



## **INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE General Assembly – Cartagena – 22-23 September 2005**

### **Draft Minutes**

#### **1. Opening**

The ICA President, Mr. Ivano Barberini wished all a warm welcome to the General Assembly 2005 and called the General Assembly to order.

Before turning to the business at hand, the President asked the Assembly to stand and observe a minute of silence in recognition of the following co-operators who had passed away: Mr. Sven Ake Book, Mr. Padmashri Paul Pothen, Mr. Jacques Moreau, Mr. Lino Visani, Mr. John Gallacher, Mr. Heinz Fahrenkrog, Mr. Bernard Rhodes.

The ICA President announced that this Assembly was well attended with a total of 216 representatives, with 16% or 35 representatives being women. 1062 observers, with 24% of women or 252, 44 guests, 30 press and 37 personal interpreters.

#### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The President reminded the Assembly that the draft Agenda had been circulated to members as part of the Review of International Co-operation Volume 98 No 2/2005 and could also be found in the registration packs.

There being no proposed changes the General Assembly approved the agenda by acclamation.

#### **3. Draft Minutes of the General Assembly in Oslo 2003**

The draft minutes were approved by acclamation.

#### **4. Report of the ICA President**

The President reported on his activities over the last year.

#### **5. Report of the Director-General**

The Director-General reported on the activities of the ICA based on the Annual Reports of 2003 and 2004.

The Director-General reported that 2004 had been a year of consolidation for the ICA. Many of the changes recommended by the Task Force were not only in force internationally but had now been translated into regional rulebooks. 2004 also saw significant collaboration through COPAC with development partners, particularly those in Canada, Sweden, Norway and the USA. This had led to greater co-ordination and awareness of the international co-operative

development work carried out by ICA. The DG said that the ICA's experience in reacting to the tsunami disaster helped in this process, however sadly. He said that he would remember his visit to the stricken areas for the rest of his life but this continues to demonstrate the power of co-operatives working together.

The Director-General went on to report on the Poverty Campaign and how it had expanded the ICA's historic link to peace and reconciliation by demonstrating how impossible it is to uncouple peace from justice and the alleviation of poverty. Close work was in hand with the International Labour Office (ILO) in this connection.

In reporting on Dot coop, the Director-General mentioned that [www.directory.coop](http://www.directory.coop) was the largest co-operative directory in the world searchable by country, domain name and organization name. There was a new technical partner in the shape of OSGCD which is a subsidiary of OS&G Co-operative Society in the United Kingdom and is committed to serving the co-operative community.

Reporting on the Regions, the Director-General said that despite modest resources, the amount of work undertaken was quite astonishing. The ICA focus was now to improve systems and structures in order to raise the profiles of regions and their work and secure greater support from governments and international organizations.

In Africa we recognized that we must work with the UN and others in tackling the resurgence of HIV/Aids and look beyond that to better times. Successful events and training programmes on agriculture, gender and human resource development were carried out as well as an excellent Regional Conference in CapVerde.

The DG ended his report saying that ICA would continue to unite, represent and serve its member organizations.

**His report was accepted.**

## **6. Report of the Independent Auditor**

The Auditor from Ernst & Young, Mr. Mark Hawkins commented upon the financial statements for the years 2003 and 2004. The consolidated statements for the two years present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the International Co-operative Alliance as of December 31, 2004 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Accounting Standards.

**His report was accepted.**

## **7. Report of the Audit & Control Committee**

The Chairman of the Audit & Control Committee, Mr. Roy Berg Pedersen, commented upon the way the Audit & Control Committee had worked. He said that the financial affairs had improved since the General Assembly in Norway and it was good that ICA had been able to start rebuilding its reserves. He thanked the membership, the new leadership at ICA Head office and the staff. For a good future, he said, we needed to have a much better discipline; the membership fees must be paid, be paid on time and be paid in accordance with the

formula. For ICA, the base for a sound economy is the membership fee. He went on to say that financial stability is especially important today when the co-operative movement can and must play an important role in all kinds of societies, not least the developing ones.

Finally, Mr. Pedersen, on behalf of the Audit & Control Committee, submitted the recommendation to the General Assembly to approve the audited accounts for the years 2003 and 2004.

The General Assembly approved the ICA annual accounts for the years 2003 and 2004 and the report of the Audit and Control Committee.

## **8. Report and Recommendations of the Governance Group**

The President said that the Oslo General Assembly had approved a Task Force Report reviewing ICA. That Report recommended the setting up of a Governance Working Group to examine the whole area of governance especially a description of competencies and responsibilities. The Chairperson of the Group Gun Britt Martensson delivered her interim report.

## **9. Motions**

Two motions were received. The first from the European Executive which had been circulated and while was moved by Pauline Green and seconded by Felice Scalvini. (see annex – *in papers for special meeting, Geneva*)

The second motion was on the CICOPA World Declaration. This motion had been approved by the Board but had been slightly amended from the text in the General Assembly Review. This motion was moved by the President and Janusz Paskowski seconded it. (see annex)

**Both motions were approved.**

## **10. Presentation of Candidates for President, Board and Audit & Control Committee Candidates**

Yehudah Paz, as Chairperson of the Elections Committee, was called upon to chair the session during which the candidates for Board and Audit & Control Committee would briefly present themselves. In the first place, Mr. Paz invited Ivano Barberini, nominated by Legacoop, AGCI, Confcooperative, Co-ops UK, and the National Cooperative Union of India and sole candidate for the ICA presidency to briefly present himself.

**Mr. Barberini was elected by acclamation.**

Mr. Paz reminded the Assembly that elections for Vice President would take place next year at the respective Regional Assemblies, to be endorsed by the General Assembly in 2007. He reminded the Assembly that the current Vice Presidents were: Pauline Green, Europe, Mu Li, Asia Pacific, Stanley Muchiri, Africa and Carlos Palacino, Americas.

Mr. Paz asked the candidates for the Audit & Control Committee to present themselves:

- Esther Gicheru, Co-operative Bank, Kenya

- Philip Holmes, Co-operative UK, United Kingdom
- Shugo Ogura, JCCU, Japan
- Roy Berg Pedersen, Norwegian Federation of Co-operative Housing Associations, Norway
- Rene Sittner, Konsumverbank EG, Germany

The Chair asked the Assembly to vote by a show of voting cards.

**The five candidates for the Audit & Control Committee were elected.**

The Chair then asked candidates to the Board to introduce themselves as follows:

- Chabi Mouhamadou Arikama, Fececam, Benin
- Rahaiiah Baهران, ANGKASA, Malaysia
- Abdolrahman Cheraghali, CORC, Iran
- Dae-Kun Chung, NACF, Korea
- Alban D'Amours, CCC, Canada
- Jean-Claude Detilleux, GNC, France
- Steinar Dvergsdal, Norsk Landbrukssamvirke, Norway
- Valentin Ermakov, Centrosojuz, Russia
- Paul Hazen, NCBA, USA
- Rasmon Zuniga Imperial, Caja Popular Mexicana, Mexico
- Gun Brito Martensson, HSB Riksförbundet, Sweden
- Isami Miyata, JA Zenchu, Japan
- Joseph Mukasa, UCA, Uganda
- Lourdes Sienra Ortellado, Coopertiva Universitaria, Paraguaz
- Janusz Paszkowski, NAUWC, Poland
- Felice Scalvini, Confcooperative, Italy
- Seah Kian Peng, SNCF, Singapore
- Sawai Singh Sisodia, NCUI, India
- Elisabeth Aba Smith (Esther Gicheru spoke on her behalf)
- America Utumi, OCB, Brazil

Yehudah Paz then explained the voting procedure; each member organization had received the number of ballot papers based on the voting entitlement of each member organization calculated according to the ICA Rules. The Elections Committee decided that the Board members would be elected by secret ballot. Members were reminded that ICA is a global organization that represents co-operatives of all sectors in all regions of the world. These co-operatives are led by and represent both women and men. In choosing candidates to the Board the Assembly was asked to keep in mind not only regional and sectoral balance, but also gender balance. Members were reminded that they should vote for no more than 15 Board members and that any ballots exceeding this number of votes would be declared invalid. Mr. Paz said he would supervise the counting of the votes which would be carried out by Maria-Elena Chavez Hertig, Guy Malacrida, Marie-Claude Baan and Patricia Vaucher from ICA Secretariat.

The President said that the results of the Elections would be announced at the beginning of the afternoon session.

The President thanked Yehudah for his work as Chair of the Elections Committee

The newly elected Chairperson of the ICA Gender Equality Committee, Stefania Marcone, made an intervention on behalf of the Committee.

### **11. Retiring Members**

The President asked those Board members who were not seeking re-election to approach the podium and be recognized for their work and commitment over the years. They were:

- Stefania Marcone
- Esther Gicheru
- Elba Echevarria Diaz
- Jo Bibby Scullion
- David Miller
- Yehudah Paz
- Ousseynou Dieng (absent)
- Glen Tully

Certificates and a small local gift were presented.

### **12. Report of Elections**

The President asked Yehudah Paz as Chair of the Elections Committee to announce the election results.

Mr. Paz reported that 370 votes were distributed and that 357 votes cast with 1 invalid vote. He then declared that the following candidates were elected for a four year term as member of ICA Board:

- Gun Britt Martensson
- Rahaiah Baهران
- Alban D'Amours
- Paul Hazen
- Felice Scalvini
- Seah Kian Peng
- Steinar Dvergsdal
- Elisabeth Aba Smith
- Lourdes Sienna Ortellado
- Americo Utumi
- Jean Claude Detilleux
- Isami Miyata
- Ramon Zuniga Imperial
- Janusz Paszkowski
- Dae-Kun Chung

The following candidates were unsuccessful in their election.

- Valentin Ermakov
- Joseph Mukasa
- Mouhamadou Arikama Chabi
- Sawai Singh Sisodia
- Abdolrahman Cheraghali

The President then congratulated the elected candidates and said he was looking forward to working with the new Board.

### **13. Rochdale Pioneers Award**

The President then presented the candidates for the Rochdale Pioneers Award. He reported that 9 people/organizations had been nominated. They were:

- Andre Chomel, France
- Hans Dahlberg, Sweden
- Edmundo Floreal Gorini, Argentina
- Raija Itkonen, Finland
- Ian MacPherson, Canada
- Mondragon Co-operative Corporation, Spain
- Yehudah Paz, Israel
- Shan Thuraisingham, Malaysia
- Eguia Florencio Villasenor, Mexico

The President informed the Assembly that the Board and the Elections' Committee had a very difficult task in choosing from such an impressive list. A decision had been reached however and the award was presented to Hans Dahlberg, Yehudah Paz and Ian MacPherson. The three successful candidates addressed the Assembly.

### **14. Invitation to the next General Assembly**

The President invited Seah Kian Peng from Singapore National Co-operative Federation to invite the Assembly to the next ICA General Assembly in 2007. The Assembly approved by acclamation.

### **15. Closing of the GA Statutory Business**

The President then said that the time had come to bring the General Assembly to a close. On the Assembly's behalf he expressed great appreciation to the hosts – Confecoop, SaludCoop EPS and the entire Colombian Co-operative Movement for their tremendous efforts. He said that the efficient arrangements had enabled a very successful meeting. He thanked Carlos Palacino in particular, his organizing committee and the Colombian movement for all their hard work.

The President also thanked ICA staff for their hard work. Thanks went also to the interpreters who had facilitated the discussions and assisted during the meeting.

He finally thanked the ICA members who had come to Colombia in such large numbers. He said that it was only through their continued support that ICA can carry out its role – and it is thanks to them that ICA exists. He hoped that they felt that the meeting had been worthwhile and he said he counted on them all in implementing the decisions taken together. He said that the future of Co-operation was in the Assembly's hands and asked them to join together to make the co-operative difference to members, communities, nations and regions of the world.

The newly elected Board members were asked to stay on in the hall for a brief meeting.

Following the closing of statutory business, the Assembly was addressed by Alvaro Uribe, President of Colombia.