

Dear Members,

## **Nominations Are Now Open**

The ICA is pleased to invite members to nominate candidates for election to the positions of President and At-large Director on our global Board of Directors. Elections will take place on 15 September 2026 at the ICA General Assembly in Panama.

Voting Members of the ICA who are up to date in the payment of their membership fees have the right to nominate candidates. To do so, you may complete the enclosed Nomination Form and submit it with the following to the Elections Committee at [election.committee@ica.coop](mailto:election.committee@ica.coop):

- candidate's full curriculum vitae
- a clear photograph of the candidate taken in the last 12 months
- a biographical note not exceeding 100 words to be included in the official meeting documentation
- a completed Candidate Statement Form (complete it online [here](#)).

Text documents must be completed in English, French or Spanish and all four documents must be submitted in electronic form. To ensure their legibility and ease of translation, please complete the fillable forms on a computer. Do not print, fill them out by hand or scan the forms.

**The deadline for nominations is 17 July 2026.** Your Nomination Form must show clearly whether you are nominating the candidate for the office of President, At-large Director or both. (A person may not hold both offices. However, unsuccessful candidates for the office of President may stand for election to an At-large Director seat.)

Nominees are invited to prepare a two-minute video about themselves for the ICA to post online for Members to view before the General Assembly. **Video statements must be submitted no later than 28 August 2026**, ideally with captions in English, French and / or Spanish. Video statements exceeding two minutes in length will be cut at the two-minute mark.

## **Board Composition**

There are 30 seats on the global Board: the President, elected by the Members; four Vice Presidents, being the President elected in each of the ICA's four geographical Regions; one member appointed by each of the ICA's eight Sectoral Organisations; the President of the Youth Committee; the President of the Gender Equality Committee; and 15 At-large Directors elected by the Members. Twenty-four of the current Board members are men. Five are women. One Director comes from Africa, eight come from the Americas, 11 from Asia-Pacific and nine from Europe. The position held by the President of the Africa Region is vacant, following the death of the incumbent.

Directors serve a four-year term. The President may stand for re-election twice. There is no limit on the number of terms an At-large Director may serve. Each of the 15 At-large Directors must come from a different country. This does not preclude the nomination of more than one candidate from the same country, but only the nominee from that country who receives the

highest number of votes will be declared elected. The Members in a country may find it valuable to agree among themselves on a single candidate to nominate.

The Elections Committee strongly **encourages the nomination of candidates from groups and Regions under-represented on the ICA Board, including women and youth.**

### Qualifications

Candidates for election must be natural persons and must not be disqualified under Belgian law from serving on the Board. As noted above, all At-large Directors must come from different countries. In thinking about whom to nominate, you may wish to keep the following desirable but non-mandatory qualifications in mind:

- a demonstrated commitment to promoting the growth, development and success of cooperatives and mutual associations and advancing the broader cooperative and mutual economy of which they are a part;
- an understanding of and commitment to the Values and Principles set out in the Statement on the Cooperative Identity;
- a broad knowledge of the cooperative and mutual movement in the Director's own country;
- direct experience in the governance or management of cooperatives or mutual associations;
- the willingness and ability to commit the necessary time to serving as an effective Director;
- the ability to undertake foreign travel;
- a clear understanding of the separate roles of governance and management;
- the ability to read and understand a set of financial statements that present a breadth and level of complexity of accounting issues generally comparable to those raised by the ICA's financial statements;
- demonstrated leadership qualities;
- the ability to work as a member of a team;
- the capacity to listen, think critically and act decisively;
- sound judgement and independence of thought;
- effective communication skills; and
- unquestioned honesty and integrity.

### Board Member Expenses

Board positions are self-financing. Directors must either cover the cost of attending meetings themselves or obtain financial support from the Member nominating them or another organisation. There are typically three in-person meetings a year, held in different Regions, plus online board and committee meetings throughout the year. There is no compensation for Board service. Materials for Board meetings are provided in English only. Directors are responsible for obtaining their own translations. However, with the wide availability of machine translation services of good quality, this is not difficult. Meetings of the ICA Board are conducted in our three working languages: English, Spanish and French. Directors who do not

speaking or understanding any of these three languages must arrange their own interpretation service.

## **Campaigning**

Candidates and their nominators must abide by the ICA's Election Campaigns Code of Conduct, which you will find [here](#).

The following will be provided to all candidates eligible to stand for election, as determined by the Elections Committee, about 30 days prior to the election:

- the ICA's directory of member organisations so that candidates can contact them
- a table showing how many votes each ICA Member holds
- a link to the website where the short biographical notes, photos and candidate video statements will be published.

Additionally, a webinar may be organised at which candidates for President will be able to make a short presentation and answer questions.

In a change from the past, candidates for At-large Board seats will be invited to video-record a two-minute campaign speech to be shown at the General Assembly just ahead of the vote. In-person speeches will not be permitted. Videos that exceed two minutes in length will be cut at the two-minute mark. In-person speeches by candidates for the presidency will continue to be permitted. Those speeches must not exceed seven minutes, if delivered in French, English or Spanish, and 14 minutes, if non-simultaneous interpretation is required.

Please do not hesitate to write to [election.committee@ica.coop](mailto:election.committee@ica.coop) if you have any questions concerning the qualifications for serving on the Board of Directors or the nomination process. In the interest of fairness, your questions and our answers will be shared with all candidates standing for election.