

YOUTH SIDE EVENT REPORT: MIDTERM REVIEW OF THE 13TH AFRICA MINISTERIAL COOPERATIVE CONFERENCE



Introduction

In a world full of uncertainties, from the pandemics to climate crisis to uncertain future of work to the fight for food justice, the world is crying out for solutions to its problems. The voice of young people has been missing or has been minimal in campaigning for a better world and yet they are skilled and mostly referenced as the architects of tomorrow who are rightfully the leaders of today. Young people can be heard everywhere calling for justice, fairer jobs, protection for the environment, and an end to prejudice. There is a paradigm shift in the cooperative movement where the voice and energy of young people have been recognized and offered a platform of engagement; The International Cooperative Alliance Youth Network with its regional youth network work chapters.

The ICA-Africa youth network has been promoting the critical role young cooperators play in shaping the way cooperatives do their business. The activities range from exchange programs, study tours, capacity building, online campaigns and networking events. In October 2023, the ICA-Africa youth network met in Abuja, Nigeria to sensitize youth on worker cooperatives. From the discussions, it emerged that the worker cooperative business model needs to be popularized across the continent and there was an urgent need to fortify a vibrant youth network in Africa. In view of this, the ICA-Africa secretariat purposed to have a second youth side event alongside the 13th Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference held in Maseru Lesotho and virtually from 19-21st May 2024.

The youth side event was organized on 19th May 2024, alongside the virtual Midterm Review of the 13th Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference in Maseru, Lesotho, which saw 77 participants from the following African countries attend: Lesotho, Botswana, South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, South Sudan, Ethiopia, DR Congo, Morocco, Ghana, and Zimbabwe. The event was graced by the ICA President, Dr. Ariel Guarco; the ICA-Africa President, High Chief Ayeola Oriyomi, the Commissioner for Cooperative Development in Lesotho, Mr. Mokheseng Notsi and the ICA-Africa Regional Director, Dr. Chiyoge Sifa.

1. Opening Remarks

In his welcoming address, **Mr. Mabruck Ismail Mpangule**, the member-at-large representing Africa in the ICA Youth Committee and standing in for the ICA-Africa Youth Network President, Mr. Labaran Sadiq Abubakar, indicated that the event was one of its kind reflecting from the youth side event held in Abuja Nigeria, where the turnout was lower and there was urgent need to fortify a vibrant Youth Network in Africa. This is an integral component in the socio-economic development and a unit voice in contributing to the shaping of development policy.

Mr. Mokheseng Notsi commissioner for cooperative development Lesotho, noted that it was a privilege for Lesotho to host such a magnitude youth event for the first time when the Kingdom was celebrating 200 years of existence in the present set up, form and arrangement. In the rehabilitation of the cooperative movement in Lesotho, the drastic call was to think of addressing the issue of the cooperative movement becoming so old without succession by young generation. This bold step gave rise to the idea of promoting 'School Cooperatives.' Over time, this idea flourished, offering a solution not only to the aging cooperative movement but also tackled the problem of unemployment. The School Cooperatives concept received recognition from neighboring countries in Southern Africa, leading to the formation of the tripartite body, the BOLESWA Youth Alliance, comprising of Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland (Eswatini). In his closing statement, he urged young people to embrace the cooperative movement as a solution to the economic barriers plaguing our continent.

The guest **High Chief Ayeola Tajudeen Oriyomi**, reiterated the objectives of the youth side event and noted that the interactions were going to yield into a resolution that would impact the future of young people in cooperative sector. He implored the young people to leverage the opportunity and use it actively to ask questions and share insights and experiences for the betterment and collective action of engaging and developing the cooperative movement of Africa.

The chief guest **Dr. Ariel Guarco** reaffirmed the call that young people are a driving force in the present and future cooperative movement. They contribute innovative ideas with energy and strength, helping us face the significant social, economic, and environmental challenges we are facing. Young people in various organizations, working in different areas, demonstrate that the cooperative socio-business model is the most direct vehicle to build an inclusive, democratic, and fair society. The cooperative DNA, with its values of solidarity, mutual help, equity, and democracy, among others, is also present in all of you and many young people in your communities. Therefore, youth have the responsibility and opportunity to invite all young people who do not yet know our model to live these values, put our principles into action, and fall in love with cooperativism. Today, a large number of the youth in our communities are concerned about the lack of decent work, gender inequalities, environmental destruction, armed conflicts, and other issues. The cooperative system, of which you are protagonists, can provide these young people with the tools to address many of these concerns and achieve personal and collective fulfillment, without having to seek solutions far from their homes, families, countries, or ideals.

Setting the Stage and Objectives

Dr. Chiyoge Sifa, the Regional Director of ICA-Africa noted that the topic of the workshop was keenly selected by the office to respond to the derailment and most frequently the lack of empowerment for young cooperators as compared to other ICA regional offices. She noted that the ministers themselves during the 13th Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference held in Cairo Egypt in 2022 pointed to inclusive participation in cooperatives and cultivation of Cooperative entrepreneurship in cooperative members as issues among others that need to be enhanced in cooperative work. Thus, the theme, 'Empowering Africa Youth through the Cooperative Business Model; Leadership and Entrepreneurship Development Workshop.'

ICA-Africa recognizes the foundational role of the Africa young cooperators in driving the socio-economic development of our continent. The Cooperative believes that youth can be at the forefront of prioritizing the peoples' needs and community growth.

She emphasized the need to redefine the critical role of the cooperative movement in carving out a space for the younger generation to take the lead in shaping a prosperous and sustainable future for the African cooperative movement. A decisive step that will galvanize the views and aspirations of young people in diverse engagements across board. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Learn how to foster and cultivate leadership in young cooperators
- Dive and unpack youth entrepreneurship through best practices and how to establish a cooperative /start-up that speak to the needs of young people and other enterprise activities
- Understand the importance of having a strong regional youth network through well established and well cultivated national level youth networks.

Finally, she noted that the workshop aimed to mobilize youth perspectives as a key stakeholder group for input into the progress and realization of the 13th Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference resolution, dubbed the 'Cairo Declaration.'

Training Sessions:

1. Leadership in Young Cooperators

Led by **Mr. Mabruck Ismail**, the discussion defined leadership in small group discussions and addressed issues surrounding cooperative leadership. The central questions posed were: "Do cooperative youth have a distinct view of the meaning of cooperative leadership?" and "How can young cooperators effectively integrate themselves into leadership roles?"

The Cooperative youth statement on cooperative leadership elucidates that successful cooperative leadership is characterized by being **participatory, transparent, empowered and shared**. This is crucial as it exemplifies leadership that is not individualistic. It is essential to actively resist uncooperative cultural tendencies to preserve the cooperative leadership model within our cooperative movements. Failure to consistently and clearly distribute power within the cooperative will result in a shift to a more deferential leadership model, with those in formal roles consolidating their power at the expense of other members.

The participants also learned that embedding leadership into an organization structure is counterproductive. True leadership is a product of culture and not structure.

Leadership in young cooperators as explained in the 2015 Cooperative Youth Statement on Cooperative Leadership, highlights three crucial areas of cooperative leadership: **Participatory democracy, Leadership succession and shared representation and Autonomy of youth**.

Participatory Democracy involves large group consensus-building processes (e.g. PMAs) and year-round online discussions within the International Cooperative Alliance membership. It also includes the use of consensus decision-making models at all levels of International Cooperative Alliance decision-making, and moving away from a "false model of overly representational democracy."

Leadership Succession & Shared representation features term limits, gender quotas, shared management structures among staff and executives, statutory seats and full voting rights on all International Cooperative Alliance boards and committees, youth staff development policies within the International Cooperative Alliance.

Autonomous Youth Organizations encompasses all youth organizations and boards must be autonomous at all levels (global, regional, national). Specifically, when deciding who their members are and how to spend any money to which they have access.

2. Youth in Cooperative Entrepreneurship- Coaching, Mentorship and Replication

Mr. Wisdom Nyama took the participants through a training on how to come up with a sustainable youth-led cooperative. The inspiration of his training was from his experience as a youth ambassador in the Global Cooperative Entrepreneurs (GCE) a pilot project funded by the European Commission and implemented by the International Cooperative Alliance-Africa.

Wisdom Nyama is the current leader of the Young People's Multi-purpose Cooperative Society (YPMCS) in Zimbabwe founded in 2019. The cooperative is spearheading transformative solar initiatives. YPMCS was formed with the knowledge Wisdom got from the GCE project. YPMCS supports women, school dropouts, and those from disadvantaged backgrounds with destiny through training and opportunities to bridge the chasm of the skills gap. At the same time the cooperative is providing an alternative to hydroelectricity; through solar panel installations.

Wisdom noted that the Global Cooperatives Entrepreneurs (GCE) program skills played a key role in enhancing and empowering youth-led cooperatives in Zimbabwe through mentoring and capacity-building initiatives.

Wisdom took the trainees through a mentorship process of starting a cooperative or start-up using the three-step process acquired during the GCE training- these include Let's Cooperate- which is the initial phase where the idea to establish a cooperative is presented to potential members. The second step is **Hackerton** which is where the ideas are shared and a decision on the type of cooperative to be formed is made. The final stage is Let's Start for Real which is the implementation stage involving the drafting of the by-laws and registration process of the cooperative.

In his closing presentation he highlighted the effective strategies for enhancing the robustness and expanding the reach of existing youth-led cooperative enterprises. These strategies include:

- One fundamental approach is for a cooperative to meticulously identify and analyze the challenges within its operational domain. By doing so, it can tailor its strategies to overcome specific obstacles, thereby strengthening its foundation and scaling up its impact effectively (SWOT analysis)
- Stakeholders mapping and engagement; The process entails the identification and active involvement of key stakeholders including; government entities which are instrumental in providing essential support with administrative documentation and licensing, thereby facilitating seamless project execution.
- It is imperative for cooperatives to proactively offer solutions that address the everyday challenges encountered within their operational spheres.
- It is crucial to ensure that solutions are designed with the capacity for expansion. This foresight will enable adaptability and growth. It is essential to ask: Are the innovative ideas adaptable and applicable to other regions, spaces and environments, thereby allowing for broader impact and reach?
- Sustainable initiatives that adhere to the SDGs, thereby enhancing eligibility for funding and support from governmental, civil society organizations and development partners.

3. Understanding youth and school Cooperatives in Lesotho

Retsepile Matamane the President of the Lesotho Youth Cooperative Alliance (LYCA), highlighted the milestones achieved by Lesotho in establishing and promoting youth cooperatives. The concept of school cooperatives is deeply integrated into the cooperative system of Lesotho. LYCA has the following strategies in enhancing the same.

- Awareness and campaigns and education
- Access to resources and financial support
- Capacity building and skills development
- Policy advocacy and supportive environment
- Networking and collaborations

School Cooperatives in Lesotho are more than just student organizations, they are platforms for practical learning, entrepreneurship and community engagements. They provide students with the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world settings, fostering skills that are essential for their future success. The integration of cooperatives into the school system is still in its blossoming stages. There are few notable school cooperatives that have demonstrated the potential and impact their projects. St Stephen High School SACCO has successfully implemented projects ranging from agriculture ventures to small scale businesses.

The initial objective of the SACCO was to fund learner's business ideas but has expanded into a multipurpose cooperative. It is actively engaged in maize crop farming and chicken farming. For the maize crop, one person was employed to sell maize dozens in towns, earning M100 per day. For the chicken, after slaughtering the chickens, the cooperative sold the meat to schools, the community, and some local shops. The income generated supports school activities while providing students with hands-on experience in managing a business, making decisions, and working as a team.

It is believed that if all schools in Lesotho fully adopt the cooperative business model, cooperative projects will support funding school activities and learners' fees.

1. Understanding Worker Cooperatives and pioneering cases in worker Cooperatives

Mike Kipngeno, a Senior Cooperative officer -USAID Cooperative Leadership Advocacy and Research (CLEAR+) project at Global Communities shared their work in promoting the Worker Cooperative Business Model in Kenya. The organisation is implementing two programs: **AfriScout program**; a tech-based program that supports pastoralist communities in finding grazing land and the **USAID CLEAR+** program which focuses on cooperative leadership engagement advocacy and research.

USAID CLEAR+ is based on the grassroot -led approach to governance through sustainability and improving livelihoods. The emphasis is placed on membership roles and responsibilities to ensure members are actively engaged in order to make profits, demand accountability from their leaders, understand that cooperatives are independent entities and empower their democratic rights within the cooperative society.

The objectives of USAID CLEAR+ include: 1. Improve the enabling environment for worker cooperatives by strengthening public awareness and understanding of the worker cooperative model and improving policies and legal frameworks for cooperative (especially worker cooperatives). 2. Strengthen worker cooperatives capacity by supporting the early- stage development of worker cooperatives and facilitating improved access to services through local BSPs and cooperative developers and 3. CDP Learning is applied in the development community.

The project uses a hybrid approach encompassing a market systems approach and direct implementation to support cooperatives.

In their implementation, the following notable progress has been witnessed;

- Worker cooperatives have been embedded in the national cooperative policy legislation

- National and county governments continually sensitized on the model

- Draft model by -laws for worker cooperatives developed

- Partnerships with stakeholders such as DAWI and CUK to domesticate the curricular Some of the challenges include;

- Changing regulatory environment- need for a standardized worker Cooperative by laws

- Vigorous sensitization on the worker cooperative business model as it is a new concept in Kenya and Africa

- Worker Cooperatives understood as SACCOs and marketing cooperatives INSTEAD of being understood as businesses owned and controlled by the workers. Worker Cooperatives can be formed by conversion, start-up and organization.

Mr. Mike finally noted that worker cooperatives provide opportunities for job creation and improved livelihoods, inclusion of youth and women in development and help improve relationships with other cooperative development organizations.

Pamela Kaburu- a monitoring and Evaluation and Research Specialist at the Global Communities in Kenya; gave a reflection and took the participants through tips on how to increase youth participation within the cooperative movement in Africa. Young people need to be more and more involved in cooperative affairs to deal with the challenge of an aging movement. Worker cooperative business model remains a viable option in increasing youth participation in cooperatives in Africa due to its flexible nature. This model has been piloted in several countries, including Kenya through Global Communities, Botswana, Morocco, Lesotho through school cooperatives among other countries. Kenya piloted the model, and this saw registration of cooperatives in difference sectors that proved there was an opportunity to formalize the informal sector and in so doing, create decent work for the youth who form most of the unemployed population in Africa.

Global Communities through USAID CLEAR and other actors have documented some practical lessons and best practices on the formation, registration, capacity building, coaching and mentorship of worker cooperatives that should be shared during the forums as the members keep conversations going on how best to scale the model in the region.

There is also an opportunity for the youth network interested in learning more about the to access the worker cooperatives curriculum. The modalities have to be discussed with Global Communities & the Cooperative University of Kenya.

It was clear that awareness campaigns are needed across the region to popularize the worker cooperative model as it has been proven to be an attractive model to the youth. Capacity building, training and mentorship are also a requirement for the targeted youth and the formed youth cooperatives in order to thrive. Moreover, the importance of policy and advocacy cannot be overstated, as it lays the foundation for worker cooperatives in the region.

Evidently, the worker cooperatives in Africa are still quite few in number with a myriad of challenges that will require concerted efforts from youth leaders within the region to advocate for more and more youth participation in cooperatives. As a result, ICA-Africa is working on setting up national youth movements within their countries of operation. Botswana, Lesotho and Eswatini countries already have a youth network known as BOLESWA that advocates for cooperative affairs within the three countries with a keen focus on youth inclusion and worker cooperatives. Global Communities remain a key stakeholder within Kenya and the region due to its commitment and experience, having piloted the model in Kenya and ready to scale based on the lessons from CLEAR.

Having consistent youth events and presenting the deliberations/resolutions and communicate to the main ministerial conferences will be critical in ensuring the youth voice is heard and supported by other key stakeholders within the region.

Salma Hachimi Alaoui, president of Innovtention Cooperative, shared the inspiring journey of this innovative youth worker cooperative in Morocco. Innovtention originated from a social entrepreneurship university club where young engineers collaborated on diverse projects. Motivated by their entrepreneurial spirit, they formalized their efforts and launched the cooperative.

Within a year, they established a thriving business focused on repurposing used lithium batteries to promote electrical mobility and renewable energy, significantly reducing electronic waste. This environmentally conscious approach not only supports sustainable energy solutions but also demonstrates a commitment to social and environmental responsibility. Their groundbreaking work earned them the prestigious national prize of Lalla Al Moutaawina. Salma underscores the significance of the worker cooperative model, emphasizing how it empowers young people to shape their future and make a positive impact in their communities, across Africa, and around the world.

Nareetsile Orapeleng Secretary General of Botswana Youth Cooperative Alliance, founder Master Minds Cooperative and Secretary General of BOLESWA presented a mind map illustrating youth involvement in cooperatives in Botswana. He noted that Botswana has around 20 youth cooperatives registered but only 3 are active, a situation replicated in other African countries. Africa's workforce population grows by 12 million young people every year, yet the youth unemployment rate remains high. Farming could be an answer, as agriculture represents 60% of employment. But farming has an image problem in large parts of the continent. Many young Africans, associate farming with poverty, resulting in an ageing farming population that could threaten food security. The problem of unemployment persists when youth move to towns to look for white collar jobs, and in the minds of many youth today; farming is often considered to be an 'old fashioned profession'- a difficult and intensive activity that does not provide enough income, and even more so does not align with the digitalized and corporate world that is rising today.

Master Minds Worker Cooperative was started in 2016 by graduates who came together to counter the problem of unemployment. The cooperative engages in agri-cooperative projects in Botswana. The motivation comes from assessing their strengths and assigning tasks to the members. Based on that SWOT analysis, they make activities work for them and creating a conducive workplace where incentives are transparent and accessible to everyone, team building and utilizing their expertise from school to develop sustainable agri-coop projects.

Some of the challenges they encounter include: lack of finances or innovative funding, access to viable market and land, agriculture viewed as a low status career and no role models in agriculture cooperative success.

In his closing thoughts, he encouraged the trainees to focus more on looking out for structured financial opportunities, seek strategic partnerships, enhance peer to peer communication and making cooperative activities fashionable and attractive.

Conclusion

The Youth Side Event demystified the significant role young people play in shaping the cooperative movement across Africa. Key themes discussed include promoting leadership and entrepreneurship among young cooperators, integrating cooperatives into school systems for practical learning and community engagement, and advocating for worker cooperatives as a viable model for youth employment and empowerment. The event highlighted the importance of youth networks and collaboration in driving socio-economic development and sustainability within the cooperative sector across the continent.

Recommendations

1. Extend future events to accommodate more activities such as excursions, separate days for workshops and meetings to discuss plans and resolutions including the Youth Committee Meeting.
2. Establish the ICA-Africa Youth Network fund.
3. Consider incorporating country action plans reporting as an activity in the program.
4. Strengthen sub-regional groupings of cooperative youth networks.

Annex 1: Resolution

Resolutions Adopted at Youth Meeting in Maseru, Lesotho on May 19th, 2024.

As African cooperative youth, we recognize the pivotal role of the cooperative model in driving economic, political, and social sustainable development in Africa. We strongly believe that cooperatives prioritize people, their needs, and community growth. With years of active participation in global and regional initiatives, we are now poised to elevate our involvement and bring fresh, innovative perspectives to the ICA Africa youth network. Our unwavering goal is to redefine the future of the cooperative model and carve out a space for the younger generation to take the lead in shaping a prosperous and sustainable future of the African cooperative movement.

THE WORK PLAN 2022-2026 (REVISED)

As the ICA Africa Youth network, it is our firm commitment to forge a strong partnership with the ICA Global Youth Committee. To achieve this, our strategies, plans, and resolutions must be aligned with the Global ICA Youth Committee work plan 2022-2026. Our work plan is firmly rooted in the following agenda.

(i) Youth Visibility, Belonging, and Representation: Our focus is on empowering youth within the African cooperative movement, amplifying their presence and participation in the ICA Africa youth network and structures, and nurturing a profound sense of belonging. We target the following group of youth.

(a) Young cooperative members and Working Youth.

Many young individuals involved in the cooperative movement have the potential to significantly contribute to their organization and serve as exemplary representatives for the youth movement. However, their current level of engagement in youth activities is limited. Their involvement could be instrumental in supporting their youth counterparts who are already active participants in ICA activities.

(b) Young cooperative entrepreneurs.

These are the ones who are actively establishing cooperative ventures and advocating for this form of entrepreneurship among youth across various sectors. They garner significant attention due to their empowerment initiatives.

(c) Potential cooperators: These young cooperators already embrace cooperative principles but have yet to join the coop youth movement. They can be categorized as either of the two mentioned groups. It is important to note that others are unaware of the movement. As youth committee representatives, we can actively reach out and engage with them.

(ii) Youth Participation & Empowerment: We are committed to discovering and empowering young cooperators in Africa to join our vibrant community. Our passion lies in urging youth to take an active role in our regional and national networks. We strive to ensure active representation and participation of young people while promoting inclusivity and diversity.

(iii) Education and training: Establish a transformative leadership and training initiative for the African coop youth to empower and equip them to actively participate in cooperative organizations and structures.

(iv) Youth Cooperative Entrepreneurship: Conducting cooperative entrepreneurship programs, encouraging creativity, establishing cooperative incubators, facilitating access to capital, fostering mentoring relationships, and implementing favorable policies at the ICA Africa regional board level.

(v) Co-operative technology: Working collaboratively to establish a clear vision and mutual understanding of how cooperative technology can benefit the ICA Africa youth network. We will explore its impact on the African cooperative youth movement in terms of spaces, enforcement, values, and influence.

(vi) **Promoting gender equality:** Empowering young women in African cooperatives and creating an inclusive space for them to join the ICA Africa youth network and contest for leadership roles. This involves achieving gender balance in our network through capacity building, training programs, advocacy, and awareness campaigns.

(vii) **Climate change:** Contributing to efforts taken by the wider community including cooperative movements to fight and mitigate the effects of climate change. Advocating the formation of Climate Clever Youth Cooperatives that can resiliently withstand climate change impacts, minimize their negative effects, and sustainably enhance productivity.

THE RESOLUTIONS BASED ON THE WORK PLAN/ EXECUTION STRATEGIES.

Based on the work plan for 2022-2026 outlined above, the youth network of the International Cooperative Alliance Africa region firmly puts forward the following resolutions. We request the board and members of the ICA Africa, along with the entire African cooperative movement, to support us in implementing the resolutions we are adopting today.

(i) **Identifying members of the ICA Africa Youth Network:** To advance our plan, it is essential to create a comprehensive list of verified members for the ICA Africa Youth Network. Additionally, we need to take into account African cooperative youth who are not yet members and work towards uniting both groups to establish a strong network. Our goal is to actively encourage non-members to join us.

(ii) **Creating strong national-level cooperative youth networks:** To build a strong and expansive regional youth network, it is essential to establish robust national-level cooperative youth networks. It is crucial to actively engage cooperative youth from diverse African countries, which will be accomplished through the formation of youth networks in each country. This will be done with the support and collaboration of sub-regional youth committee representatives and ICA member organizations in the respective subregions. This will establish a dynamic and interconnected network of cooperative youth across Africa.

(iii) **Establishing an interim ICA Africa youth committee:** This committee will comprise young people from every subregion of ICA Africa. We encourage all ICA members to nominate at least one youth. Following this, eleven youths will be carefully selected to form an interim youth committee, ensuring representation based on gender and other relevant criteria.

(iv) **Establishing specialized youth subcommittees to effectively implement a wide range of plans and resolutions:** Each committee will be assigned distinct responsibilities essential for the successful execution of the main plan.

(v) **Drafting the by-law:** The interim committee will be tasked with collaborating closely with the youth coordinator to create a comprehensive by-law that will clearly outline essential rules and procedures. This by-law will cover critical aspects such as election processes, membership criteria for the ICA Africa youth committee and network, as well as the duration of leadership roles. Regular committee meetings will be held to ensure thorough discussion and deliberation. During the upcoming youth meeting in October, members of the youth network will have the opportunity to review and approve the proposed by-law. All members must be provided with a draft of the by-law well in advance of the meeting to ensure a comprehensive understanding before the approval process.

(vi) **Launching our youth website and social media accounts:** Our dedicated media team from the ICA Africa region office, along with a verified media expert from among our youth members, will work to share the latest news and information about our youth committee and its network.

(vii) **Preparing for the election meeting of the youth committee during the ministerial conference next year:** After the interim committee is formed and the bylaws are passed, the election of the ICA Africa youth committee members should be held next year during the ministerial conference.

(viii) **Plan for the African Cooperative Youth Summit at the end of next year:** After the members are elected, we should plan an African Cooperative Youth Summit. This summit will prioritize ICA youth network members, but other non-youth members will also be invited. The summit will include:

(a) **Training and workshop sessions.**

(b) **Networking programs.**

(c) **Drafting the African youth agenda for advocacy.**

(ix) We urge for the integration of our Action plan and resolutions into the ICA Africa plan and seek the approval of these resolutions from the ICA board each time they are disseminated.

(x) Continuing to request the ICA Africa region office to provide ongoing support for youth, including sponsoring their attendance at cooperative youth events.

PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT THESE RESOLUTIONS ARE NOT FINAL AND EXHAUSTIVE. WE WILL STRATEGICALLY PRIORITIZE AND IMPLEMENT THEM BASED ON OUR GOALS. IT IS NOT FEASIBLE TO EXECUTE THE ENTIRE PLAN PACKAGE AT ONCE. THEREFORE, WE WILL CONTINUALLY MAKE RESOLUTIONS DURING OUR MEETINGS, ALIGNING THEM WITH OUR PRIORITIES.

Annex 2: Proposed List of Interim ICA-Africa Youth Network Committee Members

Name	Organization	Sub-Region
Labaran Abubakar	CFN	West Africa /Chairman
Frank Agyekum	GCC	West Africa
Nyamoh Abdurazag	NWCA	Central Africa
Solide Mwema Fidel	COOCEC-KIVU	Central Africa
Mabruck Ismail	TFC	East Africa
Nicholas Walimoli	KCCE	East Africa
Salma Hachimi	ODCO	North Africa
Omar Akmal	CHC	North Africa
Orapeleng Nereetsile	BOCA	South Africa
Memela Sphelele	SANACO	South Africa
Retsepile Matamane	LYCA	South Africa
Erick Obongo	ICA-Africa	Coordinator/Secretary

Annex 3

Youth Side Event Documentary: https://youtu.be/1X0BD5r7rbo?si=_imygBYEAn6j9pm3

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