



## Manifesto “We, the Co-operative Youth”

### **WE, the COOPERATIVE YOUTH,**

delegates to the CCW Global Co-operative Youth Forum “*Co-operatives and Youth: Empowerment, Employment, Engagement*”, held on 22-23 September, 2016 in Hotel Complex MELSA COOP, Nesebar, Bulgaria,

**CAME TOGETHER** to exchange good practices, discuss common challenges and needs, and identify practical solutions to the involvement of youth in co-operatives and their engagement for the further development of the co-operative model; as a result of which, we commit ourselves to:

**CONTINUE** raising awareness, particularly among young people, of the existing and potential role of co-operatives in community;

**PROMOTE** the strategic implementation of the 6th Co-operative Principle “*Co-operation among Co-operatives*”, through national, regional, and global youth networks, that will strengthen the existing youth structures and assist in the establishment of new ones within the global co-operative movement and advance socioeconomic cohesion;

**STAND UNITED** and **APPEAL** to national and international co-operative organisations, to:

**ADVANCE** the 5<sup>th</sup> Co-operative Principle “*Education, Training, and Information*” as an instrument to progress the individual development of young co-operators and to the creation of new high-skilled jobs;

**IMPLEMENT** policies within all levels of the co-operative organisations to facilitate the promotion of young members to the levels of management and access to the decision-making processes of co-operatives;

**WE**, as young representatives of the global co-operative movement, further:

**APPEAL** to the International Co-operative Alliance to draft as soon as possible a long-term Strategic Youth Development Plan with concrete targets for the recruitment and integration of youth to co-operatives, the further engagement, empowerment, and development of young co-operators as per the above-mentioned statements, and a clear mechanism of key performance indicators to monitor any progress in the implementation of the Plan;

**PLEDGE** to take an active role in society, sharing our experiences with one another and being innovatively forward thinking in our engagement for **building a better world - now**; and

**COMMIT** to engage our peers, to share our co-operative stories with them and unify the voice of the young within the global co-operative movement and institutions outside, for more attention to the challenges, needs, and problems of young people and give them the right to EDUCATION, EMPOWERMENT, and EMPLOYMENT!