

Motivation Letter

Candidacy for President of the International Cooperative Alliance Youth Committee

Dear Members of the International Cooperative Alliance Youth Committee,

One year ago, I had the honor of being entrusted with the responsibility of serving as President of the ICA Youth Committee and representing young cooperators on the ICA Global Board. What began as a personal journey inspired by the cooperative movement has become a collective mission to strengthen youth participation, amplify young voices, and build meaningful opportunities for the next generation of cooperators.

Today, I write to express my interest in continuing this journey and to seek your support for a second term as President of the ICA Youth Committee.

Over the past year, we have worked together to transform the Youth Committee from a representative platform into a more active and connected global network. We expanded youth engagement through regular town halls, strengthened collaboration with regional youth committees, increased youth representation in international forums, and advanced discussions on mentorship, education, entrepreneurship, innovation, and cooperative policy.

Our collective efforts enabled young cooperators to participate in important global conversations, from international policy dialogues and cooperative governance forums to discussions on the future of cooperative identity itself. We have also laid the foundation for stronger cooperation among young leaders across regions, sectors, and cultures.

While I am proud of what we have achieved together, I believe that our most important work still lies ahead.

The next phase of the ICA Youth Committee must focus on building sustainable structures that empower young people not only to participate in cooperatives but also to lead them, innovate within them, and scale their impact.

If re-elected, I will work with the Committee and our partners to advance a strategic agenda built around five priorities.

1. Developing Cooperative Leaders for the Future

We will launch a global Cooperative Leadership Masterclass with a dedicated focus on youth and women leaders. Building on the success of CoopSpring and other educational initiatives, we will create accessible learning opportunities that combine cooperative values, leadership development, entrepreneurship, and practical skills.

We will also establish a Global Cooperative Leadership Academy with a dedicated youth stream that promotes intergenerational learning by connecting emerging leaders with experienced cooperators from around the world.

2. Expanding Access to Cooperative Education

Education remains one of the most powerful tools for cooperative development. Through the Cooperative Learning Platform (CoopEdTech), we will create a multilingual, open-source digital ecosystem that provides learning resources, mentorship opportunities, peer exchanges, and leadership development pathways for young people everywhere.

Our goal is to ensure that geography, language, or access to resources never become barriers to cooperative education.

3. Promoting Innovation and Future-Ready Cooperatives

Young people are at the forefront of technological and social innovation. We must ensure that cooperatives are present in emerging industries and future economic sectors.

To achieve this, we will begin developing a Global Innovation and Emerging Industries Incubator focused on youth-led cooperative ventures in areas such as artificial intelligence, climate technology, biotechnology, software development, digital platforms, and other high-growth sectors.

Our ambition is to demonstrate that the cooperative model is not only relevant to the future economy but can actively shape it.

4. Strengthening Youth Representation in Policy and Governance

Young cooperators deserve a permanent voice in shaping the policies that affect their future.

I will work to establish a Global Youth Cooperative Policy Forum that creates structured dialogue between young cooperators and decision-makers at national, regional, and international levels. Through this platform, we will advocate for cooperative solutions within discussions on sustainable development, climate action, digital transformation, employment, and social inclusion.

We will continue engaging with institutions such as the United Nations and other global forums to ensure that cooperative perspectives are represented where important decisions are being made.

5. Building an Inclusive and Connected Global Community

The strength of our movement lies in its diversity. We must create more opportunities for young cooperators from all regions, backgrounds, and sectors to connect, learn, and collaborate.

I will continue strengthening our monthly town halls, regional engagement mechanisms, and global youth forums. We will also conduct a comprehensive study on youth and women participation within cooperatives to identify barriers, document success stories, and provide evidence-based recommendations for building more inclusive cooperative organizations.

At the heart of this vision is a simple belief: young people are not only the future of cooperatives—they are already contributing to their growth, innovation, and transformation today.

My commitment is to continue building bridges between generations, regions, and sectors while creating practical opportunities for young cooperators to lead, learn, and succeed.

I am deeply grateful for the trust, friendship, and support that members of this Committee have shown throughout the past year. The progress we have made has been possible because of our collective efforts and our shared belief in the cooperative values that unite us.

Together, we have laid a strong foundation. Together, we can build even more.

I humbly seek your support and the opportunity to continue serving as President of the International Cooperative Alliance Youth Committee.

In cooperation,

Harsh Mukeshbhai Sanghani

President, ICA Youth Committee

Youth Representative, ICA Global Board