



## Expert Group Meeting

***Ensuring That No One Is Left Behind:  
The Cooperative Sector as a Partner in the Implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development***

16-17 November 2016  
Conference room S-2723

UN Headquarters  
New York

### Agenda

#### Day 1 - Wednesday 16 November 2016

**09:30-10:00** Arrival & registration of participants

**10:00-10:20** Introduction and Overview

- **Daniela Bas**, Director of Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD), Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) – Welcome statement
- **Wenyan Yang**, Chief, Social Perspective on Development Branch, (UN DESA/DSPD) – Purpose and background of meeting

#### **Session 1**

**10:20-11:20** **Ensuring no one left behind: The linkages between cooperative model and the United Nations 2030 Agenda**

The 2030 Agenda pledges to leave no one behind in the realization of Sustainable Development Goals and to reach those furthest behind first. Emphasizing partnership, the Agenda acknowledges the role and contribution of the cooperative enterprise model. Cooperatives are called upon to assist in addressing major gaps in development highlighted by the 2030 Agenda.

Objective: To clearly identify the linkages between the 2020 Agenda and the cooperative enterprise level.

Moderator: **Wenyan Yang**

Presentation:

- **Maxwell Haywood**, focal point on cooperatives, DESA/DSPD

Question for discussion

- What are the main areas where the cooperative enterprise model can be leveraged to achieve the SDGs?

**11:20-  
11:30am**      **BREAK**

**Session 2**      **Leaving no one behind: cooperatives empowering social groups and persons in vulnerable situations**  
**11:30-13:00**

Persons belong to social groups such as youth, women, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, migrants and older persons suffer disproportionately from poverty and they usually face particular challenges to fully participate in social, economic and political life. Their situation requires interventions that will empower them to move out of poverty and vulnerable circumstances.

Objective: This session will discuss the role of cooperatives in empowering these social groups.

Moderator: **Karen Miner**

Presentations:

- **Esim Simel**, Head and Senior Technical Specialist at the Cooperatives Unit International Labour Organization (ILO) – Topic: “How cooperatives can empower youth”
- **Chiyoge B. Sifa**: Regional Director, International Co-operative Alliance-Africa – Topic: “Cooperatives empowering women and the family”
- **Inez Mendoza**, cooperative development specialist, ICA-Americas Office – Topic: “The role cooperatives in empowering indigenous people, and older persons”

Questions for discussion

- How have cooperatives contributed to empowering social groups and persons in vulnerable situations?
- What are the main challenges in empowering social groups and persons in vulnerable situations and what strategies can be used to reach more people in social groups and persons in vulnerable situations?

**13:00-14:30**      **LUNCH BREAK**

**Session 3**      **The role of the cooperative enterprise model in implementing the SDGs in least developed countries (LDCs)**  
**14:30-15:45**

Among countries, the 48 least developed countries (LDCs), with a total population projected to reach 1.4 billion people by 2020, represent the world’s poorest nations with many of the poorest and most vulnerable persons. Meeting the SDGs in the LDCs will determine if globally the 2030 Agenda is successful or not. LDCs face particular challenges such as a high proportion of people living and working in rural areas; trade deficits in food products; extreme poverty; unemployment; lack of access to electricity, education, clean water and sanitation. The 2030 Agenda provides opportunities and challenges for LDCs and cooperatives can play an important role in assisting LDC to overcome them.

Objective: This session will spotlight the developmental challenges faced by LDCs. Participants will discuss contributions of cooperatives in LDCs, as well as identify challenges and strategies for the cooperative enterprise model in implementing the SDGs in LDCs. Examples of cooperatives in LDCs will be highlighted.

Moderator: **Osamu NAKANO**

Presentations:

- **Shifaana Thowfeequ**, Economic Affairs Officer, UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) **Topic** : “The developmental challenges of LDCs”
- **Esther Gicheruo**, professor, Kenya Cooperative College – **Topic** : “The role of the cooperative enterprise model in implementing the SDGs in LDCs”
- **Ingrid Fischer**, Director of Programming for Canadian Co-operative Association - **Topic** : “Challenges and strategies of cooperatives in implementation of the SDGs”

Questions for discussion

- What has been the experience, especially social development accomplishments, of cooperatives in LDCs?
- What are the problems faced by cooperatives in LDCs making it difficult for them to realize their full potential?
- What initiatives could be used by governments and the UN system that will promote the role of the cooperative enterprise model in LDCs?

**Session 4**  
**15:45-17:30**

#### **Promoting financial inclusion for poverty eradication and inequality reduction**

Ending poverty and reducing inequality are at the center of the 2030 Agenda for leaving no one behind. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) on financing for development, integral to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, clearly highlighted the role of cooperatives in fighting poverty and promoting inclusive development. Financial inclusion of the poorest and most vulnerable in the population is critical for shared prosperity. Cooperatives can do more in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the AAAA.

Objective: In this session will focus on the role of financial cooperatives in addressing challenges and strategies in promoting financial inclusion.

Moderator: **Fran McCrae**, Policy & Communications Officer, International Co-operative Alliance (ICA)

Presentations:

- **Pamela Agnone**, president and director of the United Nations Federal Credit Union Foundation, and senior vice president of Retail Services at United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) – **Topic**: “How a credit union’s commitment to social responsibility is proving to be an extension of its service mission”. w/Video.
- **Claudia Sanchez Bajo**, professor at the University of Pavia, Italy and Visiting Scholar at the University of Texas at Austin – **Topic**: “Challenges facing cooperatives in their quest to promote financial inclusion especially based on the requirements of the 2030 Agenda”
- **Marcus Hanisch**, professor for Economics of Agricultural Cooperatives, Humboldt-University, Berlin – **Topic**: “Linkages between financial cooperatives and other sectoral cooperatives in the context of poverty eradication”
- **Aaron Moses**, president of the Caribbean Confederation of Credit Unions (CCCU), member of World Council of Credit Unions' board of directors -- **Topic**: “Strategies of governments, cooperative sector, and the United Nations that can strengthen cooperatives in promoting financial inclusion ”

Questions for discussion

- What have been the achievements of cooperatives in providing access to finance

for the poorest and most vulnerable? [Examples pertaining to social groups such as youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, family, indigenous people, women and migrants should be used to demonstrate].

- Is the cooperative model doing a satisfactory job at reaching those furthest behind and the most vulnerable groups in society?
- What are the challenges facing cooperatives in their quest to promote financial inclusion especially based on the requirements of the 2030 Agenda? How can these challenges be address? What strategies that can be used to allow cooperatives to increase the numbers of the poorest and most vulnerable persons who enjoy access to finance?

## END OF DAY 1

### Day 2 Thursday 17 November 2016

#### Session 5

#### **9:30-11:00 Cooperative enterprise model as a partner in implementing SDGs: Institutional resources of the cooperative sector**

The cooperative sector in many countries is already an active partner in the development process. They have created institutions that promote inclusiveness, equality, accountability, participatory decision-making, and responsiveness at the community or local level as well as the sub-regional, regional and global levels through Apex organizations. Such institutional resources can be harnessed for the integrated and inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Objective: This session will highlight the institutional resources of the cooperative model that can be used to promote the SDGs. Discussion will aim to identify ways such resources can be leveraged to promote the implementation of the SDGs.

Moderator: **Chiyoge B. Sifa**

Presentations:

- **Cecil Ryan:** Social development consultant, former UNDESA/DSPD consultant, and former president, General Employees Credit Union, St. Vincent and the Grenadines – **Topic:** “Cooperative institutional resources at the national and regional levels that can be leveraged for implementing the SDGs”
- **Fran McCrae:**, Policy & Communications Officer, International Co- operative Alliance (ICA), Coordinator, Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (**COPAC**) – **Topic:** “Institutional resources of cooperatives at the global level that can be leveraged for implementing the SDGs”
- **Emma McInerney,** Partnership Officer - Cooperatives and Producer Organizations (FAO) at Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – **Topic:** “Cooperative mechanisms of the UN system that can be leveraged for implementing the SDGs”

Questions for discussion:

- What are the historical legacies of the cooperative enterprise model that forms part of their strength as a partner in implementing the SDGs?
- What institutional resources the cooperative model has created at the local, national, regional, and global levels? Examples of their activities to illustrate their power to mobilize.
- What are the weaknesses in the institutional resources of the cooperative model

- and those of global and regional intergovernmental organizations?
- What strategies can be used to strengthen the cooperative model to make it more effective in implementing the SDGs?

**11:00-11:15 BREAK**

**Session 6 Challenges facing cooperatives in implementing the SDGs**  
**11:30-13:00**

The potential of the cooperative sector is vast at the global, regional, and especially the national levels. It has to play a role in global, regional and especially national mechanisms for implementing the SDGs. However, the cooperative model needs an enabling environment to be able to realize its full potential. It faces a number of challenges. These challenges are internal and external to the cooperative enterprise model.

Objective: This session will focus on the challenges facing cooperatives in implementing the SDGs as well as strategies to address these challenges

Moderator: **Claudia Sanchez-Bajo**

Presentations:

- **Karen Miner**, Managing Director, Co-operative Management Education at Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University – **Topic:** "Challenges and Strategies for public awareness raising about the identity of the cooperative enterprise model"
- **Luc Audebrand**, Assistant Professor, and Chair in Educational Leadership in Cooperative Enterprise Creation and Management - Université Laval, Canada – **Topic:** "Challenges and strategies for including the cooperative enterprise model within primary, secondary and post-secondary education"
- **Osamu Nakano**, International Relations Officer, Japan Workers' Co-operative Union (JWCU), – **Topic:** "The need for capacity building of cooperatives to implement the SDGs"

Questions for discussion:

- What are the challenges facing cooperatives to play a role in national implementing mechanisms for SDGs? How best can cooperatives play effective roles in these mechanisms?
- What is the level of public awareness of the cooperative model and how can public awareness increase?
- What is the present state of cooperative research? How can cooperatives enhance their participation and presence in national statistical plans and systems?
- What is required to ensure that there is consistent data to support evidenced-based research?
- What is the statistical capacity of cooperatives and how it can be improved and strengthened?
- What kinds of capacity building needs exist and how can they be met?
- How can national policy framework help in promoting the cooperative model?
- What kinds of new technologies that can help in the growth and development of cooperatives?

**13:00-14:30 LUNCH BREAK**

**Session 7 Framing recommendations on the role of cooperatives in achieving the SDGs**  
**14:30-16:00** Objective: To formulate recommendations that will be used to promote the role of the cooperative model in effectively implementing the SDGs by leaving no one behind

Moderator: **Wenyan Yang**

Focus areas for discussion

- Policy-oriented recommendations: National, regional, global levels
- Advocacy recommendations
- Capacity-building recommendations

**16:00-16:15 CLOSING**