

Motivation Letter

Motivation Letter for the Position of Member at Large ICA Youth Committee (2026–2030)

Dear Members of the Election Committee,

I am honored to submit my candidacy for the position of **Member at Large** of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) Youth Committee. As a young cooperative professional from the Russian Federation, I see this role as an opportunity to contribute to a stronger, more connected, and more inclusive global cooperative movement.

Over the past several years, I have had the privilege of working at the Russian University of Cooperation, where I have supported international partnerships, coordinated educational initiatives, and organized national and international events that bring together cooperative leaders, young professionals, academics, and policymakers. These experiences have reinforced my belief that cooperation is one of the most effective ways to build mutual understanding, empower communities, and create sustainable solutions to global challenges.

My motivation for joining the ICA Youth Committee is rooted in my commitment to ensuring that young people are not only participants in the cooperative movement but also active contributors to its future. Across the world, young cooperators are developing innovative ideas, embracing new technologies, and responding to social and economic challenges with creativity and determination. However, many still lack opportunities to connect internationally, exchange experiences, and develop their leadership potential. I would like to help bridge these gaps by strengthening communication, encouraging collaboration across regions, and promoting greater youth engagement in ICA activities.

As a Member at Large, I would work closely with fellow committee members to support the implementation of the ICA Youth Committee's work plan while representing the perspectives and aspirations of young cooperators from my region. I believe my background in international relations, cooperative education, and project coordination has prepared me to contribute effectively to this collaborative role. I value teamwork, intercultural dialogue, and practical action, and I am committed to working constructively with colleagues from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds.

One of my priorities would be to promote cooperative education and leadership development by encouraging knowledge-sharing initiatives, online exchanges, and opportunities for young cooperative professionals to learn from one another. I also hope to strengthen connections between universities, cooperative organizations, and youth networks, creating more accessible pathways for young people to become involved in the cooperative movement at both regional and global levels.

The theme of the 2026 ICA Global Conference, *"Building bridges: cooperative contributions for a peaceful world,"* strongly resonates with my personal values. I firmly believe that dialogue, mutual respect, and international cooperation are essential foundations for peace and sustainable development. Cooperatives have a unique ability to unite people

across cultures, sectors, and borders, and young leaders have an important responsibility to continue building these bridges for future generations.

I am fully committed to dedicating the time, energy, and enthusiasm required to serve on the ICA Youth Committee. If elected, I will actively participate in meetings, contribute to committee initiatives, engage with young cooperators throughout the region, and work collaboratively to advance the ICA's mission and values.

Thank you for considering my application. It would be a privilege to serve as a Member at Large and contribute to strengthening the voice, participation, and impact of young cooperators within the International Cooperative Alliance.

Yours sincerely,

Regina Alenbakh