Lesotho, India, South Korea, and Botswana.

Under INNOVTENTION, we built LOCOPLC, our training brand in industrial automation and CAD, into a program now reaching over 500 learners across 23 countries. This work earned the cooperative the Lalla Al Moutaawina Prize, awarded by the National Office of Development and Cooperation, and has positioned INNOVTENTION as a youth cooperative model, one we hope can influence university students to see the cooperative path as a real way to make an impact. These achievements are, to me, proof that a cooperative built on solid principles can compete, grow, and open real opportunities for young people, not only represent them at international forums.

I wish to be elected to contribute to the development of the cooperative movement in Africa and to strengthen the potential of African youth within it. As a cooperator myself, I understand first hand the needs and challenges facing young people in my generation across the continent, and I am convinced of their potential to drive this movement forward. They carry skills and efforts that deserve to be recognised and put to work.

I would be honoured to bring this conviction, and the experience behind it, to the Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warm regards,

**Salma Hachimi Alaoui**