

International Co-operative Principles

There is a special set of ethical values that apply to co-operatives. Together they give us a set of guiding principles that reflect the common values of the co-operative movement worldwide.

Open, Voluntary Membership

Membership in a co-operative is voluntary and non-discriminatory.

Democratic Control

Each member receives one vote.

Member Economic Participation

Members contribute to, and democratically control the financial resources of the co-op.

Autonomy & Independence

Co-operatives are independent, self-help organizations controlled by their members. No two co-ops look exactly alike.

Continuous Education

Co-ops provide education so that members are good decision makers about their co-operative business.

Co-operation Among Co-operatives

Co-ops work together at local, regional, national and international levels to further economic democracy, support one another and improve communication.

Concern for Community

Co-ops work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies developed by, and accepted by, their members.