



Resolution of the 10th ICA-AP Co-operative Forum

28 November 2018, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Tehran

Organized during the 13th ICA-AP Regional Assembly & Related Activities 26-30 November 2018

“Co-operatives Help Economies become more Resilient and Sustainable”

The 10th ICA Asia and Pacific Co-operative Forum, representative of ICA members in the Asia and Pacific, government agencies in charge of co-operatives in the region, having met on the theme “Co-operatives Help Economies become more Resilient and Sustainable” at the IRIB International Conference Center, Tehran on the 28th Day of November 2018, while

Reaffirming the commitment to the ICA Statement on Co-operative Identity comprising of the Definition, Seven Principles and Values of cooperation,

Recognizing the inherent nature of co-operatives as ‘people-centered’, democratic, inclusive participative and conscionable forms of enterprise and organizations,

Realizing

the international recognition accorded to the potential of the co-operative enterprise model in paragraph 41 of Transforming our World : The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (UN A/RES/70/1) as a relevant actor in the implementation of the Goals and targets, and the overall pursuit of development for humanity and the planet, and other important international legal instruments such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Accord, Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the EU New Consensus on Development, and the UNESCO recognition of co-operatives as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity,

the need to grow the *real economy*, create decent jobs & income for vulnerable sections of the society and increase community wealth that combines economic, social and environmental concerns,

the evidenced resilience displayed by co-operatives at times of natural and man-made crisis, especially during and after the financial crisis of 2008, and

the growing unrest in the socio-economic, political and environmental fabric of the global polity due to increasing inequalities among people and nations;

Being conscious of the wide & diverse scope and outreach of the co-operative enterprise model across the world, and their proven contributions to sustainable development,

The participants of the 10th ICA-AP Co-operative Forum hereby resolve to undertake the following joint actions at local, national and international level by addressing critical issues of development for co-operatives such as Economic Resilience, judicious use of natural resources & equitable sharing of income and wealth, Disaster Risk Reduction & Management, Decent Work and Full Employment, Enabling Environment for the promotion of Civil Society and Co-operative Development Action, by the following commitments:



- a.) Enhance efforts to collect and disseminate data & statistics, information and analysis of the co-operative sector in line with the internationally accepted guidelines,
- b.) Organize independent and periodic reviews of the legal-policy-regulatory environment governing and affecting co-operatives, to collectively build an enabling environment for co-operative development and accord recognition for co-operatives in national as well as regional legal instruments,
- c.) Consciously support the inclusion and capacity building of all sections of the society, with focus on women and youth in co-operatives,
- d.) Make efforts to support vulnerable and marginalized sections of the society like refugees, the displaced, and the differently abled,
- e.) Invest in strengthening capacities, participation and contribution (to sustainable development) of grassroots co-operative organizations, and their relationship with secondary and tertiary co-operatives, and building an eco-system to develop co-operatives at all levels.
- f.) Build a mutually beneficial and sustainable partnership with State-actors, especially in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals, and bridge policy gaps that can help co-operative development in the region,
- g.) Increase co-operative knowledge and promote scientific research on co-operatives and sustainable development, and on the financial – social – cultural – environmental contribution of co-operatives to spread awareness & strengthen the advocacy for co-operative development globally,
- h.) Embrace and exchange innovation, technology and new emerging areas, and adopt a knowledge-based approach that can support development of co-operatives,
- i.) Promote the apolitical character of co-operatives in order to build a prosperous, peaceful, just and fair society.
