



CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE FOR THE MIDDLE-EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (MENA*)

SAVE THE DATES

FEBRUARY 4 - 5 - 6, 2019 | MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

ABOUT

International Cooperative Alliance

The International Cooperative Alliance is a non-profit international association established in 1895 to advance the cooperative model. The Alliance is the apex organisation for cooperatives worldwide representing across all sectors including agriculture, banking, consumer, fisheries, health, housing insurance an industry & services, and serves 313 cooperative federations and organisations across 109 countries (figures of November 2018) and functions through its regional offices viz. for Africa, Asia and Pacific, Americas and Europe. The members of the Alliance are national level cooperative federations, individual cooperative organisations and government offices concerned with cooperatives.

The ICA is the guardian of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity, which includes a definition, 10 values and 7 operational principles: it is the minimum common denominator for all cooperatives in all sectors and all regions. The ICA has four regions namely, Asia and Pacific, Americas, Africa and Europe. The ICA Asia and Pacific, established in 1960, currently represents 109 members from 32 countries in the region, and the ICA Africa established in 1968 represents 37 member organizations from 22 countries in the continent.

One in every six people on the planet are cooperators. Through its membership, the Alliance represents 1,2 billion members of cooperatives from any of the 3 million cooperatives worldwide. The recently released [7th World Cooperative Monitor](#) maps the scale and strength of the global cooperative economy.

ICA-EU Partnership on Cooperatives in Development: People Centered Businesses in Action

In March 2016, the International Co-operative Alliance entered into a partnership with the European Commission, ushering in a new phase of collaboration on strengthening the co-operative movement as development actors. The ICA-EU partnership aims to bring the co-operative model to the next level within international development policies and programs. It is built around activities focused on increasing visibility, enhancing advocacy, sharing capacity building, strengthening co-operative development networking, and supporting all these with evidence from exhaustive research. The Framework Partnership Agreement encompasses in its implementation program to consolidate existing partnerships and establish new relations with additional actors. The partnership aims at strengthening the International Cooperative Alliance which is organized in four geographical zones: Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia and Pacific. The specific objective of the action is to strengthen and enable cooperative federations in EU partner countries and their regional and global umbrella organisations to promote, develop and advocate the cooperative enterprise model at national, regional and global levels on behalf of their members. Activities related to strengthening the ICA network will contribute to reinforce the regional and global structures, facilitate the development of a common identity, support

*Arabic speaking States



policy dialogue and advocacy, and thus promote greater impact of the cooperative movement worldwide on development.

COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (CDC) – MENA

The ICA Africa and the ICA Asia and Pacific will jointly organize a Cooperative Development Conference (CDC) focused on members and stakeholders in the Middle East and North African region to exchange knowledge, develop common positions and promote collaboration to develop co-operatives in the region. The CDC is being held in collaboration with the Office for the Development of Cooperation in the Ministry of Tourism, Air Transport, Crafts and Social Economy (MTACS), Government of Morocco, and the ICA-EU Partnership on Cooperatives in Development (#Coops4Dev) to organize the CDC for MENA region.

The CDC-MENA is being organized under three activity heads of the #Coops4Dev partnership namely:

- **A5.5. (Policy Event)** - attract the participation of stakeholders from within and outside co-operatives on the topic of sustainable development;
- **A4.2 (Co-operative Networking on International Development)** - provide co-operatives, especially ICA members in the MENA the opportunity to network and collaborate with organizations working in the area of international development
- **A 6.2 (Partnership with CSO Networks)** - opportunity for ICA members and offices to enhance their interactions with CSO networks to foster multi-stakeholder partnerships for development.

VENUE, TIME AND PARTICIPANTS

The CDC-MENA will take place from February 4 to 6 in Marrakech, Morocco.

The opening ceremony will be held on 4 February 2019, followed by two-day conference with technical sessions, open house for interactions, bilateral meetings and study visit to help stakeholders align priorities, understand the legal & policy environment, network and prepare a joint action plan to strengthen work of co-operatives in the MENA region.

The CDC invites participation from ICA Members, representatives of Governments, International Development Agencies and Civil Society networks active in the MENA, as well as co-operatives at large that are actively involved in international development.

THEMES & SESSIONS

- a.) **Enabling Environment for Cooperatives** to take stock of the existing situation for co-operative enterprises and to deliberate on commonalities, challenges and opportunities in the legal and policy environment for development of cooperatives in MENA. The ongoing #Coops4Dev legal framework analysis of select countries is expected to be presented at the CDC – MENA.
- b.) **Cooperatives in the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development (SDGs)** to highlight the work of the two partnering ICA offices in - No Poverty (Goal 1), Zero Hunger (Goal 2) , Decent Work and Economic Growth (Goal 8) and Partnerships (Goal 17) and to explore ways to leverage the recognition given to co-operatives in the EU New Consensus on Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (on Financing for Development). Knowledge and best practices from Agriculture, Consumer, Banking & Credit and Labour & Worker Co-operatives are expected to be shared.



- c.) **Enhancing C2C - Trade facilitation** and Knowledge to promote trade & business, improve data among cooperatives in MENA, and prepare the necessary ground to advocate for a conducive environment.
- d.) **Cooperatives and Emerging Areas of Business** - to identify emerging trends in areas like renewable energy, services, education etc., and ideas to create and develop new generation cooperatives in these areas.
- e.) **Cooperatives & Inclusive Society** - to recognize and promote the inclusive action by cooperatives in reducing inequalities and building an inclusive society. Specifically, to understand and address issues relating to women, youth, migrant workers and refugees.

INTERESTED ?

Please reach out to MENA@ica.coop to convey your interest in participating at the CDC-MENA and we will get back to you with participation details. Participation is subject to confirmation of the organizers.

FACEBOOK | TWITTER | INSTAGRAM | WWW.ICAAP.COOP | WWW.ICAAFRICA.COOP

