

BHIMA SUBRAHMANYAM
PRESIDENT

 <p>International Co-operative Alliance Banking and Finance</p>	 <p>International Co-operative Banking Association</p> <p>ICBA Board Meeting Minutes.</p>	<p>APPROVED 11 October 2023, Kathmandu NEPAL</p>
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THE ICBA BOARD MEETING WAS HELD ON **11-10-2023** IN EVEREST HOTEL, NEPAL THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 10.30. HRS AND CONCLUDED AT 11.45 HRS. THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT:

LIST OF ATTENDEES

<p><u>Board Members</u></p> <p>Chair Mr. Subrahmanyam Bhima</p> <p>Members 1.Mr. George Magutu .Mwangi, Kenya 2.Mr. Ahmed Mohiuddin, Bangladesh 3.Mr. Ravinder Rao Konduru (online) 4.Mr. K.B. Upreti, Nepal</p> <p>Observers : 5. Mr. Alzimiro Thomé, President, CRESOL Confederation,Brazil 6.Mr Jaap van Doorn - international relations, CRESOL Confederation, Brazil 7.Mr.ShreePadmanabhan ICA-AP Representative 8.Mr. Kulbhushan Kukreja, ICA AP Representative</p>	<p>LEAVE OF ABSENCE:/Online 1. Ms. Isabelle Ferrand 2 .. Mr. Kabir Ayinde-Takur 3. Mr. Mieczyslaw Grodzki 4. Dr. Adam Piechowski (shared over phone)</p>
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Agenda-1To confirm the Minutes of the International Cooperative Banking Association Board Meeting, held on 26 June 2023 in Brussels

Resolution-.1: Resolved to confirm the minutes of the ICBA Board meeting held on 26 June 2023 in Brussels.

Agenda -2 To note & approve the action taken on the resolutions and decisions of the Board Meeting held on 26 June 2023 in Brussels:

At the outset, the members thanked President and even congratulated him for convening the meeting as decided in the meeting held in Brussels. Also appreciated for proposing to hold the elections exactly on time and restored the Democratic Principle. Further, resolved to note & approve the action taken on the resolutions and decisions of the Board Meeting held on 26 June 2023 in Brussels

Agenda -3: To review the work accomplished by ICBA Board/ICBA during their tenure from 12/14 October 2019 till date :11-10-2023 and plan for future.

President, ICBA presented the following status report for the perusal of the members of ICBA:

Status Report by International Cooperative Banking Association (ICBA)

Let me at the outset, record and reveal my highest appreciation to the President, ICA and other Board of Directors of ICA for giving me an opportunity to present the accomplishments of International Cooperative Banking Association (**ICBA**) in the recent past. Before that pl allow me to highlight the developments within ICBA after the last report is presented to the ICA Board on 27-06-2023 in Brussels

The current report is presented as follows in 2 parts.

Part 1: Developments within ICBA after ICA Board Meeting on 27-06-2023 in Brussels till 31-08-2023

Part-2: Accomplishments of ICBA Prior to 27 June 2023.

1.Developments within IICBA after ICA Board Meeting on 27-06-2023 in Brussels till 31-08-2023:

i. ICBA and Cooperatives of the Americas/ COFIA:

An excellent initiative by Ms Graciela Fernandez, President of Cooperatives of the Americas.

President, ICBA and Board members of ICBA had an excellent interaction/Interface meeting with Ms. Graciela Fernández, President, Cooperatives of the Americas on 28-06-2023 in Brussels. This meeting reviewed the activities the pf ICBA, the role ICBA can play in motivating the Cooperative Financial Institutions (CFIs) and strategies to coordinate with ICA Regional Offices . Mr.George Magutu MWANGI Kenya Union Of Savings & Credit Co-operatives Ltd. (KUSCCO) ,Kenya, ICA Board Member & ICBA Board member, Mr Konduru Ravinder Rao, ICBA Board member, India and Mr Mohiuddin Ahmed, ICBA Board member , Bangla Desh participated in the meeting. Danilo Salerno,Regional Director, ICA -Americas and Mr Bala Subramanian Iyer ,Regional Director ,ICA -AP also took active part in the meeting.

The meeting concluded with a proposal to initiate exchanges between the most relevant organizations in the months to come to promote CFIs.

ii.. **Dr Rodrigo Silva, President, COFIA** and Bhima, President, ICBA had preparatory meeting today on 19-08-2023 on Financial Cooperative Sector. It was decided to hold the international Webinar on 31 August 2023 under the auspices of COFIA, Honduras and ICBA, ICA, Brussels. Mr Danilo Salerno, Regional Director, ICA-Americas facilitated as an excellent interpreter. Ms Natalia Teresa supported the meet.

This is follow up of the meetings in Bruxelles last June. Ms Graciela Fernandez, and Mr.Danilo Salernno have proposed to our Regional Committee of cooperative banking and finance to have a joint webinar with ICBA in order to facilitate integration from our Region and identify possible common pathways

iii. **NEDAC, ICBA and APRACA** organized a **Workshop** on “Sustainable Financing and Achieving SDGs for Agricultural Cooperatives” from 22 – 24 August 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand . The delegates from India and Phillippines participated.

Ms. Divina Quemi,CEO, Nueva Segovia Consortium of Cooperatives, Ms. Anabel Rigucera,Agriculture Programme Head, Nueva Segovia Consortium of Cooperatives and Mr. Virgilio R. Lazaga, Head,

Agriculture, Agrarian, zAquaculture, Farmers, Dairy, and Fisherfolk Cooperatives Cluster, Cooperative development Authority , Philliphines participated. Resource persons have been drawn from APRACA, UNDP, BAAC etc.

iv. Joint Webinar ---by ICBA and COFIA on 31-08-2023.

As proposed by Ms Graciela Fernandez and Mr Danilo Salenrno, the Regional Committee of Cooperative banking and Financial Cooperatives (COFIA) a joint webinar with ICBA in order to facilitate integration from the Region of Americas and identify possible common pathways has been organized on on August 31 at 7:00 a.m. Costa Rica (9:00 a.m. Chile, 6:30 pm Delhi).

- opening remarks by President Graciela Fernandez, President, Cooperatives of the Americas
- Dr. Rodrigo Silva (President of COFIA)

- Mr. Bhima presenting and the impressive report with all the efforts and

- Dr. Rodrigo Silva , President of COFIA and President, ICBA made their presentations.

Board members, COFIA participated. Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP made interventions.

Mr. Danilo Salenrno, moderated the event.

v. Events of APRACA/ADBC/NAFSCOB/ ICBA/ at Nanning City, Guangxi Province of China on 5-6 September 2023. The 3 events namely Regional Policy Forum , the 76th EXCOM and the 23rd General Assembly of APRACA have been scheduled to be held and are hosted by Agricultural Development Bank of China (ADBC). Bhima Subrahmanyam, Managing Director, NAFSCOB /President, ICBA has been invited by APRACA and ADBC to attend the above events.

vi. ICBA General Assembly/Elections/Board Meeting: The general Assembly and Board meeting of ICBA are scheduled to held on 11-10-2023 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Notice with Agenda has been already sent to all the members. Elections to ICBA Chairman and Board are also scheduled.

vii. 23rd Cooperatives of the Americas' Regional Conference on

“EconoMy: economic, social and environmental perspectives for the cooperative movement of the future in the Americas”

Mr. Bhima Subrahmanyam, President of ICBA, has been invited as key partner, to intervene as speaker in 23rd Regional Conference in the panel *“Cooperative finance as engine of alliances, inclusion and integration opportunities”* to be held on November 29, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. local time Honduras in the city of **Comayagua**. The panel will be shared together with a representatives from Regional Committee of Cooperative Banking and Financial Cooperatives (COFIA), as well as Representative of the Financial Institutions like the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) and the Government of Honduras.

Part-2: Let us now go back to the activities Prior to 27-06-2023

Genesis & Evolution:

ICA Board, at its meeting held in **Matera on 28 March 2018**, approved the Governance Committee's recommendation to **reorganize** the then **inactive** ICBA, as soon as possible in 2019. Having verified that the last ICBA General Assembly elections recorded were in 2011, the Governance Committee determined that the ICBA convene a General Assembly in October in Kigali with a call for candidates for the ICBA Presidency and Board. That is how ICBA has been **Revived, Reorganized & Reconstituted in October 2019**. Keeping into consideration the overall objectives of ICBA, the work plan has been always developed within the framework of ICA Strategic Plan 2020-2030. The reconstituted ICBA is completing its first term of 4 eventful years by October 2023, It may be worthwhile to peruse some of the important activities of ICBA.:

1. Membership Appreciation/Outreach
2. Contribution to Research
3. Support to ICA with regular Financial Support/Contributions/Coordination
4. Dissemination of ICA Strategic Plan 2020-2030

5. Formulation of Work plans based on ICA strategic Plans with an emphasis on Cooperative Ethics, Values & Principles.
6. ICBA centenary Celebrations in Brussels on 17-19 November 2022.
7. Support to ICA Global office
8. Support through sponsor the 10TH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE AFRICA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE (TCAMCCO) held on 22-24 May 2023
9. event of ICA-Africa Regional Office on May 2023.
10. Support through sponsor the ICA-CCR event to be held on 10-14 July 2023 in Leuven, Belgium.

ICBA put efforts to mobilise membership support and the membership rose to 57 as on date.

ICBA initiated measures to establish cordial & close relations with very important global Associations viz; World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) in 2020. WOCCU continues to be in contact with me.

Coordination with The World Bank in June 2020 & with **EACB** in 2021 to impress upon the need to jointly organize events for CFIs, ICBA and EACB executed MOU to pursue the interests of CFIs. ICBA contributed in building database on Indian Cooperative Banks & to publish World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) .The Financial sector division in The World Bank is in contact with ICBA.

ICBA efforts have been successfully resulted in organising a Webinar on “how Financial Cooperatives contribute to sustainable development” based on the findings of the baseline research on 18 November 2021 by ICBA in close association with **KCO and KU Leuven** Programme. Subsequently, ICBA organised webinar on “ICBA Members Today: How Do They Contribute and Report on Sustainable Development?” on two occasions on 30 November 2021.

During the last nearly 4 years, ICBA did conduct 7 Board Meetings (6 physical) Kigali, Srilanka, India, Seoul, 2 in Brussels and 1 Virtual) & 2 GA meetings: One General meeting online and one Hybrid General Meeting). ICBA conducted their ICBA Board meeting on 26 June 2023 in Brussels, to review the activities and workout the schedule for next ICBA GA with election as one of the agenda items to ensure full composition of the Board “

ICBA President, has been invited to present a Paper on “Regulation and Sustainability of Cooperative Banks-A Cross country Study Report” in the 13th Africa Ministerial Cooperative Congress organised by International Conference for Cooperative Housing (ICCH) on 18-10-2022 in Cairo, Egypt.

ICBA Centenary Celebrations (1922-2022)

ICBA celebrated Centennial Event in hybrid form on 17-19 November 2022 in Brussels, Belgium. About 100 delegates registered on site and equal number of delegates have been reportedly registered online. The following is the brief summary of the 3 events. The ICBA event was titled as theme of **“The People Centeredness of Cooperative Financial Institutions”**.

This three-days event was centered around on:

- 1.Thought Leaders Symposium, ICBA centenary Event: Future Of Cooperative Financial Institutions and Study Visits to Innovative Financial Model for Energy Efficiency: Renewable energy Source cooperative, EEKLO BELGIUM

Dr. Ariel Guarco, President, ICA as a chief Guest inaugurated the ICBA centennial event on 18-11-2022.

Publications: ICBA conducted the following studies and published as internal Publications:

- 1.Sustainable Development Goals & Objectives: Contribution of Cooperative Banks
- 2.Report of Country Papers on ‘Regulation and Sustainability of Cooperative Banks’
- 3.A research study on “Regulation and Sustainability of Cooperative Banks-A Cross country Report”
- 4.ICBA Members Today: How Do They Contribute and Report on Sustainable Development?”
- 5.Future of Cooperative Financial Institutions-A Review

ICBA continued its focus on research and made efforts to bring together nearly 15 renowned leaders in research on CFIs, with the aim to set up a lasting platform for a perennial exchange of ideas and information about CFIs around the world. We at ICBA, have the honour of bringing together around 25 speakers who are practitioners and cooperative leaders in the CFI sector, to

lead the way and tell us about their national and regional movements. We continued the tradition and invested in making ICBA presence felt during the ICA Global Research Conference organized in Leuven during 10-14 July 2023. We hope to continue our tradition and ICBA will create ample opportunities starting today, for CFIs around the world to share their knowledge, successes, failures, lessons, best practices and recommendations – all aimed at making this international cooperative banking movement resilient through peer-learning and importantly inter-cooperation. ICBA is also very helpful to ICA secretariat, Global office, ICA Africa Regional Office events etc.

ICA Board Policy Committee: ICBA is member.

Terms of Reference (Approved on 14 June 2023)

The Policy Committee is a committee of the ICA Board entrusted with overseeing policy, advocacy and partnerships initiatives of the ICA. It will help in identifying key policy areas and ideas that ICA should be advocating at the global level in coordination with the regional and sectoral levels to ensure that cooperatives operate in a free and fair environment to achieve the growth they need to better serve their members and the society.

MEMBERSHIP

The Board will approve the appointment of a group of 5-10 members of the ICA Board to serve on the Committee, one of whom will act as Chair. The appointment of the members should seek to achieve regional, sectoral and gender balance. Members serve for the same term as their Board appointment.

The ICA will appoint a secretary from staff who will convene meetings and assist the Chair in organising the work of the Committee.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Policy Committee will share their expertise, offer advice, discuss issues and give guidance on the policy and advocacy priority areas that ICA need to focus on. The Committee will then report to the Board on the progress made from time to time.

Specific responsibilities of the Committee include, but are not limited to the following:

- Set clear policy priorities and develop a framework for their implementation.
- Develop advocacy strategies to ensure supportive policies and corresponding legal frameworks for the growth of the cooperative movement.
- Support the establishment and maintaining of partnerships with supranational organizations, development agencies and governments.
- Develop a global policy and advocacy guide and its implementation strategy.
- Develop a framework for communication to ICA members and partners that drives up membership engagement to enhance their participation in the policy and advocacy processes at the national, regional and global levels such as in the relations with the

As a member of ICA Policy Committee, President, ICBA attended in the first Policy committee meeting on 16 May 2023/14 June 2023

Attended Second Policy committee on 12 September 2023

ICBA submitted a proposal to Policy committee on the “need for engagement of ICBA, in partnership with cooperatives from most climatically vulnerable regions such as Africa, Island States, Coastal Regions, Hilly Regions to work with the governments, UN agencies, socially responsible bodies, and the G20 on green finance to enable cooperative banking system.

World Cooperative Monitor(WCM) ICBA is on the Advisory council of WCM

ICBA Board Member: ICBA is member of ICA Board since approved by GA on 28-06-2023.

Upcoming Important ICBA Events:

- 1.ICBA Annual General Meeting on 11 October 2023 in Kathmandu , Nepal
- 2.Elections to ICBA Board, Vice President and President on 11 October 2023 in Kathmandu, Nepal

Other Documents are prepared and uploaded on ICBA website(www.icba.coop):

PI refer to the Annexure to this report (Attachment)

Annexure to the ICBA Report

List of useful documents pertaining to ICBA is given below:

Sr. No.	Title of the Document
1	The COVID 19 Strategy for Cooperative Banks and Cooperatives
2	Profile of Kenya Union of Savings & Credit Co-operatives Ltd.
3	COVID-19, Challenges & Cooperatives
4	Profile of National Cooperative Council of Poland
5	Current Report: Covid 19 Situation In Sri Lanka & Impact To Members
6	Main Measures taken in the Context of COVID-19 at the European Union Level as on 30 April 2020
7	Country Paper of Bangladesh SAMABAYA Bank Limited (An Apex Financial Institution in cooperative sector) DHAKA, Bangladesh
8	Brief Note On Telangana State Co-Operative Apex Bank Ltd. (Apex Bank), Hyderabad, India
9	A People-Centred Path for a Second Cooperative Decade - 2020-2030 - STRATEGIC PLAN
10	Region-Wise Member Countries And Members
11	EACB KEY STATISTICS on Co-operative Banks for the year 2019 (Source: www.eacb.coop)
12	RULES of the International Cooperative Banking Association (As on 30 November 2021)
13	Statutes/Articles of the International Cooperative Banking Association (As on 30-11-2021)
14	Regulation And Sustainability Of Cooperative Banks: A Cross Country Study
15	Sustainable Development Goals & Objectives Contribution Of Cooperative Banks
16	Co-operative Banks engagement to sustainable finance
17	ICA Celebrating 125 years: Bringing the future into focus
18	MINUTES OF THE ICBA BOARD MEETING - 30-11-2021-Hybrid
19	Minutes Of The ICBA General Meeting (Hybrid Meeting-30 November2021)
20	ICBA Members Today: How Do They Contribute And Report On Sustainable Development?
21	Future of Cooperative Financial Institutions-A Review.
22	Letter of appreciation from President, ICBA
23	ICBA Report for presentation during ICA Board meeting on 16-10-2022/28-06-2023
24	A Report on ICBA Centenary Event Celebration
25	ICBA members Directory 2023

Agenda 4.: Any other agenda item with the permission of Chair.

Resolution: 4.1. The draft work Plan and Budgeted expenditure for 2023 has been approved and recommended to be placed for consideration of General Assembly of ICBA.

Resolution 4.2: Resolved to extend thanks to ICA Americas for Invitation to the President, ICBA **to intervene as speaker in 23rd Regional Conference (27-30Nov 2023) in the panel “Cooperative finance as engine of alliances, inclusion and integration opportunities” to be held on November 29, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. local time** Comayagua, (XPL)**Honduras.**

Resolution 4.3: Advised President, ICBA to accept the invitation and attend on behalf of ICBA.

Resolution:4.3 Statue Amendment:

1.Article 10 (a): The ICBA Board (**15**) shall consist of a President (1), Vice Presidents (04) and members, not exceeding **Ten (10)** subject to a maximum of three members per region. One representative of ICA shall be invitee.

Amended as: The ICBA Board (**11**) shall consist of a President (1), Vice Presidents (04) and members, not exceeding **6 (six)** subject to a maximum of **2** members per region. One representative of ICA shall be invitee.

2.Article 10 (g): The ICBA ‘direct’ member organisation with **5 years** of continuous membership in ICBA is only eligible to seek the office of President **and Vice-President.**

Amended as: The ICBA ‘direct’ member organisation with **4** years of continuous membership in ICBA is only eligible to seek the office of **President.**

Rules:

- **Rule 8....** to elect members of the Board not exceeding **10** and region-wise Vice presidents not exceeding four.
- **Amended as:** to elect members of the Board not exceeding **06 (six)**and region-wise Vice presidents not exceeding four.


Rule 9: The ICBA Board

a) Rule 9: The ICBA Board

1. a) to nominate to the vacant position of the Board member from among the same The ICBA Board (**15**) shall consist of a President (1), Vice Presidents (04) and members, not exceeding Ten (**10**), subject to a maximum of **three** members per region. One representative of ICA shall be an invitee.
2. Amended as:to nominate to the vacant position of the Board member from among the same The ICBA Board (**11**) shall consist of a President (1), Vice Presidents (04) and members, not exceeding **six (06)**, subject to a maximum of **two** members per region. One representative of ICA shall be an invitee.

Resolution 4.4:Further resolved to acknowledge the efforts of President, ICBA for his efforts to mobilise

Thanks & Regards



(Bhima Subrahmanyam)
President, ICBA