



2021 Annual Report

ICA – Africa Brief

International Cooperative Alliance ([ICA](#)) is a non-governmental Cooperative Federation representing the Cooperative Movement worldwide, which are estimated to be around 3 million worldwide through its 318 members from 112 countries, providing a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and coordinated action for and about cooperatives. It unites cooperatives worldwide and is the custodian of cooperative values and principles.

[ICA-Africa](#) is one of the four regional offices of the ICA that serves, unites and represents ICA member organizations in Africa by promoting and strengthening autonomous and viable cooperatives through capacity building and policy advocacy for the socio-economic benefit of its members.

With a total [membership](#) of 41 organizations across 23 countries, ICA-Africa addresses human development needs of existing and potential cooperatives in Africa with special focus on participation (women and youth), sustainability, identity, legal framework and cooperative capital.

THE YEAR IN BRIEF

We are grateful as an organization to be able to write to you once again at this point and time. We know it was a challenging 2021 for our members and especially the thousands who work in frontline services. We experienced tough times but collectively we were able to respond so as to accomplish what we had planned for the year.

Despite the challenging 12 months in Africa region, there was a lot that we could celebrate. We took a look back at the year 2021 as we highlighted some of the important milestones that we achieved;

We started 2021 by having some regional events like the Health Cooperative Stakeholders Meeting with our member and other stakeholders in DR Congo. This was a follow-up activity to explore the potential of health cooperatives in member countries in Africa - promotion of good health and well-being. We were also able to connect virtually for most of our statutory meetings throughout the year and only held one in-person meeting in November for the new regional board members. In mid-year, we had a Consultation meeting on Cooperative Identity for members in the MENA region that we organized jointly with the ICA-AP. Then later organized for a regional webinar on 'Leveraging Digital Innovation to Improve Resilience of Agricultural Cooperatives in Times of Crisis'. This webinar saw the participation of government officials, cooperative leaders and other stakeholders to deliberate on some of the strategies agricultural cooperatives can use to expedite digital innovation, especially during times of crisis.

As part of capacity building and training targeting members, we conducted a training on Functioning and Advocacy towards European Union Delegations (EUDs) and did another one on Effective business Communication. Some of our members also benefitted from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Government of Japan partnered with the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) for a training course that aimed at empowering rural women to improve their leadership and business management in Asia and Africa.

Under research; together with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), we carried out a research on the Promotion of Micro-Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Formalization through leveraging on the cooperative enterprise model. Notably, within the ICA-EU partnership project, we were able to contribute to the global youth research 'Young people and cooperatives: a perfect match', did 11 country researches on Mapping of Cooperator Actors from 11 countries, contributed to the global research on environment and cooperatives 'Cooperation for the Transition to a Green Economy' and did 18 country researches on the legal framework analysis. In collaboration with the U.S Overseas Cooperative Development Council, we were able to do a research on the 'Adoption of Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices that Contribute to the Resilience of Small-Scale Farmers: Incentives, Barriers and Lessons Learnt from Coffee Cooperatives in East Africa' and we are at the final stage of the report.

Youth – we continued to engage the youth in the region through different platforms. Once again, the youth from the region benefitted from the training sessions on cooperative entrepreneurship through the Global Youth Forum 2021. We have been having a close engagement with the Global Cooperative Entrepreneurs (GCE) ambassadors to help them in realizing their ideas as they had planned. Together with Fairtrade Africa we brought the youth on board to celebrate the milestones that they are making to accelerate sustainable development. We organized for an event in line with the International Youth Day theme - transforming food systems: youth innovation for human and planetary health. This focused on acknowledging, recognizing and celebrating youth innovation that has contributed to transforming food systems across the globe.

Gender – together with the regional gender committee and the ICA Gender Equality Committee, we showcased the important role of cooperatives regarding women in leadership for a just recovery in Africa.

We continued with follow-ups with the Pan African Parliament's Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs on the proposed Africa Cooperative Model Law, by making a presentation on the legal basis for a model law on cooperatives in Africa.

The opening of the Sub-regional and the African Organization of Housing Cooperatives office in Maadi – Egypt – was a vital step in realization of operationalization of ICA-Africa sub-regional offices in all the continent (North, South, Central, East and West).

We had the regional board elections during the 15th Regional Assembly that saw a smooth transition of leadership. Chief Ayeola Tajudeen Oriyomi from the Cooperative Federation of Nigeria (CFN) was elected as the ICA-Africa 3rd President taking over from Mr. Japheth Mogomere who voluntary retired after servicing in the ICA-Africa regional board for 13 years.

We are very grateful for the collaboration with our members, governments, partners, donors and other stakeholders in the cooperative development mission. These milestones couldn't have been achieved without your valuable support; we look forward to continued cooperative engagement in the next years.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

January

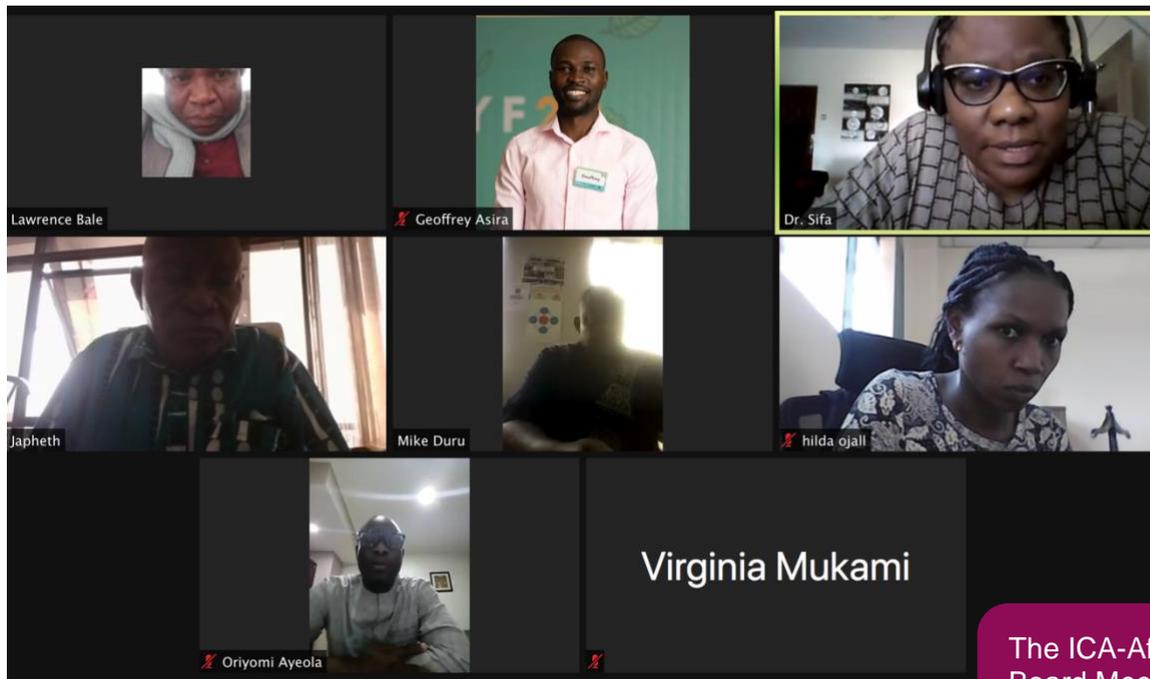


Health Cooperative Stakeholders Meeting – DR Congo.

As a follow up to the 2019 conference that was held in Zimbabwe on ‘Promotion of Good Health and Well Being in Africa through Cooperatives’, ICA-Africa in partnership with its members and stakeholders embarked on stakeholders’ meetings to explore the potential of health cooperatives in member countries in Africa.

This is the fourth stakeholders’ meeting that was held for DR Congo cooperatives. ICA-Africa will hold the next health stakeholders meeting for North Africa sub-regions.

February



The ICA-Africa 36th Regional Board Meeting was held virtually.

March

Promoting MSME Formalization through the Cooperative Enterprise Model.



Webinar: Promoting MSME Formalization through the Cooperative Enterprise Model

The event was jointly organized by the Division for Sustainable Development Goals, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations (DSDG/DESA) together with the Micro and Small Enterprise Authority (MSEA) Kenya. The aim was to explore good practices in promoting Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) formalization through leveraging the cooperative enterprise model and drawing on lessons from the successful experience of Kenya in this regard, with a particular focus on policy space and business support systems. Full [Report](#).

April



As a follow-up meeting with the Pan African Parliament's Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs on the Proposed Africa Cooperative Model Law, ICA-Africa Regional Director Dr. Sifa, made a presentation on the legal basis for a model law on cooperatives in Africa.

Citing that the implementation of the Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation 2002 (No 193), the African Charter on Values and Principles of Decentralization, the African charter on human rights and cultural rights, as well as the Agenda 2063 which is fully supported by cooperatives, should promote having a truly modern law made by and for Africa.

Proposed Africa Cooperative Model Law.

25 Voices: Introducing Young and Inspiring Cooperator.



ICA featured 25 members of the cooperative movement who are under the age of 25, to tell the world what the cooperative identity means to them – in the form of a short video story, photos and other digital media. The stories will use real-life examples to inspire and vividly show the cooperative difference.

In Africa the episode of 25 Voices, featured Smayah Uwajeneza from Rwanda. A barista, roaster, trainer and buyer for Question Coffee. She frequently interacts with coffee cooperatives across Rwanda, including women coffee farmers who walk many miles barefoot – carrying coffee cherries on their heads and babies on their backs down the valley to washing stations to clean the fruits of their labour. They often survive on one meal per day, but strongly believe that by being members of cooperatives they can improve each other's lives and livelihood. [Full Episode.](#)

May

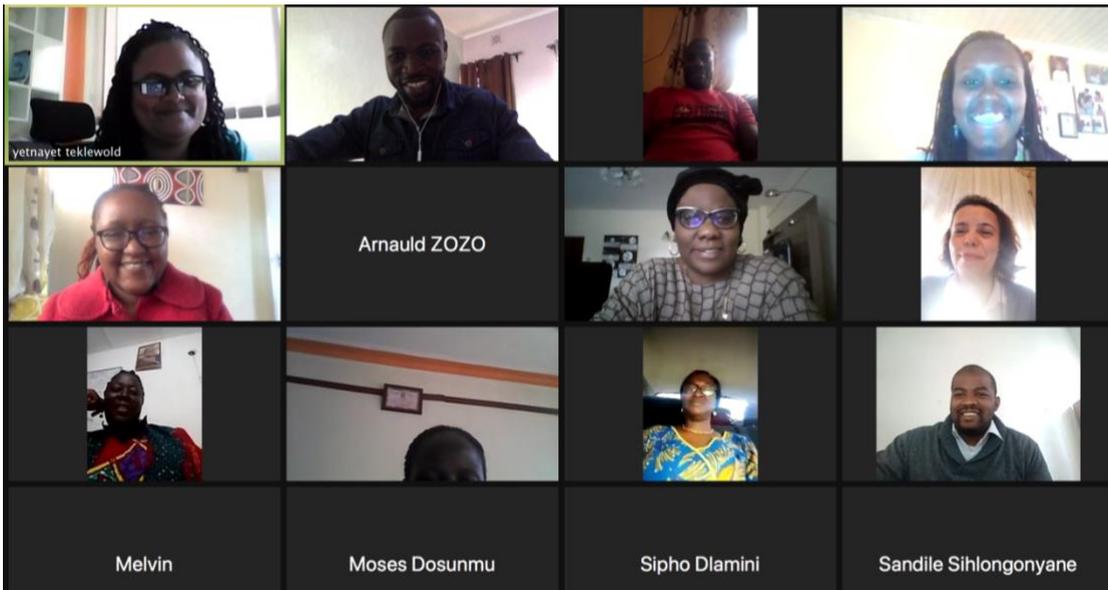
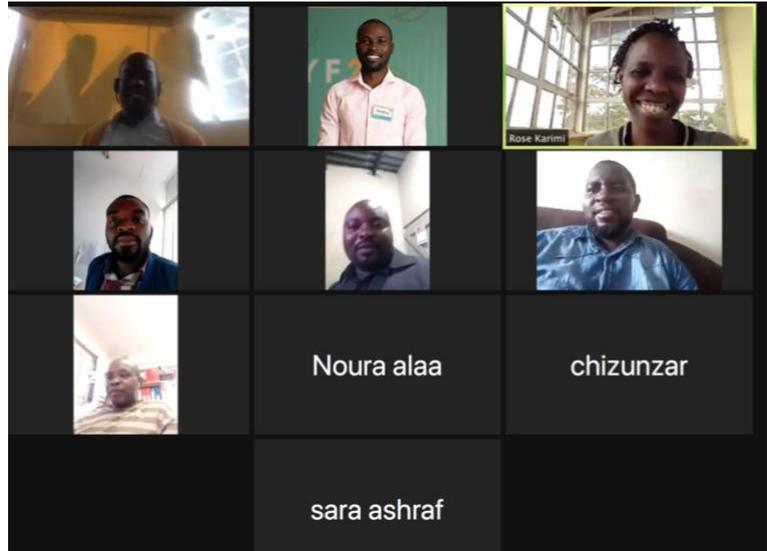


The ICA-Africa 37th Regional Board Meeting, held virtually.

Training on Functioning and Advocacy towards European Union Delegations.

ICA-Africa is in the course of supporting cooperatives in Africa to participate equally in addressing the impeding challenges facing the continent and the world at large by contributing to the socio-economic well-being of its people. Through its series of trainings, in 2021 it organized for a training on Functioning and Advocacy towards European Union Delegations (EUDs) in May.

The training focused on sharing with participants and updating them on the new funding and tender portal replacement of Potential Applicant Data On-Line Registration (PADOR) and Prospect. As well as enlighten participants on a step-by-step guide in planning for concept note development and a brief guide on the methodology applied.



ICA-Africa organized for a Capacity Building Training on Effective business Communication that was held online in May. Participants were taken through the key principles of effective communication and how to harness the power of setting goals to improve organizational performance; creating of memorable and persuasive messages, ask thoughtful questions, engage in

Capacity Building Training on Effective Business Communication.

active listening and choosing the right media of communication; and use of effective listening/understanding to process and communicate ideas to offer support and empathy.

June

In June, ICA-Africa and ICA-Asia and Pacific organized for a joined consultation meeting with members in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The consultation was on Cooperative Identity: Perspectives from MENA Region that saw participation from from Egypt, India, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Nepal, Palestine, and Saudi Arabia.



Consultation on Cooperative Identity for members in the MENA region.

July

ICA – Africa Opens a Sub-regional Office in Cairo – Egypt.



ICA-Africa, the voice of the cooperative movement in the region, is pleased to announce the official opening of its North Africa Sub-regional Office and the formation of the African Association for Cooperative Housing organization in Cairo – Egypt.

The sub-regional office in Cairo becomes the first to be inaugurated as ICA-Africa embarks on the operationalization of regional offices in all the continent's subregions (North, South, Central, East and West). The office in Cairo will cover North

Africa aiming at expanding ICA's membership, promotion of cooperatives, enhancing ICA-Africa's activities, increasing visibility and creation of a network of cooperatives.



In July, the ICA-Africa organized for a regional webinar on Leveraging on Digital Innovation to Improve Resilience of Agricultural Cooperatives in Times of Crisis. The event brought both global and regional perspectives and practical cases that have been tested and successfully implemented to foster agricultural growth and development in a more innovative way.

Leveraging on Digital Innovation to Improve Resilience of Agricultural Cooperatives in Times of Crisis.

August

ICA-Africa and Fairtrade Africa organized for a youth event to commemorate the International youth day. A day marked to celebrate youth across the globe and the milestones that they are making to accelerate sustainable development. This year's international youth day theme was transforming food systems: youth innovation for human and planetary health. This focused on acknowledging, recognizing and celebrating youth innovation that has contributed to transforming food systems across the globe.

The event saw great engagement with both the youth and stakeholders on food system highlighting a [letter from the youth](#) (Keynote Address), an inter-generational youth innovation lab, youth engagement reviews and youth commitment pledges from four organizations Bosman Adama Grapevines & Plant Improvement, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) - Africa, International Cooperative Alliance - Africa and Fairtrade Africa.



Youth Event on Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health.

September

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan partnered with the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) to implement 'Capacity Building Project for Farmer's Organizations to support the development of Food Value Chain in Asia and Africa – in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 of Japan for three years starting 2020.

In September, 15 participants from 9 countries in Asia and Africa were trained on "Empowerment of Rural Women for Improvement of their Leadership and Business Management in Asia and Africa-2021". The training was to assist in capacitating rural women leaders and enhance their business management abilities for more organized activities and participation in agri-business in Asia and Africa.



October



High Chief Oriyomi Ayeola
President



Mr. George Magutu
Vice-President



Mr. Gereger Mesfin Gebreslassie
Member at large



Mr. Nyemb Jean Christian
Member at large



Mr. Obateng Thapelo
Member at large



Ms. Hilda Ojall
Women Representative

ICA – Africa Board members Elected during the 15th Regional Assembly.

ICA-Africa held its regional board elections during the 15th Regional Assembly in October, 2021. Being an election year, all the seven (7) regional board positions were up for elections that is the position for the president, vice-president, women representative, youth representative and three (3) members at large. However, there was no nomination that was presented for the youth representative position which will be an agenda for an upcoming special Regional Assembly.



High Chief Oriyomi Ayeola
In-coming President; ICA-Africa

ICA – Africa President Acceptance message

Today, more than ever, I offer to put my time, knowledge

and contacts to the services and betterment of ICA-Africa.

Today, once again, we have put to test one of the Core Cooperative Values – ‘Democracy’; the process of deciding by vote on the person who will lead the Board and work of ICA-Africa for the next four years. The conclusion is an attestation of the maturity of the Cooperative movement in Africa, and therefore represents a celebration, more than a competition. This is a win for all; I dare say no victor, no vanquished. We are bound by a common challenge, together we are set on a purposeful adventure; we are growing Africa Together, we’ll usher in unfettered development, through synergies, we’ll channel our competences across national cooperative organizations and

create wealth for our people, through cooperative.

To my honourable colleagues, Mr. Macloud Malonza and Mr. Mike R. Duru , and others who have contested, I thank you all for conducting ourselves in gentlemanly manner throughout the course of our campaigns. I wish you well in all your endeavors and our working together for the betterment of ICA-Africa.

I deeply appreciate the vote of confidence and expressions of support members have placed in Nigeria, as a nation, in Cooperative Federation of Nigeria, as a cooperative organization and by extension, my humble self; High Chief Oriyomi AYEOLA, today to preside over ICA Africa.

I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, Mr. Japhet Magomere on your leadership and stewardship of ICA-Africa, and the peaceful conduct of the elections.

Let me also congratulate the Regional Director, Dr Chiyoge Sifa and her Secretariat on a successful transition. I will work hand in hand with you to promote the reforms and processes that are necessary to strengthen ICA Africa. I promise my absolute cooperation and understanding as we work together.

On behalf of my colleagues, we thank ICA global and our Development Partners who have supported ICA-Africa’s election process and quest for better life for the cooperative movement in Africa.

We have the challenge of building a stronger and more efficient Organization. We have the challenge of making national cooperative organizations more vibrant and implementing decisions and planned programme that positively affect Full and Associate members and the cooperative movement at large in Africa.

Leading up to this elections process, I had canvassed for economic integration, New membership drive, Creating relationships with more development partners, like, African Dev. Bank, WTO, etc. These will be the focus of this administration as we maneuver them as quick as possible to meet the ICA-Africa Objectives which include:

- Promoting development of co-operative movement in Africa;
- Promoting and protecting co-operative values and principles;
- Facilitating development of economic and other mutually beneficial relations between member organizations;
- Promoting sustainable human development and furthering the economic and social progress of people, thereby contributing to peace and security in Africa;
- Promoting equality between men and women in all decision making and activities within the co-operative movement;
- Lobbying for an enabling environment for co-operative development in Africa.

The cascading effect of the attendant new strategic initiatives to meeting these objectives will be to the benefit of members across the continent and the secretariat; we'll create more and make more. This way, we will open paths for development, using appropriate technology relative to the environment of our members.

Bottom line, we are growing Africa together and consolidating on the existing frame-work or structures. Every action gears towards the objectives, while the main recipients of our commitments and decisions are our members and peoples.

Let me say that while I am a Nigerian from West Africa and, I want to assure everyone that it is a presidency for Africa. We are bound together by common challenges. What lies ahead for us is the implementation of those core objectives. We will address the net in Sustainable Development Agenda thereafter. By way of strategic response, we will explore quick fixes, we will take-on the low hanging fruits and run faster thereafter. These are the commitments.

On a personal note, I would like to thank my leaders, family, friends, colleagues on Board of CFN, President and Board of LASCOFED, my former colleagues on the board of LASCOFED, members of my primary societies, my union, Epe MCU, Federal Department of Cooperatives in Nigeria, States Cooperative Department, especially that of Lagos State, our Development partners like Cooperative Mortgage Bank in CFN, other cooperatives stakeholders in Nigeria and lastly my siblings.

You have all contributed greatly in my life.

In conclusion, I pledge, on behalf of our team to serve the Cooperative movement of Africa, and the people of Africa to the common good through ICA Africa.

Once again, I am deeply grateful to the ICA-Africa and the Board for this election. Before the Board, I pledge to work for the common good and for the principles and pillars of ICA-Africa with absolute responsibility.



Mr. Magomere will go down in history books as a great cooperator in his own home country Kenya, in Africa and beyond with an outstanding leadership and tireless devotion to cooperative development in Africa. Before his voluntary retirement in October 2021 from the position of ICA-Africa presidency, he had served in the ICA-Africa regional board for a period of 13 years (10 years as a member at large and 3 years as the President and Vice-President at the Global ICA). He was elected as the ICA-Africa President in October 2018 during the 13th ICA-Africa Regional Assembly in Abuja – Nigeria through a by-election taking over from the late Mr. Stanley Muchiri of the Cooperative Bank of Kenya - who had taken a voluntary retirement. Coincidentally, Mr. Magomere appreciated the fact that it was in the same country (Nigeria) where he was elected to serve his first tenure as a regional board member back in 2008.

Notably, in his own country – Kenya, Mr. Magomere has served as a Delegate of Co-op Holdings Cooperative Society (the anchor shareholder of Cooperative Bank) since 1986 and as a Member of the Institute of Directors of Kenya. He served as the Chairman of Cooperative Alliance of Kenya (CAK), Honourable Secretary of Maisha Bora Sacco, a Council member of East African Farmers Federation since 2008 and later joined the board in 2017, the Chairman of the National Council for Ushirika Day Celebrations (International Day of Cooperatives) and a Board Member of several secondary schools. He was honoured with the Order of the Grand Warrior of Kenya (OGW) in 2009.

Given the above information, Mr. Magomere has therefore served the cooperative movement in Kenya for a period of 40 years. This was outlined by the various cooperative leaders that were present during the luncheon at Fairview hotel; Mr. George Magutu, Chairman of Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Cooperatives (KUSCCO), Mr. Daniel Marube CEO of Cooperative Alliance of Kenya (CAK), Prof. Kamau Ngamau Vice Chancellor Cooperative University of Kenya (CUK), Peter Njuguna CEO of Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA) and a representative of State Department of Cooperatives.

As he commonly referred to the cooperatives as the ‘Movement’, Mr. Magomere has truly lived committed to the cooperative movement which was seen through his unwavering support, visionary guidance, exceptional leadership and unconditional commitment in serving the movement. In his opinion, the service to the cooperative movement has enabled him to fully exploit God given talents and skills. The journey was taut and with many hills but with great milestones achieved and celebrate.

Some of these milestones achieved during his service to ICA-Africa includes; increased ICA-Africa membership; the formation of regional sectoral organizations and thematic committees (Alliance Africa Agriculture Cooperative Organization – AAACO, African Association for Cooperative Housing Organization and ICA-Africa Youth Network); establishment of sub-regional offices in the five regional economic blocks of Africa where one has been opened in Egypt for North Africa and talks are ongoing

for the southern one and finally the board efficiency and effective governance and realization of the ICA-



Africa strategy.

Everyone at ICA-Africa recognizes Mr. Magomere's ongoing commitment and dedicated service to ICA-Africa members and the cooperative movement in Africa.

November



ICA-Africa President Visits the ICA-Africa Offices in Nairobi.

In November 2021, ICA-Africa President High Chief Oriyomi Ayeola paid a courtesy visit to the ICA-Africa regional office in Nairobi – Kenya. This was his first time visit to the regional office since he was elected as president in October 2021.

On his first day of the visit, the President held a meeting with the ICA-Africa staff members to discuss a number of exciting developments among them the next Africa cooperative development strategy, members service and generally the

promotion of the cooperative business model in the Africa region. This was echoed by the Regional Director Dr. Chiyoge Sifa on the commitment of the staff members in working with the new leadership for the next four years and beyond for the betterment of cooperative growth and touching lives from different parts of the continent.

ICA-Africa board members led by ICA-Africa President High Chief Oriyomi Ayeola and accompanied by the ICA-Africa Regional Director and other cooperative leaders from Kenya, convened at Fairview Hotel in November 2021 to bid farewell to the out-going ICA-Africa President Mr. Japheth Magomere, OGW.



ICA-Africa Board Members Bid Farewell to Mr. Japheth Magomere, OGW.



ICA-Africa Regional Board 39th meeting.

The newly elected ICA-Africa President, High Chief Oriyomi Ayeola chairs his first meeting during the 39th ICA-Africa regional board meeting that took place at the Regional Office in Nairobi Kenya

In November , ICA-Africa Regional Director Dr. Chiyoge Sifa held a follow-up meeting with the Chairman of The General Authority for Construction and Housing Cooperatives (CHC) Egypt - Dr. Hossam Rizk and other cooperative leaders on the operationalization of the new African Organization of Housing Cooperatives and the ICA-Africa North Africa Sub-Regional Office in Maadi – Egypt.

This marked the soft opening event and ribbon cutting ceremony of the headquarters of the African Organization of Housing Cooperatives and North Africa Sub Regional Office at Maadi - Cairo. The celebration comes three months after signing the host country agreement between the government of Egypt. This event witnesses the kick start of the actual operations and work of the organization and the office under the supervision of ICA- Africa which aim at leading the cooperative organizations in Africa as well as promoting and developing their activities.

Operationalization of the new ICA-Africa North Africa Sub-Regional Office in Maadi – Egypt.



December

Series of Webinars on: Cooperative Law in Africa.



Series of Webinars on:
Cooperative Law in Africa.

ICA-Africa, the ICA Cooperative Law Committee (CLC) and IUS COOPERATIVUM Association, organized for a webinar on cooperative laws in Africa held in December. The aim of the webinars is to improve the access to knowledge,

information, research and practice in cooperative law, which may help in the development of cooperatives in Africa.



Cooperative Entrepreneurship remains to be a key focus area for ICA - Africa. In December, we started the scale-up of the Global Cooperative Entrepreneurs (GCE) in Africa. We held a training with the mentors from Kenya (KUSCCO Ltd and We Effect East Africa).

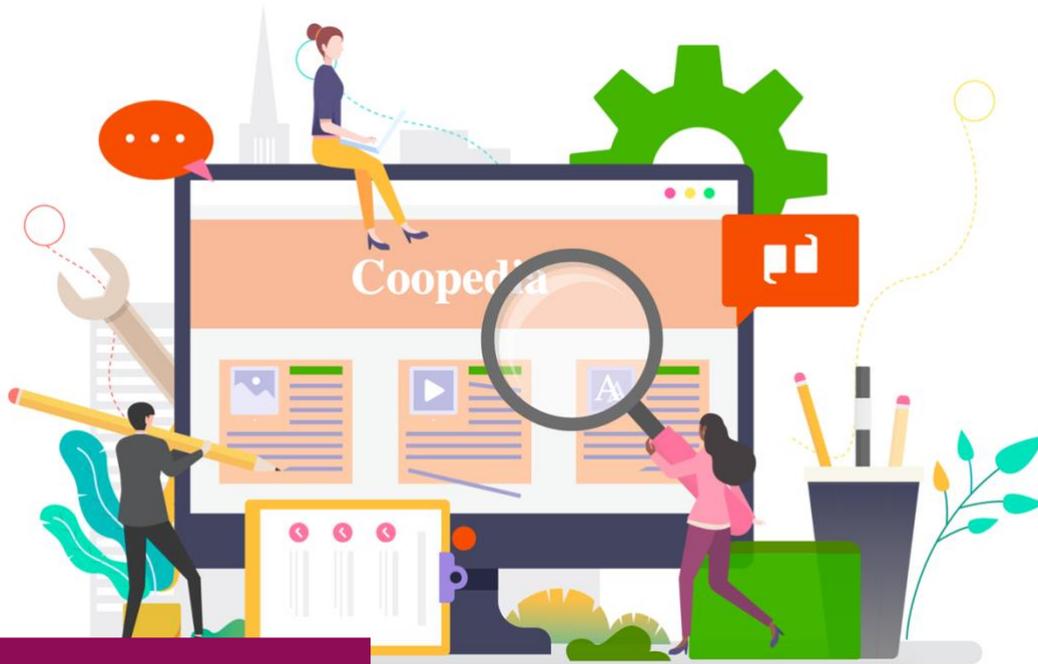
Global Cooperative
Entrepreneurs Scale-up.

Researches

ICA Young people and cooperatives: A new report seeks to improve engagement between young people and the cooperative movement.



A new thematic research publication “Young people and cooperatives: a perfect match?” presenting research and analysis based upon the direct input of young people in 20 countries. Organized into five chapters and presenting a number of practical examples of youth cooperation, the report identifies ways that support between young people and cooperatives can be improved. 420 responses from young people were collected and analyzed for the research, which surveyed both young cooperators and young people less familiar with the cooperative model. [Read More.](#)



Engage with the cooperative community through Coopedia, users (Contributors and Searchers) can take part in a worldwide network of cooperative experts and entrepreneurs. If you don't spot what you are looking for, suggest it to the Coopedia community, Coopedia grows with collective power. [Read More.](#)

The Coopedia Search Engine

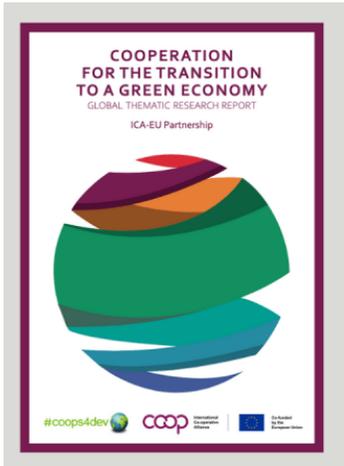


Explore our mapping research on key cooperative figures and historical background information of up to 54 countries around the world. Consult the map [here](#).

Mapping of Cooperative Actors – Research

The thematic research publication “Cooperation for the transition to a green economy” provides an innovative overview on how cooperatives are acting to protect the environment, as well as mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation.

With a specific focus on how principle seven on concern for community is put into action, the report covers 8 case studies from all ICA regions and showcases a variety of environmental actions from cooperative enterprises. Examples include the access and management of natural habitats and resources through cooperative approaches, innovative responses to minimize environmental impacts, and programmes and good practices from ICA members. It features cooperatives of varying sizes and areas of activity, specifically in the energy, forestry, housing, transport, and finance sectors. Read the [Report here](#).



A New thematic Research publication: Cooperation for the Transition to a Green Economy.



The regional report for Africa summarizes the findings of the national reports completed in the region for the ICA-EU Partnership Legal Framework Analysis research. Authored by the regional expert for the study, Mr. Alphonse Mbuya, the report provides an overview of the regional trends and common features in the region and highlights a number of recommendations for an improved enabling environment for cooperatives. Knowledge and evaluation of cooperative legislation is a tool for members to support advocacy and recommendations on the creation or improvement of legal frameworks, to document the implementation of cooperative legislation and policies, and to monitor their evolution. Read the full [Report](#).

ICA-EU Partnership Legal Framework Analysis Regional report - Africa.

Sectorial Organizations & Committees

Celebrating the Women in Leadership on the International Women's Day 2021.

In March, the coop movement celebrates women in leadership for a just recovery!



International
Co-operative
Alliance
Gender Equality
Committee

The ICA Gender Equality Committee (GEC), organized for a webinar on 'Women in Leadership for a Just Recovery'. The webinar was held on 18th of March as the first activity of the ICA GEC in 2021 with the aim of showcasing the various activities undertaken by women in cooperatives around the world.

ICA-Africa Gender Committee Chair - Prof. Esther Gicheru presented some cases of women cooperators in leadership from Africa and their vast contribution in fighting the pandemic. Find more examples from this [publication](#) that was released by ICA GEC.

GYF21

25-26 March



**Get trained & join
the cooperative
youth community!**



#coops4dev



Global Youth Forum 2021.

The Global Youth Forum – Cooperative Entrepreneurship 2021 (GYF21) was held on 25th – 26th March. The event saw the participation of 655 registered participants from 70 countries who were able to interact in 28 different sessions around youth, cooperatives, and entrepreneurship.

Here is more information on the forum's materials <https://gyf20.coop/gyf21/>.

Welcoming New Members



Alliance Coopératives Cameroun (COOP-CAMEROON)

[COOP-CAMEROON](#) is the national association for the promotion and development of cooperatives in Cameroon



High Chief Ayeola Tajudeen Oriyomi is the President of International Cooperative Alliance - Africa and has over 27 years of cooperative experience having presided over the four tiers of Cooperative Administration in Nigeria. He is presently the President of Cooperative Federation of Nigeria (CFN), President of International Cooperative Alliance - Africa and Vice President (Africa Region) of International Cooperative Alliance Global.

Ayeola Tajudeen Oriyomi joins the ICA Board with a mission to add value to cooperatives in Africa and join hands with progressive Cooperative Leaders in other regions of the world towards an enhanced global Cooperative Movement.

As President of Lagos State Cooperative Federation in Nigeria (LASCOFED), he contributed to the agriculture value chain with the establishment of cooperative insurance and health care schemes and contributed to housing in Lagos State with drive for members to build cooperative-sponsored houses and estates. This, he also replicated with the construction of a gigantic office complex for LASCOFED. Since his Presidency of Cooperative Federation of Nigeria, the national Cooperative Movement has witnessed more dynamism and visibility with the Cooperative being utilized for the ongoing National Social Housing Programme, an initiative of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Apart from his numerous contributions to the Cooperative Movement, he equally contributes positively to the lives of his kinsmen and hometown, Epe in Lagos State, Nigeria. This earned him his Chieftaincy title as a High Chief with conferment on him as the Arobayo of Epe Land in 2018.

Aside his leadership skills, he is also experienced in Board proceedings being a Board Member of Cooperative Mortgage Bank Ltd, Nigeria and Coop. Holding Ltd.

He is a Fellow of the Institute of Managers and Administrators of Nigeria and Institute of Cooperative Professionals of Nigeria (ICOPRON). He is the Patron of Association of Nigerian Authors (Lagos Chapter).

He is widely travelled, an avid reader, an astute leader and a Cooperator per excellence.



Mr. George Magutu is the Vice – President of ICA – Africa. He is also the Group National Chairman of the Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Cooperatives (KUSCCO) Ltd. and the Treasurer of New Fortis SACCO. He has served the movement for over 20 years in various capacities, where he has contributed to the growth and development of the financial services sector through various financial inclusion programs. Under his watch, KUSCCO has grown its business tenfold to include three (3) Subsidiary Companies, viz: Insurance Company; Housing Cooperative and ICT Cloud Computing Company for SACCOs. He is keen on development and mentorship program for leaders and has immense wealth of experience. He is also trained and certified in Corporate Governance and is a certified International Cooperative Development Educator Program (ICUDE). Moreover, he has attended various international seminars and conferences on management and leadership in the USA, Canada, Australia, Scotland, Ireland and UK.

He continues to serve in the following Boards: WOCCU (World Council of Credit Unions); Cooperative Alliance of Kenya (CAK); NEDAC (Network for Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and Pacific); KUSCCO Limited; KUSCCO Mutual Assurance and New Fortis SACCO.



Mr. Gereger Gebreslassie is a board member at large of ICA – Africa. He is the chairperson of the Board of Directors/ Executive committees at AWACH Savings and Credit Cooperative. He has served in the banking sector of Ethiopia for 24 years from clerk up to Vice-President level. Worked as Director of the Ethiopian Institute of Banking and Insurance for 12 years before joining Awach SACCOS in 2012 where he has served as a Deputy Chairperson for two years and now the Chairperson for the past two and half years. He is also the Managing director of Tentag Consultancy.

Under my leadership and guidance, Awach has secured tremendous achievements in size of members, savings mobilization, quality of loan portfolio, capital increase and good image and acceptance by the society. Mr. Gebreslassie holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Development Planning and a BA Degree in Economics.



Mr NYEMB Jean Christian is a board member at large of ICA – Africa. He was inspired to join the cooperative when he listened to Pope Francis speech to the members of the Confederation of Italian Cooperatives in 2015. He has served as the chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Central Union of Cooperatives for Agro-industry and Sustainable Development of Cameroon (UCCOOPADCAM). He later became the founding president of COOP-CAMEROON which is national apex of the Cameroonian cooperative movement.

In his position, he has been able to fully register COOP-CAMEROON, organized for the 1st National Congress of Cooperatives of Cameroon, initiated the public-private partnership agreement between the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts (MINPMEESA) & COOP-CAMEROON, chaired the drafting committee of the National Strategy for the Supervision and Promotion of the Cooperative Business Model in the Communes (SNEPECC). He also chaired the drafting committee of the internal regulations of Cameroon Cooperatives Alliance and the Statutes of its 10 sectoral organizations:

Mr NYEMB was instrumental in the registration of Cameroon Cooperatives Alliance (COOP-CAMEROON) membership to ICA. He chairs the steering committee of the program for the National Promotion of Development through cooperative action with decentralized territorial communities (PNDAC). He is the promoter and Chairman of the management committee of the Cooperative Network of Means SCAAD Scoops (Associated Cooperative Societies for Agro-economics and Sustainable Development).



Mr. Obateng Thapelo is a board member at large. He is also the Board Chairperson and founder of Ditsweletse Housing Cooperative Union a Secondary Cooperative society with membership of around 20,000 and asset base of 50 million USD. He also serves as a board member of Ditswammung Saccos a cooperative society formed by employees of Diamond Trading company Botswana (DTCB).

He is among the team working on cooperative digitalization project in Botswana which is at an advanced stage. The project is coordinated at an apex level and it is part of Botswana cooperative transformation strategy. The project is rolled out on financial and nonfinancial cooperatives. He also coordinated a project of electrifying Kacgae Cooperative Society by Sola Energy which was donated by

Ditswammung Saccos and part of the organizing committee for International Cooperative Day Celebrations in Botswana.

He holds a Diploma in Accounting and Business Studies, a Certificate in Banking and Finance BPP online and an Association of Accounting Technician level4 (Under study).



Ms. Hilda Ojall is the Women Representative in the ICA – Africa Board. She developed a great admiration and inspiration in working with youth and youth member owned institutions. Through her work with the youth, she has interacted with young men and women and had an opportunity to mentor youth in different sub regions of Africa. She is currently working with the Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Cooperatives (KUSCCO) subsidiary company - Mutual Assurance.

Hilda is a certified Credit Union Development Educator (ADE). She has completed the D.E program, and is an educator of Credit Union /Saccos addressing different issues across Africa that affect Cooperatives.

She is a former President of International Cooperative Alliance – Africa Youth Network (ICA-Africa YN) and Vice-president of International Cooperative Alliance Youth Network (ICA-YN). As the first ever elected President of ICA-Africa YN, Hilda has been instrumental in the formation of the Network’s regional committee and increased the number of youth engagement and participation to the Network’s activities hence increased cooperative visibility.

During her tenure, Hilda has organized for a number of national, regional, and global platforms to promote financial literacy, climate action through the “Go green campaign”, the Global Youth Forum (GYF 20 and 21), Global Cooperative Entrepreneurship (GCE) pilot program as a mentor to promoted business start-ups in the Africa region. She has also helped the ICA- Africa YN to get the affiliate member status with the African Youth Commission and ensured youth engagement discussions with different stakeholders such as DGRV, Fairtrade Africa, Aflatoun International and International Trade Centre.

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 International Cooperative Alliance - Africa

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