



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Division for Inclusive Social Development

**Expert Group Meeting on Harnessing the Power of Cooperatives to achieve Sustainable  
Development for all: Successes, Challenges, The Road Ahead**

United Nations Office at Nairobi ▪ Kenya  
UNON, Conference Room 11

26 – 28 March 2019

**BIOS**

**Solomon Atsiaya, ICUDE**

Solomon is a technical Advisor for the African Confederation of Cooperative Savings Association (ACCOSCA) working on assignments across Africa, mainly Swaziland, Lesotho and Uganda. He has extensive experience in the cooperative movement having worked for over 18years. Solomon holds an MBA (Operations Management) from UoN and BCOM (Management Science) Egerton. He attended the Inaugural class of ADE in 2014 and CARIB DE in 2015. During 2015 World Council of Credit Unions conference he was recognized as an international Credit Union Development Educator (ICUDE).

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**Tsegaye Bekele** is a professor at Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources, Hawassa University. He has been involved in teaching, research and community services activities for above 27 years. He has strong background in wood technology, forestry and natural resources conservation and utilization. He is now engaged in the Department of Forest Product Utilization and Management teaching various courses among others, processing of forest products, marketing of forest products, enterprise development, low carbon development, and bioenergy. He has published several articles in refereed journals, books, book chapters and conference proceedings. He has supervised several MSc and PhD students in forestry, bioenergy, Biosystems and Environmental Engineering, specifically production forestry, and applied wood science. He has coordinated several research projects like wood cluster, chains in sustainability, development oriented interdisciplinary thematic action research and an integrated research approach to develop adaptive management strategies by small-scale farmers in semi-arid South Africa and Ethiopia under changing climatic and policy conditions'. His research areas are participatory forest management, cooperatives, the value of non-timber and timber forest products,

deforestation mitigation measures, climate change, vulnerability and livelihoods, conflict management of forest resources users.

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**Marie J. Bouchard** is a full professor at Université du Québec à Montréal. President of the Scientific Commission on Social and Cooperative Economy of CIRIEC International, she also chairs the Technical Working Group on Cooperative Statistics of COPAC (ICA, ILO, FAO, UNDESA, WFO). She runs the research stream on Collectives Enterprises at the Center for Research on Social Innovations (CRISES). She was recently appointed to the Co-creation Steering Group for the Canadian government Strategy on Social Finance and Social innovation (2017-2018). Bouchard authored with colleagues many works, among which: *Conceptual Framework for the Purpose of Measurement of Cooperatives and its Operationalization*, for the International Labour Organization (Geneva); *The Worth of the Social Economy* and *The Weight of the Social Economy, an International Perspective* a diptych published with PIE Peter Lang (Brussels); and *Innovation in the Social Economy, the Québec Experience*, with University of Toronto Press (Toronto).

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**Sarah Murungi** is a health cooperative and organizational development specialist and a professional social worker. She spent over 20 years of her career building the capacity of organizations focusing on systems and processes. She served many organizations including Irish Aid, World Learning for International Development, Initiatives Inc., Intrahealth International and Health Partners. Ms. Murungi's expertise includes HIV/AIDs, Health Advocacy and Gender equity and cooperative development.

As Chief of Party for the CONNECT Girls Centert Ms. Murungi's role enables her to reach the most vulnerable communities to increase access to quality, affordable health care through member -owned health cooperatives. HealthPartners provides tools, capacity building and network development support for care providers affiliated to agricultural co-ops, SACCOs, schools, burial societies and employer groups. Care providers are trained to manage insurance partnerships directly, electing a board of directors and registering with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives in Uganda.

Sarah holds a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and a Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership and Management. Sarah resides in Kampala, Uganda.

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**Joseph Macharia Njuguna** is the Policy Officer at the International Co-operative Alliance Africa (the Alliance Africa) which is an apex body of all co-operative organizations in Africa. He is a member of the ACP-EU Follow-up Committee representing the co-operative movement at the global level. He is also the Secretariat in charge of the Alliance Africa Legal and Law Committee. He is a member of the Global Policy Forum on Development. He has 3 years' working experience

in policy and advocacy related field. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Statistics. He is passionate about development and policy issues and he hopes to see an African continent where everyone is afforded an opportunity to cooperatively develop themselves and their societies.

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**Charles Okwalinga** was born and raised in rural Uganda and completed formal education to university degree. The epic of growing up in rural Eastern Uganda was the then vibrant cotton production and the role of cooperatives under which the sector was established.

Charles migrated and settled in UK, raising a family, as well as running a small family business that exemplified community engagement. This took a devotion of 15 years of working life in running the business in Hospitality, Catering and Food industry in African food. In this pursuit Charles was involved in various training in business development and was engaged in supporting ethnic communities in business development support.

Charles later undertook and completed comprehensive and practical training on **LEADING CHANGE** a tailored course for senior corporate executive officers delivered by *Common Purpose* London, dealing with leading change, governance and organisational management, in particular unique instruments of governance and management mixes balancing between capital and social investment and outcomes.

Charles was inspired to return to Uganda to explore how he can support in governance, management, and transitional changes that would lead to better institutional organisation, governance and management, in particular in rural, community and small business set ups. Charles set up Teso Professionals Enterprise Development Organisation (Teso PEDO) Ltd, a social enterprise to this regard, working in the Teso region of Eastern Uganda with farmers, rural and peri urban communities to support in furthering professional development, enterprise development organisational development as well as benchmarks in line with Social Development Goals SDGs.

Working with farmer groups coincides with the national and international effort to establish and set up cooperatives that enhance the realisation of production units that we believe would be key to increase production productivity and enterprise aspects on community development that would ensure sustainable and impact development, enabling us to achieve the SDGs. Uganda economy and community wellbeing was crucially hinged on existence and performance of cooperatives post-independence, and these collapsed, save a few remnant societies and Unions. The cooperatives then were set up and run by central government, and upon collapse the methodology is no longer applicable. The resurgence of cooperatives and as observed internationally, is therefore with bottom up approaches, the community coming together and guided formation and the working of cooperatives.

Charles and Teso PEDO now devote to registering farmers to groups that are subsequently set up and establish as cooperatives initially in Eastern Uganda but will expand to the rest of the

country. The cooperatives are set up by local area or by product or a combination. We aim to have set up 3,000 cooperatives in the region each holding on average 100 farmers.

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**Steven Otieno** is a social enterprise development specialist with 19 years of experience, including 13 years in deploying market-led approaches to grow Kenya's Agri-business sector through producer cooperative societies. Having spent time coordinating private sector players in social development, he brings a strong mix of grounding in private sector principles and business models. Steven has direct experience in implementing market systems and facilitation approaches in the agriculture sector by supporting agro-processors to foster improved and more inclusive linkages with smallholder producer organisations and co-operatives, leading to increased uptake of smallholder agricultural crops.

He has experience in designing and implementing pilot programs and business models, and scaling up successful models. His networks extend throughout all levels of the value chain, input providers, and buyers including corporate off-takers, government officials, research institutions, donor representatives, and other development partners.

He espouses the tenets and principles of the Co-operative model and has been instrumental in the development of the Kenya National Co-operative Development Policy that would and the anticipated legal review process and regulations formulation driven by the State Department of Co-operatives.

Steven actively contributed in the formation of the Kenya Society of Professional Co-operators (KSPC) in whose Board he serves as the Secretary. He has just been appointed as the Chief Operating Officer of the co-operative's movements apex body Co-operative Alliance of Kenya (CAK) having served as the Kenya Country Representative for National Cooperative Business Association Co-operative League of the USA (NCBA CLUSA). Previously he has worked with Technoserve, World Economic Forum's Business Alliance Against Chronic Hunger among others.

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**Erick Sile** joined GIZ in November 2014, and seconded to the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) as Advisor Agricultural Finance to support the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). He is a 15+ year-professional who previously worked for the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) as Regional Technical Advisor, helping to promote financial inclusion. As Program Manager and Project Director at the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU), he worked in several countries in Africa developing policies and procedures, implementing various methodologies of reaching out to the unbanked through financial cooperatives. Prior to WOCCU, Erick worked as Senior Consultant at Arthur Andersen Business Consulting in the Advanced Technologies Practice Area in Atlanta, GA where he provided consulting services to Fortune 500 companies across the US and Europe. Erick

holds an MBA in Finance and Information Systems from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA.

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**Tabani Shoko** is the Registrar of Cooperative Societies in Zimbabwe. He was appointed to this post in 2017. Tabani is responsible for the Registration of Cooperatives, Cooperative Policy Development, Regulation of Cooperatives, Capacity Development of Cooperatives and Technical Staff, Monitoring and Evaluation of Cooperatives.

Born in October 1965 Tabani went through primary and high school education in Zimbabwe. He graduated as a High School Teacher in 1987 and rose through the ranks to School Principal. He attained a Bachelor of Education degree in Educational Administration, Planning and Policy Studies in the year 2000. As an educationist was involved planning, organising, leading and controlling teaching/learning activities at the schools being managed. Other duties included curriculum design, monitoring and evaluation, financial accounting and management, and public relations management.

In 2006 Tabani graduated with an MBA in Public Management and in 2009 was appointed to be in charge of administration of the Office of the President and Cabinet in Zimbabwe marking the height of his career in Public Administration. In 2012 his career path changed to Research and Policy Development where he led the development of various researches and policies in Government including the Survey on the Informal sector and Small business status in Zimbabwe, research on the Formalisation of the Informal Sector, development of the Formalisation Strategy, research on the Cooperative Policy Review, drafting the Revised Cooperative Policy currently underway, Member of the Rapid Results Initiative (RRI), under the Africa for Results Concept, responsible for coming up with the National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy for Zimbabwe. The policy seeks to improve implementation and results achievement in Government, among other developments.

These initiatives led to the current appointment as Registrar of Cooperative Societies where the mandate involves reforming the Cooperative doing-business environment.

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**Aimee Marie Ange Tumukunde** is currently Cooperatives Policy Specialist in Ministry of Trade and Industry (MINICOM). Worked as Executive Secretary of National Cooperatives Confederation of Rwanda (NCCR), apex of cooperatives specializing in providing capacity building of cooperatives through trainings on leadership, management and financial education of members of cooperatives. She has a solid theoretical grounding as well as more than twelve years of practical field experience in rural economic development, project implementation and management, monitoring and evaluation, micro-finance and SME development. Her career path deeply involved her in cooperative policy analysis, agriculture and rural development, rural private sector development and participation in agriculture and agriculture financing.

As an adviser in charge of organizational and institutional development and executive secretary of former ROPARWA (Umbrella of farmers organizations in Rwanda) she has considerable talent to offer in SME development (including rural micro-finance), business and development project analysis.

Madam Tumukunde has developed expertise in resource mobilization for SME and cooperative design, development, implementation, capacity building, training, financing, monitoring and evaluation. She has worked very hard to mobilize a revolving fund of 3.5 million of Euros for financing farmer's organizations and cooperatives and refinancing MFIs to increase the access to finance for farmers. This revolving fund is managed by BRD and funders are the Netherlands Embassy and Belgium Kingdom.

Served as Focal Point of International Cooperative Alliance (ICA Africa ) for Rwanda since 2013, member of steering committees in different projects implemented by MINAGRI and member of advisory committee of IFDC in Catalyst project, she has perfected her skills in designing and implementing SMEs development project and programmes either to bridge the financing gap between the formal and the informal sector or to provide credit enhancing mechanisms.

She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a Master's degree in Microfinance. Language: English, French and Kinyarwanda.

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**YUAN peng**, State Council Expert for Special Allowance works in Rural Development Institute (RDI), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) since she graduated for the department of agriculture Economies, Renmin University of China. She was a visiting academic in the Chinese Economy Research Unit, the University of Adelaide, Australia in 1992, and International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden University, the Netherlands in May to Dec. 1996.

Her major research field is on cooperative theory, governance and public policies. During the past 20 years, she has done lots of field surveys and case studies. She has published more than 50 papers on cooperatives based empirical research in the Chinese journals and she is among the high citation author ranks. Based on her outstanding contribution for Chinese cooperative theory, she got the reward of 2011 Top 10 National Cooperative Economy Figures and ranked No. 1. She was invited by the Agricultural Committee of National People Congress as a cooperative specialist involving in drafting and Revising the Law of Farmers Specialized Cooperatives respectively during 2003-2006 and 2016-2017. She currently is an "outside expert-supervisor" for All-China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives. She has been appointed as a cooperative consultant in many international organizations' projects such World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UNDP and IFAD. She also has involved in many cooperative training programs run by the governments at different levels and NGOs.