



Provisional Agenda

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

DAY 1 – Tuesday 26 March 2019

8:30 - 9:00

Registration

Opening Session

Welcome and Introductory Statements

9:00 – 9:15

Introductory remarks by **Mr. Amson Sibanda**, Global Dialogue for Social Development Branch, DISD/DESA

Self-introduction of the participants

Session 1

Setting the stage: The Cooperative Moment

9:30 – 10:15

Facilitator: **Mr. Tabani Shoko**, Registrar of Cooperatives, Harare, Zimbabwe

This session will establish the theoretical basis for the cooperative form of business organization, beyond the basic case as an antidote to market failure. What other advantages do cooperatives have compared with other forms of business organizations? Can cooperatives survive in a competitive globalizing environment? It will also look at Cooperatives as part of the broader Social and Solidarity Economy and how they contribute to realizing the sustainable development goals and the outcomes of the world summit on social development.

- Presentation: **Yuan Peng**, Assistant Professor, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences – *The global growth of cooperatives in the context of the social and solidarity economy*
- Presentation: **Mr. Steven Otieno**, National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International – *The economic case for cooperatives in developed and developing countries: are there any special characteristics in particular country settings?*

10:15 – 11:00

Interactive Discussion

11:00 – 11:30

BREAK

Session 2

Statistics

How do we know what we know about Cooperatives? This session will provide the latest picture with statistics on cooperatives globally and examine data gaps, particularly in the context of sustainable development, and how using the recently agreed Guidelines on Cooperative Statistics, adopted by the ILO Conference of Labour Statisticians, may improve data availability.

- 11:30 – 12:15 Facilitator: **Mr. Charles Okwalinga**, TESOPEDO,
- Presentation: **Ms. Marie Bouchard**, Université du Québec à Montréal - *The New Standards for compiling data on cooperatives and how it can improve evidence-based policy making in the cooperative sector*
 - Presentation: **Stanley Wafula Ongeti**, Kenya State Department for Cooperatives – *The current method of compiling statistics on cooperatives and the capacity of National Statistical Offices to adopt new methodology*

12:15 – 13:00 Interactive Discussion

13:00 – 14:00 **LUNCH BREAK**

Session 3 Cooperatives in Health Care

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages is one of the most transformative sustainable development goals. Through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, Heads of State and Government made a bold commitment to achieve universal health coverage by 2030, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all. How can cooperatives contribute to achieving this goal?

14:00 – 14:45 Facilitator: **Jennifer L. Wenborg**, HealthPartners International.

- Presentation: **Mr. Carlos Zarco**, International Health Cooperative Organization – *Establishing a cooperative healthcare management organization in developed and developing countries*
- Presentation: **Sarah Murungi**, HealthPartners International, Uganda Office – *The impacts of bringing healthcare to marginalized communities: costs, skills required and outcomes*

14:45 – 15:45 Interactive Discussion

15:45 - 16:00 Summary and conclusion of Day 1

DAY 2 – Wednesday 27 March 2019

Session 4 Conducive and Enabling Environment for Development

The United Nations General Assembly has called on governments to support cooperatives by revising legislation to provide an enabling environment for them to operate and thrive. What are the required laws and regulations conducive for cooperatives? Are governments heading this call? What are the key elements for a sound legislation framework for the healthy and sustainable development of cooperatives?

9:00 – 9:45 Facilitator: **Mr. Steven Otieno**, NCBA-CLUSA International

- Presentation: **Ms. Ashley Holst**, Overseas Cooperative Development Council – *Making the case for legislative changes that favour cooperative development with case studies*
- Presentation (via Skype): **Ms. Marie-Ange Tumukunde**, Cooperative Policy Development Specialist, Kigali – *Providing an enabling environment in Rwanda and the policy space for cooperatives to influence government policy*

9:45 – 10:45 Interactive Discussion

10:45 – 11:15 **BREAK**

Session 5 Financial Inclusion and Cooperative Development

A key impediment to the development of cooperatives the lack of capital, either for set -up or expansion. Many cooperatives have a low capital base and lack collateral to attract financing from traditional sources. What alternative sources of finance can cooperatives draw on while maintaining their independence? The session will also look at the role of cooperatives in providing financial inclusion to underserved communities.

11:15 – 12:00 Facilitator: **Ms. Maggy Kigochi, UNFCU**

- Presentation: **Solomon Atsiaya**, African Confederation of Cooperative Credit and Savings Associations – *Financing cooperative development: Availability of financing from cooperative credit associations and other sources*
- Presentation: **Patrick Muriuki**, Kenya Country Coordinator, World Council of Credit Unions – *Promoting Financial Inclusion – How Credit Unions are bringing financial services to marginalised communities*

12:00 – 13:00 Interactive Discussion

13:00 – 14:00 **LUNCH BREAK**

Session 6 Cooperatives and the eradication of rural poverty

This session is focusing on agriculture and the development of the rural economy through cooperation, the only sub-sector singled out by the resolution on cooperatives. It will look at how to increase rural productivity and growing a rural economy with agricultural cooperatives taking the lead and spawning other productive sectors.

14:00 – 14:45 Facilitator: **Robert Allport, FAO Kenya**

- Presentation: **Mr. Erick Sile**, GIZ – *Providing technical and financial support to rural and agricultural cooperatives – the evidence and best practices*
- Presentation: **Mr. Tsegaye Bekele**, Hawassa University, Ethiopia – *Rural development and environmental protection – boosting productivity by combining indigenous knowledge with modern techniques*

14:45 – 15:45 Interactive Discussion

15:45 – 16:00 Summary and Conclusion of Day 2.

DAY 3 – Thursday 28 March 2019

Session 7 Cooperative Development Plans and Capacity building requirements

The International year of Cooperatives was celebrated in 2012, with the aim of promoting cooperatives as the preferred model of doing business and promoting their adoption and success worldwide. Several plans of actions for the cooperative development emerged during that year. This section will analyse the key features of the plans in various regions and the extent to which they were successful and make recommendations on how to further strengthen and accelerate cooperatives movement and whether another international year or a new decade may be required, especially in the new global contexts of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

9:00 – 9:45 Facilitator: **ILO Kenya**

- Presentation: **Ms. Rose Karimi**, International Cooperative Alliance Africa – *Assessing the success of activities since the International Year of Cooperatives*
- Presentation: **Mr. Tabani Shoko**, Cooperative College of Kenya – *Targeting capacity development assistance to cooperatives for maximum impact, particularly in rural communities*

9:45 – 10:30 Interactive Discussion

10:30 - 11:00 **BREAK**

Session 8 Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

11:30 – 13:00 **Facilitator: Mr. Amson Sibanda**, DISD/DESA

Interactive discussion by participants to distill key lessons and recommendations

13:00 - 13:15 Closing of the meeting: **Mr. Amson Sibanda**, DISD/DESA