

SEPTEMBER 2011

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**ICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Cancun, Mexico**

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**Promotion of Environmental, Social and Economic Sustainability:  
The use of Sustainable Timber and Forest Products**

**The ICA at its General Assembly in Cancun, Mexico on 18 November 2011**

**Acknowledges** that forests are essential to life on earth; that forests are reservoirs of fresh air, pure water, and innumerable forms of life; and that forests protect against soil erosion, desertification, flooding, loss of biodiversity and unsustainable concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere;

**Recognises** that the current unsustainable model of forestry development threatens biodiversity: 33 per cent of animal and plant species have colonized 70 per cent of the land on earth, while forests, harbouring 67 per cent of all animal and plant species, occupy only 30 per cent of dry land;

**Realises** that deforestation is fuelled by economic imperatives that drive communities toward agriculture, conversion of forest land to other uses and tourism—significant contributors to the release of GHG emissions—as the fastest ways to earn their livelihood;

**Understands** that the forest industry is responsible for the production of 17 per cent of GHG emissions in the world: recent research attributes 217 to 640 tons of carbon dioxide per hectare, including the GHG emissions from soil, to wood cutting conducted by non-sustainable methods;

**Acknowledges** that all humanity deserves a decent livelihood and that many communities depend on forests for their survival;

**Supports** internationally recognized efforts to develop model programs for sustainable forestry that respond to the needs of the flora, fauna and people living in and through forests;

**Recognises** co-operative businesses' buying power and their need for forest products and the availability of such products certified as sustainable by the Forest Stewardship Council or the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification;

**Wishes** to promote sustainable conduct in the spirit of the unanimous resolution at the General Assembly of 2009 in Geneva calling on ICA members and the worldwide co-operative movement to embrace a vision of energy efficiency and renewable energy;

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**Calls** on ICA members and the worldwide co-operative movement, as conscientious consumers, positively to commit only to use timber and other forest products from sustainable sources certified as such by reputable organisations like the Forest Stewardship Council or PEFC International (the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) and to adopt procurement policies and practices that honour the principle of sustainability in forestry management.

**Resolution submitted to ICA General Assembly in Cancun, Mexico by  
ICA Housing Sector Organisation**

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