

## STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF CO-OPERATIVES OF THE AMERICAS

### CONSIDERING:

1. That youth is a process of identity construction, both individual and collective, that involves aspects such as physical, social and psychological maturity of the person, education, incorporation to work, autonomy and independence; and for these reasons a planned and situational work is required.
2. That youth faces an adverse social and economic context, and cooperativism is an excellent tool to transform it.
3. That Co-operatives of the Americas have as main objective "*to make the case for the co-operative model within the new economical, political, social and commercial order supporting the member organizations of Co-operatives of the Americas in the promotion and defense of the co-operative identity, the promotion of business and the development of human resources*".
4. That for the sustainability of cooperativism it is essential to prepare and involve the new generations in cooperative management, knowledge of the values and principles of cooperation.
5. That Co-operatives of the Americas, a Region of the International Co-operative Alliance has promoted, in the last 20 years, a greater participation and integration of young people, has managed to form a Regional Youth Committee (RYC) and participate actively in the Alliance's Youth Network.
6. That the Board of Co-operatives of the Americas Recognizes the need to formulate a youth policy that defines the strategies and guidelines to approach work with youth to develop their potential in the spaces of participation and decision, representing the needs and expectations of this population.

### AGREES:

**ARTICLE 1. SCOPE:** This policy aims to promote and concretize the work of the organizations associated with Co-operatives of the Americas and their integration agencies among young people between 18 and 35 years old.

### ARTICLE 2. OBJETIVES

**General:** To promote the training and development of young people through genuine participation in the activities of the sector, in their personal, professional and managerial growth as cooperators, and thus contribute to strengthen the cooperative movement.

#### **Specific:**

1. To support and strengthen existing spaces of participation as well as promote the creation of new spaces that respond to the needs and interests of youth.
2. To promote the education and permanent training in cooperativism through the different modalities and spaces.
3. To disseminate the cooperative model in the different spaces in which the youth has participation through diverse formats and tools to increase the knowledge regarding this way of social and economic organization.
4. To promote the synergies between organizations for the generation of knowledge

through research, diagnosis, dissemination of relevant information for the decision-making.

**ARTICLE 3. POLICY AND PARTICIPATION PROMOTION:** To guarantee the achievement of the objectives of promoting cooperativism and encouraging the participation of young people in complement with adults, Co-operatives of the Americas must:

1. Define the cooperative message to be transmitted, so that it responds to the needs felt by the young population.
2. Develop the use of a specific language and close to the young people through the means used by the chosen population, in order to strengthen the relationship with them.
3. Promote the participation of youth in the processes of action and decision of Co-operatives of the Americas, and to replicate this action in the member organizations.
4. Offer co-operative products and services that respond to the needs of young people and facilitate access to them.
5. Dedicate the necessary time and resources to ensure the continuity, sustainability and quality of youth proposals.
6. Generate spaces for exchange, reflection and planning among young people, as well as other spaces for intergenerational meetings.
7. Promote greater representation of youth in boards of directors, so that all generations have a voice and vote. What would allow the YRC to transform its role and focus on contributing to the development of the co-operative movement.

**ARTICLE 4. TRAINING AND KNOWLEDGE GENERATION POLICY:** To guarantee these objectives, Co-operatives of the Americas must:

1. Promote the training of young people through face-to-face and virtual activities that deal with issues of interest and relevance that allows us to know the problems of youth and generate solutions.
2. Generate meeting spaces to learn about the youth experiences in the different countries and the development of the cooperative model throughout the region (internships, meetings in the framework of council meetings, seminars, etc.)
3. Encourage the generation of synergies with organizations or departments of cooperative education and provide tools that facilitate access to training programs in leadership, cooperative doctrine, management and entrepreneurship, among others.
4. Develop researches to enable current and relevant information serve as a guide for decision-making.
5. Ensure that specific proposals for youth are developed within the Co-operative of the Americas Services.

**ARTICLE 5. REPORT AND MONITORING:** the RYC, the Regional and the Board are responsible for promoting, monitoring and reporting on this policy, in accordance with the Rules of Co-operatives of the Americas, the Rules of the Regional Board of Directors and the Rules of the RYC<sup>1</sup>.

**Date of approval:** August 11<sup>th</sup> 2017

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.aciamericas.coop/Reglamento-del-Comite-Regional-de>