

Egypt Legal Framework Analysis: Key Highlights

This one-pager aims to provide a brief overview of the most notable features of Egypt's national cooperative legal framework, based on the work of national legal experts and ICA member input.

Egyptian cooperatives, provided for in the Constitution, are mainly governed by Law No. 317 of 1956 on cooperative associations in Egypt. This law is supplemented by other specific laws.

Main regulations: This table displays a selection of cooperative regulations identified by experts and ICA members. For the full analysis including all relevant regulations, see the full report

Regulation	Brief Description
Law No. 317 of 1956	<i>This Act defines a cooperative and makes express reference to certain universal cooperative principles such as democratic power exercised by members (one member one vote).</i>
Law 267 of 1960	<i>For public cooperation institutions</i>
Law 109 of 1975	<i>For consumer cooperatives</i>
Law 122 of 1980	<i>For agricultural cooperatives</i>
Law 14 of 1980	<i>On the housing cooperation code</i>
Law 1 of 1990	<i>On educational cooperatives</i>

At the fiscal level, the general law (317/1956) organizes the taxation of cooperative associations, while the sectoral cooperative laws (agricultural, consumer, production and housing cooperatives) each provide for a favorable tax regime according to the cooperative's sector of activity. Thus, Act No. 122 of 1957 on agricultural cooperatives exempts them from certain taxes. The same is true of Law 110 of 1975, which reduces the costs of production cooperatives through tax exemptions. However, some of the provisions of these specific laws are in line with the provisions of the general law, while other provisions are contradictory.

Cooperative Friendliness: the multiplicity of legal texts, involving a plurality of legal regimes for cooperatives, constitutes a real obstacle to the proper development of the cooperative movement in Egypt.

Key recommendations for improvement: the unification of cooperative legislations. This unification would result in the drafting of a single law that would constitute the common law for cooperatives, with a general legal regime applying to all cooperatives (agricultural, consumer, productive, etc.).

Conclusions: The unification of the law would then be supplemented by specific texts applying to each type or form of cooperative according to the sector in which it operates. Other specificities could be governed by the statutes and internal regulations of each cooperative, again according to its field of activity.

