



Regional Assemblies 2026

Context

In 2026 we will be holding the **elective Regional Assembly of Cooperatives of the Americas** and the respective **Regional Assemblies of the Sectoral and Thematic Committees**, so we invite all member organizations in the Americas to exercise their duties and rights of participation and decision-making.

These activities will take place in Panama City, from September 13th to the 18th, 2026; within the framework of the joint event that we will develop with the International Cooperative Alliance and our member organizations in Panama, from September 13 to 18, 2026.

The Regional Assembly will elect the following authorities for the 2026-2030 period of mandate:

- President
- Audit and Risk Committee.

Additionally, the Regional Assembly will be asked to ratify

- The country representatives to the Regional Board that will have been identified by the national members via dedicated meeting to be held within the time established by this procedure
- The representatives of the sectoral and thematic committees that will join the Regional Board in their respective representation

To systematize all the important information and deadlines, we have created this special document for Regional Assemblies 2026, where you will find:



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Regional Assemblies 2026	Important dates
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17/04/2026	<p>Regional Board approves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>modalities</u> of Regional Assembly and Assemblies of Sectoral and Thematic Committees, • the <u>requirements</u> to be a member of the Electoral Committee • Important dates • the requirements and processes for accreditation to the Regional Assembly, as well as for the Assemblies of the Sectoral and Thematic Committees • the requirements and processes for the nomination to the Presidency, Audit and Risk Committee, boards of Sectoral and Thematic Committees.
16/04/2026 - 30/04/2026	Process of identification of members and formation of the Electoral Committee (ratification by written process within May)
11/05/2026	<p>Opening of applications to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Cooperatives of the Americas • Audit and Risk Committee • Boards of Sectoral and Thematic Committees.
13/06/2026	<p>Deadline for the payment of membership fees for organizations that express candidates for elective positions of Cooperatives of the Americas (Presidency; Audit and Risk Control Committee) and the Boards of its Sectoral and Thematic Committees,</p> <p>Deadline for submitting applications to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Cooperatives of the Americas • Audit and Risk Committee • Boards of Sectoral and Thematic Committees.
13/06/2026 - 31/07/2026	Season of national meetings for the appointment of the titular and alternate representative of the Country to the Board of Directors (closing 31/07/2026)
01/07/2026	Board of Directors approves the call for Regional Assembly as well as the Assemblies of Regional Sectoral and Thematic Committees (includes indications, place, times and names of the persons nominated for Presidency and positions on the boards of directors of sectoral and thematic committees)
15/07/2026	<p>Regional Office Sends Convocation of Assemblies and Disseminates List of Candidates for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Cooperatives of the Americas • Audit and Risk Committee • Boards of Sectoral and Thematic Committees.
04/08/2026	Deadline for the payment of membership fees to be able to vote in the Regional Assembly and Assemblies of sectoral and thematic committees
15/08/2026	Deadline for the Regional Office to communicate the distribution of votes by organization in good standing with the payment of the membership fee for the Regional Assembly
14/08/2026	Deadline for communicating the designation of full and alternate representative Country to be part of the Board of Directors, to be ratified in the Assembly



	Deadline for sending the delegate(s) accreditation form to the Regional Assembly and the Assemblies of sectoral and thematic committees
	Deadline for the delegation of votes for Regional Assembly and Assemblies of sectoral and thematic committees
13/09/2026	Assemblies Sectoral and Thematic Committees
18/09/2026	Regional Assembly

Regional Assemblies 2026	Modalities of participation
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Modality

We will have the mobilization to our continent of representatives of the cooperative movement from different regions of the world, which constitutes a unique opportunity to strengthen ties, promote direct exchanges and make visible the solidity and dynamism of the regional cooperative movement.

In view of this, it is proposed that the Regional Assembly and the Assemblies of the Sectorial and Thematic Committee will be held in person only.

Face-to-face meetings facilitate spaces for informal dialogue, consensus building, and the generation of alliances that are difficult to achieve in hybrid or virtual formats. Likewise, considering that it is an election process, physical participation acquires special relevance since there can be a direct exchange with the candidates, and the delegates of the member organizations. Additionally, the in-person participation will help make the regional movement visible and active in the exchange of experiences and debates taking place within the plenary and parallel sessions of the event organized during the week.

Panama, as an international meeting point, offers the ideal scenario to consolidate this key moment of articulation and institutional strengthening.

If a situation of force majeure arises that makes physical participation impossible, it is always possible to delegate votes.

If this option is not used, the exception would be submitted to the decision of the Electoral Committee, due to cases of force majeure to be demonstrated, virtual participation.



Regional Assemblies 2026

Elections Committee

Elections Committee

To accompany and supervise the electoral process, an Electoral Committee composed of five (5) people is appointed as follows

- Three (3) people among the **alternate members of the current Board who will not run for any elective position** (Presidency, Audit Committee, Boards of the Sectorial and Thematic) nor will they have full representation on the next Board.
- Two (2) individuals designated by the Ethics and Governance Committee

The Elections Committee shall appoint, from among its members, a President, a Vice President, and a Secretary.

The Regional Director is an ex officio member of the Electoral Committee: he or she does not perform any function, other than to provide the information and tasks to be carried out with the support of the Regional Office

The Committee must be formed no later than April 30, 2026, which will be ratified between May 4 and 8, 2026, due to the responsibilities of its members and become operational from the Board meeting that will open the electoral process.

The responsibilities of this committee will be:

1. Publicize upcoming elections and solicit candidacies,
2. To promote, among the country Representatives on the Board and the candidates for the Sectorial and Thematic Committee Boards, the candidacy of people belonging to under-represented groups such as women and young people, as well as respect for good Governance, avoiding overlap or accumulating positions between regional and global representation to the respective Boards;
3. Prepare, with the Regional Director, the Rules for the elections, appointments of country representatives and propose them to the Board for approval;
4. Oversee the formal opening of candidacies for Cooperatives of the Americas Presidency, Audit Committee, and Committee Chairs/Boards;
5. Review applications for Presidency of Cooperatives of the Americas, Audit Committee and Presidents/Boards of Committees and compliance with the requirements;
6. To review the designation of delegates and observers to the Assembly;
7. Verify the number of organizations eligible to vote and that have complied with the membership fee;



8. Review the delegation of votes;
9. Verify the number of total votes;
10. Review voting procedures for the Chair, committee boards, and Audit Committee;
11. Assess the adequacy of the venue where the Board elections will be held to ensure that facilities and equipment are conducive to the holding of fair and efficient elections;
12. Ensure that the Regional Director has made the necessary arrangements for interpretation services and staff support throughout the electoral process;
13. In collaboration with the Director General and the staff of the Regional Office assigned for this purpose, supervise the holding of the assemblies of Sectoral and Thematic Committees to ensure compliance with and observation of electoral processes, as well as respect for the rules and behavior of the Code of Conduct;
14. Supervise the counting of votes during the Assembly
15. Presenting the results of the votes in the Assembly
16. Once the electoral process has been concluded, evaluate the effectiveness of the procedures followed and, if necessary, recommend modifications to these Regulations and the Code of Conduct for Electoral Campaigns contained therein;
17. Advise the Board of Directors on electoral matters as needed.

16/04/2026 - 30/04/2026	Process of formation of the Electoral Committee
8/05/2026	Ratification of Elections Committee members (ratification by written process)

If there is an absence/impossibility of setting up an Election Committee for the 2026 Regional Assemblies of the Americas, the 2026 Election Rules of the International Cooperative Alliance are used.



Regional Assemblies 2026

Regional Assembly

Regional Assembly of Cooperatives of the Americas

The Regional Assembly, as the highest authority body of Cooperatives of the Americas and as part of the governance structure of the International Cooperative Alliance, holds assemblies every two years, with an election assembly every 4 years.

Its reference and rationale can be found in the Regulations of Cooperatives of the Americas (Annex, in the three languages available, Spanish, English, Portuguese)

This 2026 it is time to hold the XVII Regional Assembly, which will elect for the period 2026-2030

- the President (Article 8 of the Rules of Procedure of Cooperatives of the Americas) and
- the Audit and Risk Committee.

The Regional Assembly must also ratify the

- Country representatives (who will have been indicated by the members at the respective national meetings) who will be full or alternate members of the Board of Directors (Article 9 of the Regulations of Cooperatives of the Americas) and
- representatives of the sectoral and thematic Committees that will be titled members of the Board of Directors (Article 9 of the Regulations of Cooperatives of the Americas)

Below, we will detail the requirements and procedures for:

- (a) delegation of representatives to the Regional Assembly
- (b) nominate candidates for the President of Cooperatives of the Americas
- (c) apply to the Audit and Risk Committee
- (d) ratifications by country representatives to the Governing Body,

a. **Designation of delegates and observers to the Regional Assembly**

Members, who are up to date with their statutory obligations, have the right to appoint at least one delegate (Article 4 of the Regulations of Cooperatives of the Americas) to participate in the Assembly.

The designation must be made by completing the "Assembly Delegates" form (Annex 1), and by sending it to the membresia@aciamericas.coop mail no later than August 14, 2026.

The distribution of votes will be communicated within August 15, 2026 and will be the same as indicated by the Global Office for the General Assembly on September 15, 2026.

If a member is unable to participate and needs to delegate their votes to another member organization in their country, they can do so using the "Proxy Votes" form, (Annex 2) and send it to the membresia@aciamericas.coop mail within August 20, 2026. It should be considered that no person may have more than 12 votes. (4.a)

Summary of dates for the REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

04/08/2026	Deadline for the payment of membership fees to be able to vote in the Regional Assembly and Assemblies of sectoral and thematic committees
15/08/2026	Deadline for the Regional Office to communicate the distribution of votes by organization in good standing with the payment of the membership fee for the Regional Assembly
14/08/2026	Deadline for communicating the designation of full and alternate representative Country to be part of the Board of Directors, to be ratified in the Assembly
	Deadline for sending the delegate(s) accreditation form to the Regional Assembly and the Assemblies of sectoral and thematic committees
	Deadline for the delegation of votes for Regional Assembly and Assemblies of sectoral and thematic committees
13/09/2026	Assemblies Sectorial and Thematic Committees
18/09/2026	Regional Assembly

b. Run for Presidency of Cooperatives of the Americas

To be elected President (art. 8 of the Regulations of Cooperatives of the Americas) it is required:

I. To be a member of the Regional Administration Board **for at least three years**.

II. Have the financial support of their organization, both to exercise the position of President of Cooperatives of the Americas and for that of Vice President of the Alliance.

Applications for this position must be communicated before June 13, 2026 to the email membresia@aciamericas.coop, this communication must include:

- The "Board Presidency Application" form (Annex 3) duly completed
- resume summary and a photograph
- A brief presentation of the reasons that motivate you to apply
- a video of 3 minutes maximum

It is considered that in order to meet the requirement "to be a member of the Regional Board of Directors **for at least three years**" provided for in the current Rules of Cooperatives of the Americas to its art. 8 means to have been elected or indicated as a full or alternate member and ratified by the Assemblies held as of the date of entry into force.

Those persons who participate in the meetings of the Regional Board of Directors do not qualify as observers, permanent guests or the staff of the Regional Office of the Office, including the Regional Director.

Summary of dates to **apply for the Presidency of Cooperatives of the Americas**

04/05/2026	Opening of applications to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Cooperatives of the Americas • Audit and Risk Committee • Boards of Sectorial and Thematic Committees.
13/06/2026	Deadline for the payment of membership fees for organizations that have applicants for elective positions of Cooperatives of the Americas and their sectorial and thematic committees, and audit and risk control committee
	Deadline of applications for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Cooperatives of the Americas • Audit and Risk Committee • Boards of Sectorial and Thematic Committees.

c. Apply to the Audit and Risk Committee

An Audit Committee must be elected by the Regional Assembly and shall be composed of 3 full members and their 2 alternates, elected between the full and alternate representatives who constitute the Regional Board of Directors

Members of the Audit Committee shall not be selected to serve as member of the Executive Committee of Cooperatives of the Americas.

Those who stand for selection of this committee must submit their application before June 13, 2026 to the email membresía@aciamericas.coop attaching:

- "Audit Committee Application" form (annex 4) duly completed
- resume summary and a photograph
- A brief presentation of the reasons that motivate you to apply

The Chairperson of the Audit Committee shall be a full member of the Board of Directors and have accounting experience and knowledge. The other members may be full or alternate members but must have knowledge in the area of economic sciences.

Summary of dates to apply to the Audit and Risk Committee of Cooperatives of the Americas

04/05/2026	Opening to the application process to the audit and risk committee
13/06/2026	Closing of the application to the audit and risk committee.

d. Country representatives on the Board of Directors

The Board of Directos will be composed of one full member and one alternate member for each country; one member for each affiliated regional body; one member for each of the regional sectoral organisations whose creation has been formally ratified by the ICA Regional Assembly and General Assembly up to the maximum number of sectors formally recognised by the ICA; one member from the Regional Committee on Gender Equity and one member from the Youth Committee of Cooperatives of the Americas.

The members of each country will be proposed by a majority vote of the affiliated organizations of the respective country, communicated in writing and accompanied by evidence/support of the persons appointed

The members of the affiliated regional bodies shall be proposed by each of them.

The members of the Regional Sectoral Organizations will be proposed by the majority of them, to be **communicated in writing to the Regional Director once the respective Assemblies have concluded and, in any case, within September 15, 2026 and attaching the Minutes of the Assembly/Board meeting indicating the person appointed to be part of the Regional Board.**

The members of the Regional Gender Equity and Youth Committees of Cooperatives of the Americas will be proposed by the respective Committees, to be **communicated in writing to the Regional Director once the respective Assemblies have concluded and, in any case, within September 15, 2026 and attaching the Minutes of the Assembly/Board meeting indicating the person appointed to be part of the Regional Board.**

Organizations that nominate for President/President of the Sectoral and Thematic Committees must assume the costs that these functions imply. In the event that the members representing these Committees on the Regional Board of Directors are not the chairpersons of such committees, their organizations shall finance the costs involved in participating in the Board of Directos. The names of the proposed members shall be communicated in writing to the President at least in advance

The members of the Regional Board of Directors shall hold office for a period of four years and may be re-elected. The roles and responsibilities of the members of the board are annexed to this document (Annex 5).

The communication on the appointment of the titular representative and alternate representative by country must be communicated no later than August 14, 2026 to the email membresía@aciamericas.coop using the format "Country Representative to the Board" (Annex 6)

Summary of dates for **choosing the Country Representatives on the Board of Directors**

14/08/2026	Deadline for communicating the designation of full and alternate representative Country to be part of the Board of Directors, to be ratified in the Assembly
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Regional Assemblies 2026

Assemblies of Thematic and Sectoral
Committees

Assemblies of Thematic and Sectoral Committees

The Committees, both thematic and sectoral, are formalized, consultative and specialized bodies of the Board of Directors of Cooperatives of the Americas, which, in addition, with their specific objectives and Work Plans, contribute to the fulfillment of the Strategic Plan of the Regional Office (Cooperatives of the Americas) and the International Cooperative Alliance.

There are currently the following

Thematic Committees:

- Regional Youth Committee
- Regional Committee on Gender Equity

Sectoral committees:

- Regional Committee of Financial Cooperatives and Cooperative Banks (COFIA);
- Regional Committee of Industrial, Artisanal and Service Production Cooperatives (CICOPA Americas);
- Regional Committee of Agricultural Cooperatives (REDACOOOP)
- Regional Housing Committee.

This 2026 it is necessary to hold election assemblies in each of them, and **the member organizations of each committee that are up to date with the membership fee before August 4, 2026 may participate:** *if you are not yet a member, you can make the request before August 4, 2026 by sending the form "adhesion to the NAME OF THE COMMITTEE" (Annex 7).*

Each committee member organization may **designate one delegate and up to two alternates to represent them in the Assembly of Committees**, by sending the form "Assembly Delegates COMMITTEE NAME" (Annex 8) **or they may delegate their vote** using the form "Delegation of vote Assembly COMMITTEE NAME" (Annex 9) **before August 14, 2026.**

All communications related to the committees, including those related to the committees, can be written to the committee secretariat, headed by Alexandra Orozco, Head of Territorial Impact and Cooperative Development, who also governs the Technical Secretariat of the Sectoral and Thematic Committees: alexandra.orozco@aciamericas.coop.

If your organization wishes to nominate a person to be part of the Board of Directors of the Sectoral and Thematic Committees, it is important that:

- **Be a member of the committee to which you wish to apply**
- Know and apply the rules of operation of the respective committee
- Be current with the payment of the membership fee no later than June 13, 2026
- Submit the "application form board of directors/organizing committee NAME OF COMMITTEE" and (Attachment 10) no later than June 13, 2026, along with a summary of your resume and a photograph
- In the case of the CRJ: be between 18 and 33 years old when applying, present a copy of passport or official identification that proves age, and automatically cease when turning 36 years old

Summary of dates for **Thematic and Sectoral Committee Assemblies**

13/06/2026	Deadline for the payment of membership fees for organizations that have applicants for elective positions of Cooperatives of the Americas and their sectoral and thematic committees, and audit and risk control committee
13/06/2026	Deadline for submitting applications to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Cooperatives of the Americas • Audit and Risk Committee • Boards of Sectorial and Thematic Committees.
04/08/2026	Deadline for the payment of membership fees to be able to vote in the Regional Assembly and Assemblies of sectoral and thematic committees
14/08/2026	Deadline for sending the delegate(s) accreditation form to the Regional Assembly and the Assemblies of sectoral and thematic committees
	Deadline for the delegation of votes for Regional Assembly and Assemblies of sectoral and thematic committees.