



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”

We:

The 300 women and men cooperative members, leaders, experts, academicians, and researchers, from 17 countries including Iran, having met at the 10th ICA-AP Cooperative Forum on the theme “Co-operatives Help Economies become more Resilient and Sustainable” at the IRIB International Conference Center, Tehran (I.R. Iran) on the 28th Day of November 2018,

Note the diverse context in which our cooperatives operate in the region,

Reaffirm the commitment to the [ICA Statement on Co-operative Identity](#) comprising of the Definition, Seven Principles and Values of cooperation,

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

Are aware of 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 of humanity and the planet, and other important international legal instruments such as the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), [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 [Colombo Declaration on Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#), the need to grow the *real economy*, create decent jobs and 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.

Having discussed contribution of co-operatives in helping economies become more resilient and sustainable, reviewed progress and gaps thereof and identified and discussed challenges that limit co-operatives in realising their full potential as sustainable business enterprises,

We sustain our commitments:

Acknowledging our achievements and gaps of previous actions, hereby resolve to undertake the following joint actions at local, national and international level for development of co-operatives to help economies become more resilient and sustainable by addressing critical issues of building a cooperative ecosystem, equity and equality, ethical production and consumption, social inclusion and economic security, decent and long term employment



including protection from all forms of violence and discrimination and building multi stake holder partnership,

- a.) Instituting well defined programs to collect, analyze, use and disseminate data & statistics on work and contribution of the co-operative sector and share information in line with the [internationally accepted guidelines](#),

Action to be taken:

By governments

- Review, amend and institutionalize programs for regular collection of gender responsive data on progress and contribution of cooperative sector at country level.

By all levels of cooperatives

- Introduce and implement time bound programs for regular collection of gender responsive data on achievements and contribution of their co-operatives, facilitate their member network and follow up for compliance
- Allocate necessary budget for the program and training of staff to build necessary capacity

By regional cooperative organizations

- Create awareness
- Influence upon the cooperatives and governments to ensure implementation
- Provide resources – funds and training

- b.) Institutionalize independent and periodic reviews of the legal-policy-regulatory environment governing and affecting co-operatives, to collectively build an 'Eco-system' for co-operative development and accord recognition in [national](#) as well as [regional legal instruments](#),

Action to be taken:

By governments

- Periodically review, amend and enforce gender responsive cooperative, law, by-laws and policies

By all levels of co-operatives

- Periodically review, amend and enforce gender responsive cooperative by-laws and policies
- Influence upon the government for periodic review according to changing business environment

By regional cooperative organizations

- Create awareness
- Influence upon the co-operatives and governments to ensure review
- Provide resources- critical studies, sharing information on best practices, funds and training



- c.) Devise institutional mechanism (policy directive) to consciously support inclusion and capacity building of all sections of the society, particularly women and youth in co-operatives and prioritise to support vulnerable and marginalized sections such as refugees, displaced, migrants and the differently able for social cohesion.

Action to be taken:

By governments

- Devise and enforce responsive cooperative policy directives to address the needs
- Monitor compliance

By all levels of cooperatives

- Periodically review, amend and enforce responsive cooperative by-laws and policies
- Influence upon the government for inclusion of favorable policy to address social inclusion
- Create awareness and allocate resources to build capacity

By regional cooperative organizations

- Create awareness
- Influence upon the cooperatives and governments to ensure review
- Providing resources- Advocacy, sharing information on best practices, funds and training

- d.) Invest in strengthening capacities through research and innovation, building partnership and network ,embracing technology, venturing into new emerging areas to [address the Future of Work](#) agenda, and adopt a knowledge based approach that can support development of co-operatives,

Action to be taken:

By governments

- Introduce policy instruments to facilitate coop-public partnership (CPP)
- Create awareness and allocate resources for research and innovation

By all levels of cooperatives

- Create a 'political will' through agenda of Annual General Meetings, Board Meetings and other such platforms to adopt technology and venturing into new business areas
- Influence upon the government for inclusion of favorable policy to create awareness and allocate resources to build capacity
- Awareness and training of members



By regional cooperative organizations

- Create awareness
- Influence upon the cooperatives and governments to ensure progress
- Provide resources- Advocacy, research papers, sharing information on best practices, funds and training

e.) Promote the apolitical character of co-operatives and build a mutually beneficial & 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,

Action to be taken:

By governments

- Ensure and respect autonomy and independence of cooperatives

By all levels of cooperatives

- Create a 'political will' through agenda of Annual General Meetings, Board Meetings and other such platforms to practice democracy, ensure equity and equality and independence
- Influence upon the government for inclusion of favorable policy to ensure autonomy and independence of cooperatives
- Awareness and training of members and leaders

By regional cooperative organizations

- Create awareness
- Influence upon the cooperatives and governments to ensure independence for cooperatives
- Provide resources- Advocacy, research papers, sharing information on best practices, funds and training

We hereby adopt this Resolution and the ensuing Platform of Action.
