



# Opening Remarks

**Roberto Rodrigues**

**President**

**International Co-operative Alliance**

---



# Global Context

## Impact of globalization and economic liberalization

- ✱ **Concentration of enterprises**
- ✱ **Social and economic exclusion**
- ✱ **Lost of values**
- ✱ **Democracy challenged**
- ✱ **Peace and human security at risk**



# The way forward

## Social capital

- ✿ **Social cohesion through participation**
- ✿ **Cooperatives store social capital**
- ✿ **Cooperatives are based on principles and universal values**
- ✿ **Cooperatives are based on solidarity**

# Coops - the second wave

---



- ✿ **Social justice**
  - ✿ **Full employment**
  - ✿ **Equitable distribution of profits**
  - ✿ **Environment**
  - ✿ **Food security**
  - ✿ **Partnerships with democratic governments**
-



# ICA in the Third Millennium

- ✿ **Democracy and peace**
- ✿ **Communication and Information**
- ✿ **Advocacy – governments and United Nations**

242 Member organizations  
800 million individuals



in 94 countries



# Five years after the Social Summit

Poverty Eradication - Employment – Social Integration



- ✿ **Government committed to develop fully the potential & contribution of cooperatives**
- ✿ **Cooperatives committed to ending poverty, creating quality employment and promoting social integration**



# COPAC Open Forum

- ✿ **Cooperatives can create decent work!**  
... if ...
- ✿ **Governments provide the appropriate policy environment for cooperatives to exist and operate!**