

Join the International Co-operative Alliance **Be part of the global co-operative movement**



Representing the Global Co-operative Movement, including Government Entities

The International Co-operative Alliance is a non-profit international association established in 1895 to advance the co-operative social enterprise model.

The Alliance provides a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and co-ordinated action for and about co-operatives. The Alliance is the apex organisation for co-operatives worldwide, representing about 300 member organizations from over 100 countries.

The Alliance is also a founding member of the Committee on the Promotion and Advancement of Co-operatives (COPAC), whose members include the UN, FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations) the World Farmer's Organisation (WFO), and the ILO (International Labour Organisation).



The Alliance's delegation at the 2015 B20 Summit, led by Monique Leroux, Alliance President.

In 2012, during the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives, members agreed the admission of governmental agencies into associate membership. This nonvoting category of membership allows governmental agencies with a co-operative mandate to network with colleagues around the world, to participate in relevant conferences, and to influence and benefit from contemporary thought on key co-operative issues.

Alliance Services and Structure

The Alliance maintains a database of key statistical information on co-operatives. Drawing on this database, it publishes an annual report called the World Co-operative Monitor, which includes the Global 300 Report, ranking the 300 largest co-operatives in the world, by annual turnover/revenue. (www.monitor.coop)

The Alliance regularly communicates with its members and interested constituents, through a monthly e-Digest. Its web site includes a Global News Hub, which channels news on important co-operative activities. Regions and sectors also publish periodic communications vehicles for their members.

Through numerous workshops and conferences, the Alliance disseminates knowledge to its members and other participants on best practices in governance and development. Every two years, a global conference is held in conjunction with a business session of its General Assembly. The regional offices also conduct themed conferences on a regular basis as well as training and other capacity building programmes including periodic study tours for their members to learn from other co-operatives both within and across the regions.

In addition, in selected regions, the Alliance periodically convenes ministers' conferences where members, ministers and senior government representatives agree on common strategies for co-operative development to improve their socio-economic conditions and more specifically of women and youth, and to advance reform in policy, legal and financial areas. Ministerial conferences provide the opportunity for government to express their support for key reform and enabling strategies, which also include the presentation of country reports.

The Alliance was among the first organisations to be granted consultative status with the UN-ECOSOC when it was established in 1947. The regional offices represent the co-operative movement at such regional bodies as the European Union, the Organisation of American States, and the African Union. In select regions, the Alliance convenes ministers whose portfolios include co-operative enterprise in periodic meetings.

To accomplish its purposes, the Alliance is organised with a Global Office, four Regional Offices (Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, and Europe), and eight Sectoral Organisations (Agriculture, Banking, Retail, Fisheries, Health, Housing, Insurance, Industry and Service Co-operatives). The Global Office represents the co-operative movement at such global bodies as the United Nations and its agencies.

Government Entity Membership

As an associate member, governmental agencies benefit by:

Participating in the Alliance as the forum for inter-cooperation

- Accessing the Alliance network
- Interacting with representatives from other governmental agencies around the world that have an interest in co-operative issues

Accessing co-operative knowledge

- Drawing on reports and data, including the World Co-operative Monitor
- Receiving communications
- Participating in capacity building and training programmes

Influencing the global co-operative voice

- Providing input on key issues of importance to co-operative development and practice

Annual subscription for associate membership for governmental agencies or departments is set according to the member's country level in the World Bank Country Income Index:

World Bank Country Income Index level	Annual subscription (in swiss francs)
Low	CHF 3,000
Low middle	CHF 5,000
Upper middle	CHF 7,000
Upper	CHF 10,000

How to apply

Governmental ministries, departments, agencies, and other entities who are interested in applying for associate membership are required to complete an application form, which can be downloaded from the website at www.ica.coop or by contacting Mrs Gretchen Hacquard at hacquard@ica.coop. Please submit your application to:

Gretchen Hacquard
Director of Membership

Tel: + 41 22 534 99 29

Email: hacquard@ica.coop