**Co-operative Identity & Values Principles**

# Identity

Our co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned, democratically-controlled and equitably-rewarding enterprise.

# Values

Our Co-operative is based on the values of **self-help**, **self-responsibility**, **democracy**, **equality**, **equity** and **solidarity**. In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

# Principles

The co-operative principles are guidelines by which the co-operative put its values into practice.

## ****Voluntary and Open Membership****

The Co-operative is open to volunteering qualifying persons and corporations without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

## ****Democratic Member Control****

The Co-operative is a democratic organisation controlled by its members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership.

## ****Member Economic Participation****

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of the co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-operative. Members will receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the co-operative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-operative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

## ****Autonomy and Independence****

The Co-operative is an autonomous, self-help organisation controlled by its members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by the members and maintain the co-operative’s autonomy.

## ****Education, Training and Information****

The Co-operative will provide education and training for its members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of the co-operative. The Co-operative contributes to the information of the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

## ****Co-operation among Co-operatives****

The Co-operative serves its members most effectively and strengthens the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

# Concern for Community

The Co-operative works for the sustainable development of its community through policies approved by its members.