

## Questions from the Alliance Sectors

**Q. Would you, in principle, be in favour of examining the possibility of having 4 sectoral representatives on the board of the International Co-operative Alliance (rather than the current 2) with a rotation among the 8 sectoral organizations, possibly grouped in pairs of two such as agriculture-fisheries, consumer-housing, bank-insurance, industry-service/health, the intent being to match the current 4 regional representatives of Africa, Asia-Pacific, America, and Europe?**

R. I am in favor to put in place the conditions for the sectors to be working efficiently together as well as with the regions and the global office. Part of my program is based on collaborative work to achieve solid and effective governance, with clear roles and responsibilities assigned to the regions, sectors and global office. This work must be done by concerted action plans and defined accountability mechanisms. If I am elected to the presidency, I commit to hold discussions with the sectors and the regions, to continue to improve the board governance, and to come up with proposals which would include this topic. One of my deepest convictions is that every constituent, namely local cooperatives, regional and national apex organizations, sectors, regions and global office, have an important role to play. This is one of the reasons why at Desjardins Group, we support numerous apex organizations.

**Q. Would you be in favour of organizing a one-day session between the SOLG and the board in 2016? The agenda would include an opportunity for an in-depth strategic discussion on the sectoral organizations' contribution to the International Co-operative Alliance's mission and its work.**

R. The idea to create opportunities for in-depth strategic discussions on the sectoral organizations' contribution is a great idea. I believe that the more we get aligned on the global strategic priorities, the greater the impact we will have. This is also true the other way around, e.g. the global office needs the input of the sectors to draft a strategy that supports the sectors' objectives. We need to work hand in hand and develop communication mechanisms to feed each other and adjust our work. In fact, we should also do the same with the regions to develop a strong regions-sectors action plan focused on growth and member participation. I strongly believe in a « bottom-up » approach where members, regions and sectors' needs are the basis of our work. And the management committee – global office, regions and sectors – should help align and focus our efforts.

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**Q. Do you agree that further efforts should be deployed to gradually improve the financing of the sectoral organizations in order to enable them to better contribute to the International Co-operative Alliance's mission?"**

R. Generally speaking, I believe that the Alliance should increase its revenues and should diversify income sources. At the same time, we cannot put an additional financial burden on its members. If I am elected to the presidency, I will look for new sources of revenues such as increasing membership, getting financial support from national and international organizations (UN, WB, IMF, etc.). I know that this is possible because we did it in Quebec when I was the chair of the Conseil québécois de la coopération et de la mutualité (regional apex). We were able to secure a 20 million \$ grant for the Quebec government based on a strategic plan crafted by all members. In return, the CQCM was able to commit to the creation of 20,000 jobs over 5 years. Why wouldn't we be able to the same at the international level?