



# Building a Global Community

WORLD COUNCIL OF CREDIT UNIONS



World Council

World Council of Credit Unions is the global trade association and development agency for credit unions and cooperative financial institutions, with member organizations in nearly 60 countries.

World Council and its members impact millions of people's lives, their credit unions, and national financial systems across the globe. On behalf of its members, World Council:

- **Advocates internationally** to achieve a better legislative and regulatory outcome for credit unions and their members.
- **Provides education and global networking** for the exchange of information and ideas.
- **Champions the credit union and cooperative financial institution model** worldwide.
- **Grows and strengthens the credit union system** with technical assistance, training and tools for management, outreach and networking.

Learn more about World Council's global impact at [www.woccu.org](http://www.woccu.org).

*"We all share the same cooperative DNA and the same mission to financially empower our members. We are a global community of people who value trust, mutual help and self-help, dedicated to putting the needs of our members, their families and communities first. In markets increasingly driven by international events, it is crucial that we band together to serve the greater good." – BRIAN BRANCH, WORLD COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND CEO*

# Advocacy

WORLD COUNCIL PROTECTS CREDIT UNION INTERESTS AND GIVES CREDIT UNIONS A GLOBAL VOICE.



With globalization, more financial sector standards are being set at an international level and adapted to local conditions. When international standards are being set on issues such as capital requirements, anti-money laundering, counter-terrorism financing and taxation, World Council gathers views from its member organizations, engages the global standard setters and influences guidelines before they reach the national level. World Council also provides national advocacy support for members with their regulatory and legislative bodies that are implementing new standards.

## Global Advocacy:

To ensure that credit unions are represented from the outset of discussions, World Council maintains an engaged stakeholder relationship with the following organizations to influence global standards:

- **Bank for International Settlements (BIS) Basel Committee on Banking Supervision:** Advocates for clarification of regulatory capital and supervision standards that cooperative shares and supplemental capital can qualify as “common equity.”
- **International Accounting Standards Board (IASB):** Advocates for accounting provision and merger standards that reflect the mutual nature of cooperative financial institutions.
- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF):** Promotes amplification and streamlining of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing compliance guidelines for community financial institutions which know their members.
- **Financial Stability Board (FSB):** Advocates for a simplified proportional approach to systemic risk mitigation systems which reduce the cost for cooperative financial institutions.
- **European Union (EU):** Advocates to protect credit unions from excessive regulatory burden which impairs credit union ability to serve their members and financial inclusion of the under-banked.
- **World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF):** Provides credit union supportive financial, legislative and technical guidance in the development of policies and programs.
- **United Nations (UN):** Has special observer status at the United Nations since 1978 and takes part in UN briefings and meetings.

World Council also advocates on behalf of credit union interests before the **Group of Twenty (G20)** and works with the **European Network of Credit Unions (ENCU)** and our members in Europe to influence European commission policy regarding credit union legislation.

World Council issues regulatory alerts via **The Telegraph** as well as a compendium of country-specific activities through the biannual **Global Regulatory Update**, both issued via email to member CEOs and legislative contacts.

As international guidelines flow down to the national level, World Council collaborates with our member organizations and national regulators to help interpret their application to specific credit union system environments. World Council carries out legislative and regulatory consultation and advocacy visits for member organizations.

World Council connects regulators to share best practices on an international or regional level through the **International Credit Union Regulators' Network (ICURN)** and annual conference.

World Council also:

- Develops and regularly updates the *Model Law for Credit Unions* and *Guide to International Credit Union Legislation*, which have been applied in several jurisdictions worldwide.
- Provides members with best-practice regulations and experience from numerous countries as documented in *Model Regulations for Credit Unions*.

*“The work of World Council in intervening with international regulatory bodies, such as the Basel Committee and the Financial Action Task Force, to raise awareness and advocate policy positions on behalf of all credit unions has become vitally important to the future success of credit unions worldwide.”*

— *DAVID PHILLIPS, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CREDIT UNION CENTRAL OF CANADA*

Learn more about World Council's advocacy efforts at [www.woccu.org/policyadvocacy](http://www.woccu.org/policyadvocacy).



# Education & Networking

WORLD COUNCIL CONNECTS PEOPLE FROM WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE INDUSTRY TO IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS TO COMMON CHALLENGES.

World Council of Credit Unions represents diverse credit union systems throughout the world. Member organizations include a range of institutions: credit unions, cajas populares, savings and credit cooperatives, Islamic investment and finance cooperatives or mutual banks. Each system is unique, but many confront similar issues and have found value in learning from their international peers through World Council membership.

World Council provides online and in-person platforms for diverse groups of credit union leaders to interact and learn from one another. Member organizations receive discount registrations for World Council meetings and workshops, as well as exclusive networking opportunities through World Council.



*“The conference has given me the right platform for international networking, exchanging of knowledge and ideas. Thanks to World Council as I have been given the opportunity to see the world of credit unions.” – SHOBA GUNASEKARAN, GENERAL MANAGER, TCC CREDIT CO-OPERATIVE LTD., SINGAPORE*



## Opportunities include:

- **World Credit Union Conference** is the premier international credit union conference that brings together annually 2,000 credit union staff, boards of directors and regulators from over 50 countries to learn about cutting edge technologies, regulations and operations and to learn about solutions to common challenges so they can better serve their members. Members and their affiliates receive discount rates on registration.
- **International Partnerships Program** formally brings together credit unions and their associations from around the world to exchange ideas and technical expertise to build stronger institutions for the benefit of their members.
- **World Council Young Credit Union People (WYCUP) Program** is an annual scholarship program for members that engages and promotes the next generation of credit union professionals and volunteers. Every year at the World Credit Union Conference the WYCUP program awards five young leaders an all-expense-paid trip to the following year's event.
- **Global Women's Leadership Network** is the international, professional group for women credit union leaders. It connects women around the world to engage in personal and professional growth, community development and peer networking and support.
- **International Training** gives credit union groups or individuals the opportunity to tailor their international training experience. These topic-specific visits abroad introduce real-world solutions, expert advice and insight to address common challenges.
- **Regional Congresses and Online Workshops** are hosted in collaboration with member organizations and partners. Workshops offer credit union leaders the opportunity to network and learn about similar issues facing neighboring credit union systems.

Learn more about World Council's educational and networking opportunities at [www.woccu.org/events](http://www.woccu.org/events).



# Resources for Strengthening & Growth

WORLD COUNCIL DELIVERS BEST PRACTICES AND INDUSTRY TRENDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

World Council provides operational resources and information on market trends and best practices that help credit unions grow and prosper. Member organizations receive free access to World Council's proprietary financial tools to improve credit union business operations, planning, products and services. Since 1970, World Council has implemented close to 300 technical assistance programs in 71 countries.

## Credit Union Development Resources:

- **Technical Assistance:** World Council technical programs emphasize sound prudential management, strong capitalization and service delivery through online and mobile channels. World Council key areas of expertise include institutional building and reform, financial services for the poor, small farmer finance, agricultural value chain financing and mobile banking.
- **Training:** World Council training expertise includes savings mobilization, credit management, regulatory compliance, product development, membership growth and democratic governance.
- **Tools:** World Council provides financial tools such as PEARLS, World Council's internationally accepted software for financial monitoring, capital management, business planning and risk management.
- **Operational Manuals:** Documentation on starting a credit union, governance best practices, savings, risk management, product development, micro-lending, agricultural finance, mergers, growth strategies and Islamic finance.
- **Technical Guides:** Savings mobilization, rural finance, supervision, mobile finance.

## Member Resources:

- **The Telegraph:** Regulatory dispatch providing early warning of regulatory developments that affect the global credit union community.
- **Statistical Report:** Annual publication that provides financial statistics from credit unions and financial cooperatives around the world.
- **Taxation Report:** Tax status information on credit unions in various nations throughout the world.
- **Credit Union World:** World Council's digital, interactive magazine highlighting the global movement.
- **Global Regulatory Update:** Electronic newsletter of current regulatory issues in specific countries.
- **eCommunique:** Six times yearly electronic newsletter of World Council's most recent activities, upcoming events and resources.
- **International Credit Union Day materials:** Logos, poster files, celebration ideas and promotional materials to increase public awareness.

*"Access to World Council's educational and informative media became a great tool for Sicredi, particularly to those who work with the media and for other sectors such as legal, marketing and retail." – MANFRED ALFONSO DASENBROCK, DIRECTOR, CONFEDERAÇÃO INTERESTADUAL DAS COOPERATIVAS LIGADAS AO SICREDI, BRAZIL*

# Membership

**Direct Membership** – National or regional organizations that represent financial cooperatives; individual credit unions in countries where a national credit union organization does not exist.

**Associate Membership** – Credit union-owned business service organizations; credit union and financial cooperative education associations; credit union development organizations; international organizations that represent non-credit union financial cooperatives.

## DIRECT MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Public recognition as a member of World Council
- Priority access to all products and services
- Full representation at annual general meetings
- Eligibility for representation on the board of directors
- Periodic consultations
- Networking opportunities through working committees
- Discount registration to conferences
- Access to member-only activities, such as World Council's International Partnership Program and Young Credit Union People (WYCUP) Program
- Free access to financial tools such as PEARLS
- Access to exclusive online resources
- Use of World Council proprietary hands and globe image

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Public recognition as a member of World Council
- Non-voting representation at annual general meetings
- Networking opportunities with the international credit union community
- All other benefits of membership listed above



# Membership Application

**Criteria:** Organizations applying for World Council membership must be owned by credit unions or cooperative financial institutions, solvent and have sufficient cash flow to pay dues.

**Cost:** Annual direct membership dues are based on asset size, ranging from US\$2,500 to US\$1 million annually. Associate members pay a minimum of US\$10,000 flat rate.

## Application Checklist:

### 1) Membership application

Download an application at [www.woccu.org/mbrapplication](http://www.woccu.org/mbrapplication).

### 2) Board of Directors' letter of intent

Your directors should certify:

- 1) They have approved the application.
- 2) Your organization will abide by World Council bylaws.
- 3) If applying for direct membership, that your organization will also abide by international credit union principles for consumer protection, operations, governance and safety and soundness.

### 3) Bylaws of your organization

**4) Financial statements** including audited balance sheets and income statements from the past three years.

**5) Dues payment** for the first year's pro rata dues.

World Council's board of directors reviews and votes on new membership applications three times annually.

*Please submit application and supporting materials to:*

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