

## **Expert Group Meeting and Workshop on Cooperatives**

### **The Role of Cooperatives in Sustainable Development for All: Contributions, Challenges and Strategies**

8-10 December 2014  
UN Office in Nairobi, Kenya



## **Agenda**

### **Day 1 Monday 8 December 2014**

**08:30-09:00**    **Registration**

**09:00-09:30**    **Introduction and Overview**

- **Chairperson, Wenyan Yang**, Chief, Social Perspective on Development Branch, UN DESA/DSPD
- Minister Responsible for Cooperatives in Kenya -- Feature remarks (TBC)
- **Axumite Gebre**, Director, UN Habitat Regional Office for Africa  
-- Welcome remarks
- **Chiyoge B. Sifa**, Regional Director, International Co-operative Alliance-Africa  
-- Welcome remarks

**09:30-10:30**    **Global Cooperative Census**

**Session 1**

*Objective: To present an example of evidence-based assessment of the global contributions of cooperatives. Participants will be presented with real world facts about the power and potential of cooperatives.*

Moderator:

**Wenyan Yang**, Chief, Social Perspective on Development Branch, UN DESA/DSPD

Presentation:

**Dave Grace**, consultant

Discussant:

**Emile Nadeau**, Director, Overseas Cooperative Development Council

**10:30-10:45**    **COFFEE BREAK**

**10:45-13:00**    **Appraisal of the achievements of cooperatives in social development**

**Session 2**

*Objective: To analyse the contributions of cooperatives in promoting social*

*development in a sustainable way. Focus will be placed on social sectors such as health, education, housing; social groups such as youth; and on issues such as poverty eradication, reducing inequalities, and creating quality employment. Participants will discuss challenges facing cooperatives in sustaining social development, and strategies for allowing cooperatives to make better and more contributions to sustainable social development. Participants will be presented with real world examples of cooperatives.*

Moderator:

**Wenyan Yang**, Chief, Social Perspective on Development Branch, UN DESA/DSPD

Presentations:

- **Cecil Ryan**, Social development consultant, and former President, General Employees Credit Union, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- **Emma McInerney**, Partnerships Officer, Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- **Balasubramanian Iyer**, as ICA Regional Director for Asia-Pacific

Rapporteur:

**Maxwell Haywood**, Focal Point on Cooperatives, Social Perspective on Development Branch, UN DESA/DSPD

This session will consider the following:

- What impact cooperatives have been making to sustainable social development?
- Why are cooperatives specially suitable for achieving social inclusion?
- Is the cooperative identity, including the cooperative values and principles, important in making cooperatives sustain social development gains?
- How can cooperatives help in building social cohesion?
- What contributions can cooperatives make in helping to empower social groups such as youth, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, unemployed, homeless, older persons, women and migrants?
- What are the challenges, including building an enabling environment, faced by cooperatives in social development?
- What strategies cooperatives could use in addressing the challenges they face in contributing to sustainable social development?
- What lessons have we learned from the cooperative experience in contributing to sustaining social development gains?

**13:00-14:00 LUNCH**

**14:00-17:00 Assessing the contributions of cooperatives to economic development**

**Session 3**

*Objective: To assess the contributions of cooperatives in building a sustainable economy, especially focussing on economic diversification and financial inclusion, and the role of young people. Participants will discuss challenges facing cooperatives in sustaining economic development, and strategies for allowing cooperatives to make better and more contributions to sustainable development with a focus on economic diversification and financial inclusion. Participants will be presented with real world examples of cooperatives.*

Moderator:

**Wenyan Yang**, Chief, Social Perspective on Development Branch, UN DESA/DSPD

Presentations:

- **Dr. Wanyama**, Associate Professor of Political Science & Dean, School of

- Development & Strategic Studies, Maseno University, Kenya
- **Claudia Sanchez-Bajo**, Chair in Co-operative Enterprises, University of Winnipeg, Canada
- **Mike Beall**, CEO of the National Cooperative Business Alliance, USA
- **Jurgen Schwettmann** Director, Partnerships and Development Cooperation Department, ILO

### COFFEE BREAK (15 minutes)

Discussant:

**Ingrid Fischer**, Africa Region Director, Canadian Co-operative Association

Rapporteur:

**Maxwell Haywood**, Focal Point on Cooperatives, Social Perspective on Development Branch, UN DESA/DSPD

This session will consider the following:

- What contributions cooperatives have been making to sustainable economic development?
- Is the cooperative identity, including the cooperative values and principles, important in making cooperatives sustain economic development gains?
- How have cooperatives contributed to promoting economic diversification?
- What are the achievements of cooperatives in financial inclusion?
- Are cooperatives in a position to generate sustainable food supply?
- What are the challenges, including an enabling environment, faced by cooperatives in sustainable economic development?
- What strategies cooperatives could use in addressing: the challenges they face in contributing to sustainable economic development, achieving economic diversification, and achieving financial inclusion?
- What lessons have we learned from the cooperative experience in contributing to sustaining economic development gains?

## Wrap up Session for 15 min END OF DAY 1

### Day 2 Tuesday 9 December 2014

**09:00-12:00** **Cooperatives and environmental development: Successes and Challenges**  
**Session 4** *Objective: To assess the contributions of cooperatives in promoting environmental preservation and building climate-resilient societies. Focus will be placed on cooperative role in long-term strategies for protecting the natural environment, and their role in natural disaster management. The place of young people will be discussed. Participants will discuss challenges facing cooperatives in making contributions to sustaining the natural environment for present and future generations, and strategies for allowing cooperatives to make better and more contributions to sustaining environmental development. Participants will be presented with real world examples of cooperatives.*

Moderator:

**Wenyan Yang**, Chief, Social Perspective on Development Branch, UN DESA/DSPD

Presentations:

- **Chiyoge B. Sifa**, Regional Director, International Co-operative Alliance-Africa
- **Esther Gicheru**, Professor, Kenya Cooperative College

### **COFFEE BREAK (15 minutes)**

Discussant:

- **Nelson Kuria**, CEO, Cooperative Insurance Company of Kenya

Rapporteur:

**Maxwell Haywood**, Focal Point on Cooperatives, Social Perspective on Development Branch, UN DESA/DSPD

This session will consider the following:

- What contributions cooperatives have been making to building climate-resilient societies and sustainable use of environmental resources for present and future generations?
- Are cooperatives suitable for building climate-resilient societies?
- How does the cooperatives values and principles help in preserving the environment?
- What are the challenges faced by cooperatives in promoting environmental preservation for present and future generations?
- What strategies cooperatives could use in addressing the challenges they face in contributing to environmental preservation and building climate-resilient societies for present and future generations?
- What lessons have we learned from the cooperative experience in contributing to preserving environmental development and building climate resilient societies?

**12:00-12:45 WRAP-UP OF EGM**

**12:45-14:00 LUNCH**

## **Workshops**

**14:00-16:30 Cooperatives and financial inclusion in Africa**

**Workshop1**

***Objective:** To present participants with information on the role of cooperatives in financial inclusion. Participants will share their experiences and lessons learned*

Moderator: **Oleg Serezhin**, Chief Technical Cooperation Unit, DSPD/DESA

Presenters:

**Nelson Kuria**, Cooperative Insurance Company of Kenya

- What are the benefits and advantages of cooperatives in financial inclusion?
- What examples could be provided of cooperatives in financial inclusion?
- What are the policies that promote the effective involvement of cooperatives in financial inclusion?

**Pauline Leonard**, Social Affairs Officer, Youth Unit, UNDSPD/UNDESA

**Mutua Waema**, African representative of Rabobank Foundation,

- The important role of international cooperation for strengthening financial inclusion in Africa – Example of Rabobank?

**Mike Beall**, CEO of the National Cooperative Business Alliance, USA

- The important role of international cooperation for strengthening financial inclusion – Example of National Cooperative Business Alliance, USA

### **COFFEE BREAK (15 minutes)**

Discussant:

**Claudia Sanchez-Bajo**, Chair in Co-operative Enterprises, University of Winnipeg, Canada

Resource person:

**Ingrid Fischer**, Africa Region Director, Canadian Co-operative Association

Rapporteur:

**Jonathan Perry**, Social Affairs Officer, Social Perspective on Development Branch, UN DESA/DSPD

This workshop will consider the following:

- What are the benefits and advantages of cooperatives in financial inclusion?
- How can cooperatives include young people in their financial policies?
- What are the elements of successful involvement of cooperatives in financial inclusion?
- What are the strategies of successful involvement of cooperatives in financial inclusion?
- What examples could be provided of cooperatives in financial inclusion?

### **WRAP-UP OF WORKSHOP 1**

**16:30-16:45**

## **END OF DAY 2**

### **Day 3 Wednesday 10 December 2014**

**9:00-12:00  
Workshop2**

#### **Role of cooperatives in agricultural development and food security in Africa**

*Objective: To present participants with information on what makes successful agricultural cooperatives, and real world examples of involvement of cooperatives in agricultural development and food security. Participants will share their experiences and lessons learned*

Moderator:

**Wenyan Yang**, Chief, Social Perspective on Development Branch, UN DESA/DSPD

Presenters:

**Chiyoqe B. Sifa**, Regional Director, International Co-operative Alliance-Africa

- What value is the cooperative model to agricultural development and food security?

- What are the elements of successful involvement of cooperatives in agricultural development and food security?
- What are the key challenges facing agricultural cooperatives?

**Fredrick Wanyama**, Maseno University

- What are the strategies of successful involvement of cooperatives in agricultural development and food security?
- What examples could be provided of successful cooperatives in agricultural development and food security?

**Emma McInerney**, Partnerships Officer, Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Role of international community in building capacity of cooperatives in Africa in contributing to agricultural development and food security

### **COFFEE BREAK (15 minutes)**

Resource person:

**Balasubramanian Iyer**, as ICA Regional Director for Asia-Pacific

Rapporteur:

**Jonathan Perry**, Social Affairs Officer, Social Perspective on Development Branch, UN DESA/DSPD

This workshop will consider the following:

- What value is the cooperative model to agricultural development and food security?
- What are the elements of successful involvement of cooperatives in agricultural development and food security?
- What are the key challenges facing agricultural cooperatives?
- What are the strategies of successful involvement of cooperatives in agricultural development and food security?
- What examples could be provided of successful cooperatives in agricultural development and food security?

### **12:10-13:30 Workshop3 Open discussion on “Policies and strategies for youth participation in cooperatives in Africa”**

Moderator: **Esther Gicheru**, Professor, Kenya Cooperative College

Rapporteur: **Cecil Ryan**, Social development consultant, and former President, General Employees Credit Union, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

### **13:30-14:00 Closing Session**

**Closing Remarks:**

- **Wenyan Yang**, Chief, Social Perspective on Development Branch, UN DESA/DSPD
- **Axumite Gebre**, Director of the Africa regional Office, UN Habitat
- **Oleg Serezhin**, Chief Technical Cooperation Unit, DSPD/DESA
- **Chiyoge B. Sifa**, Regional Director, International Co-operative Alliance-Africa

**14:00-14:45 LUNCH**