

## Agenda

### Expert Group Meeting on “Cooperatives in a world in Crisis”

UN Headquarters New York, 28-30 April 2009

| Date                         | Time         | Agenda item  |
|------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Tuesday,<br>28 April<br>2009 | 9:15         | Arrival of participants<br>UN DC2 lobby (44 <sup>th</sup> St. Between 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.)  |
| Tuesday,<br>28 April<br>2009 | 10:00 -10:30 | <b>Day 1: <u>Conference Room 5, Secretariat Building</u></b><br><br><b>1. Introduction and overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Jomo</b>, Assistant Secretary-General, DESA, Welcome address</li><li>• <b>Mr. Jean-Pierre Gonnot</b>, Acting Director, Division for Social Policy and Development, DESA, Purpose and background of the meeting</li><li>• <b>Mr. Iain Macdonald</b>, Director-General; International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)</li><li>• <b>Mr. Hagen Henry</b>, International Labour Organisation (ILO)</li></ul>  |
|                              | 10:30-10:45  | → Break  |
|                              | 10:45-1:00   | <b>2. Cooperatives in a world in crisis</b><br><br>This session will explore the relevance of cooperatives to socio-economic development in light of the current global crisis; and identify the opportunities and challenges cooperatives face.<br><br>Moderator: Mr. Chambo<br>Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Johnston Birchall</b>, Stirling University</li><li>• <b>Mr. Hagen Henry</b>, ILO</li></ul><br><i>Questions for discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What role do cooperatives play to promote socio-economic development under the current global conditions?</li><li>• How relevant/useful is the cooperative business model vis-à-vis other models?</li><li>• How do cooperatives help to mitigate the adverse impact of the current crisis on poverty reduction, employment generation and food security.</li><li>• What has been the experience of cooperatives and lessons learned</li></ul> |

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|      |             | <p>in previous periods of economic downturn and high unemployment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are pressing and long-term policy initiatives needed to enhance the role of cooperatives in social development; what policies work and where are the policy gaps?</li> </ul> <p><i>Roundtable discussion</i><br/>Rapporteur: Maria-Elena Chavez</p>   |
|      | 1:00 PM     | → Lunch  |
|      | 2:00 – 3:30 | <p><b>3. Agricultural Cooperatives: role in food security and rural development.</b></p> <p>This session will address the contribution of agricultural cooperatives in promoting food security and rural development; provide good practices and lessons learned from country experiences.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Paradis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Suleman Chambo</b>, Moshi University, Tanzania</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Costa Pinto</b>, Swedish Cooperative Centre</li> </ul> <p><i>Questions for discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do cooperatives help in providing food security and promoting rural development?</li> <li>• What priority issues do agricultural cooperatives face during periods of low economic growth?</li> <li>• What are some of the successful and challenging experiences of agricultural cooperatives and lessons learned?</li> </ul> <p><i>Roundtable discussion</i><br/>Rapporteur: Mr. Hanisch</p> |
|      | 3:30-3:45   | → Break  |
|      | 3:45-6:00   | <p><b>4. Cooperatives: enhancing local to global linkages</b></p> <p>This session will address issues related to access to local, regional and global markets, rural-urban linkages and distribution networks.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Birchall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Markus Hanish</b>, Humboldt University</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Tomy Mathew</b>, India</li> </ul> <p><i>Questions for discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do cooperatives take advantage of the emergence of a</li> </ul>   |

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|  |             | <p>globally integrated value chain? What challenges do cooperatives face?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the involvement of cooperatives in Fair Trade initiatives; what are the advantages/disadvantages to cooperatives from participation?</li> <li>• What policies should be promoted to support cooperative access to the global distribution networks?</li> </ul> <p><i>Roundtable discussion</i><br/>Rapporteur: Mr. de Vries</p>  |
|  | 6:30        | <p>→ Wine and cheese reception, hosted by Mr. Jean-Pierre Gonnot, Acting-Director, Division for Social Policy and Development, 13<sup>th</sup> floor conference room</p>  |
| <p><b>Wednesday,<br/>29 April 2009</b></p> | 10:00-11:45 | <p><b>Day 2: <u>Conference Room B, Secretariat Building</u></b></p> <p><b>5. Cooperative banks, credit unions and the financial crisis</b></p> <p>This session will discuss how cooperative financial institutions are affected and adapting to the current financial crisis and the implications on the provision of financial services.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. D'Amours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Pete Crear</b>, WOCCU</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ghislain Paradis</b>, Sherbrooke University</li> <li>• <b>Mr. B. de Vries</b>, Rabobank</li> </ul> <p><i>Questions for discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are cooperative banks and credit unions affected by the liquidity and financial constraints; what strategies are pursued to meet these challenges?</li> <li>• What are the implications of the above challenges and the cooperative responses on the provision of financial services?</li> <li>• What challenges do cooperative banks and credit unions face to broaden their outreach; what measures are needed?</li> </ul> <p><i>Roundtable discussion</i><br/>Rapporteur: Mr. Paul Hazen</p> |
|  | 11:45-12:00 | <p>→ Break</p>  |

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|      | 12:00-1:00  | <p><b>6. Regulation and legislation of cooperative banks and credit unions</b></p> <p>This session will identify and discuss regulation and legislation needed to strengthen financial cooperatives.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Henry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Poprawa</b>, Deposit Insurance of Ontario</li> </ul> <p><i>Questions for discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the main challenges for governments and central banks in regulating cooperative banks and credit unions?</li> <li>• What is the right balance for an appropriate regulatory model for financial cooperatives?</li> <li>• What are important legislative measures necessary to strengthen cooperative banks and credit unions?</li> </ul> <p><i>Roundtable discussion</i><br/>Rapporteur: Mr. Poprawa</p>  |
|      | 1:00        | → Lunch  |
|      | 2:00 - 2:30 | <p><b>Continuation of session 6.</b></p>   |
|      | 2:30 - 4:15 | <p><b>7. Cooperatives: some national experiences</b></p> <p>This session will focus on sharing of good practices, challenges and lessons learned at the national level, including the role cooperatives play in providing social safety nets to members and community at large especially in light of reduced public and private resources.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Macdonald</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. V. Teodosio</b>, University of the Philippines</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Angelique Kantengwa</b>, Rwanda</li> </ul> <p><i>Questions for discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can cooperatives better serve the poor and marginalised?</li> <li>• Do cooperatives have a role in providing for health care, crop insurance, health insurance, unemployment insurance and emergency credit?</li> <li>• What policies are essential to strengthen cooperatives in providing these services?</li> </ul> |

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|                                    |             | <p><i>Roundtable discussion</i><br/>Rapporteur: Mr. Costa Pinto</p>  |
|                                    | 4:15-4:30   | → Break  |
|                                    | 4:30-6:00   | <p><b>8. Summary: conclusion and policy recommendations</b></p> <p>Discussions for draft summaries and policy recommendations by groups</p> <p>Output: Summary and policy recommendations by each group.</p> <p>Rapporteur: Mr. Birchall</p>   |
| <b>Thursday,<br/>30 April 2009</b> | 10:00-10:30 | <p><b>Day 3: <u>Conference Room 8, Secretariat Building</u></b></p> <p><b>8. Continued Plenary: Presentation of summary and policy recommendations</b></p>   |
|                                    | 10:30-10:45 | → Break  |
|                                    |             | <p><b>Roundtable Consultation on the desirability and feasibility of an International Year of Cooperatives</b></p>   |
|                                    | 10:30-1:00  | <p><b>9. Why an International Year of Cooperatives? What could be the outcomes of the International Year of Cooperatives?</b></p> <p>The session will discuss the “what, why and how” of the International Year of Cooperatives.</p> <p>Moderator, Mr. Macdonald</p> <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Iain Macdonald</b>, ICA</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Paul Hazen</b>, National Cooperative Business Association</li> </ul> <p>Possible issues for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion and strengthening of cooperatives: communications and ITC</li> </ul> |

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|      |             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising the visibility and enhancing the contributions of cooperatives to socio-economic development</li> <li>• Research Agenda: improve statistical data on cooperatives; research on emerging issues; accounting standards, demutualization, etc.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Roundtable discussion</i><br/>Rapporteur: Mr. Paul Hazen</p> |
|      | 1:00        | → Lunch<br>→   |
|      | 2:30 – 4:00 | <p><b>10. How will the IYC be observed: Logistics, activities and timeline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities at the local, national and international levels?</li> <li>• Resource mobilization</li> <li>• Partnerships</li> </ul>  |
|      | 4:00 PM     | <p><b>Adoption of recommendations by experts</b></p> <p><b>Concluding remarks – Mr. Jean-Pierre Gonnot</b></p>   |