

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER IN REVIEWING DISCUSSION DRAFTS

In considering the proposed revisions to the *Statement on the Cooperative Identity*, reviewers are encouraged to keep in mind the following questions, which speak to standards by which to judge the suitability of proposed changes. The questions do not speak to the specific content of the text. However, substantive comments on any part of the original or new text are entirely welcome.

1. Do the proposed changes to the *Statement on the Cooperative Identity* go further than the existing Statement in either
 - a. distinguishing a cooperative from other forms of enterprise or
 - b. ensuring the perennity of the cooperative?
2. How might the proposed changes to the Statement affect the legal environment in which cooperatives operate?
3. What effect, positive or negative, might the changes have on government policies and programmes of concern to cooperatives?
4. With the proposed changes, will the Definition, Values and Principles continue to give expression to the universal elements of our identity and so remain applicable to all kinds of cooperatives?
5. The ICA's Articles of Association provide that Members of the ICA must comply with the *Statement on the Cooperative Identity*. Will the proposed changes present any compliance difficulties for any ICA members?
6. Do the proposed changes render the language of Statement either clearer or more contemporary?
7. With the proposed changes, does the Statement meet the following stylistic standards:
 - a. the language is suitably succinct and high-level, without unnecessary detail;
 - b. the language is free of jargon;
 - c. the language will not date quickly?