

**EGM on Cooperatives in Social Development:
Supporting Cooperatives as Sustainable and Successful Enterprises
United Nations Headquarters, New York City
Conference Room C, 30 May - 1 June 2023**

Bio of Speakers

Mr. Iñigo Albizuri has a 6-year degree in industrial engineer of business management. He has spent his all working life in different cooperatives of MONDRAGON Corporation around the world (Spain, Italy, México, United States and China). He owns multiple patents as the result of his work. He is also the president of MUNDUKIDE, the NGO of MONDRAGON cooperatives, that works setting up new cooperatives in developing countries like Mozambique, Colombia, Ethiopia or Brazil. He is the president of CICOPA the worldwide organization of Industrial and Service Cooperatives. CICOPA gathers 51 members from 35 countries, who affiliate 65,000 enterprises employing 4 million people across the world. CICOPA is a sector organization of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) since 1947 and has three regional organizations: CECOP (CICOPA Europe), CICOPA Américas, and CICOPA Asia-Pacific. Mr. Albizuri has also been honored with the prize “Fair Saturday” for his work in the cultural field.

Ms. Nazik Beishenaly is a researcher at the Faculty of Business and Economics of KU Leuven. As part of the research team of the Centre of Expertise for Cooperative Entrepreneurship, she works on the role of cooperative enterprises in sustainable development. Having strong policy expertise, her research focuses on building ecosystems for cooperative entrepreneurship. Prior to joining the KCO, she worked in the international development field with governments and UN agencies in different regions, conducting policy-oriented research on social and economic development policy issues. In Kyrgyzstan, where she held senior positions in the government, she also served as the President of the Cooperatives’ Union of Kyrgyzstan. She holds MSc in and a PhD in Economics from Grenoble Alpes University (France) and a second Master of Public Policy from the University of Oxford (UK).

Mr. Howard Brodsky is Co-Founder and Chairman of CCA Global Partners, one of the largest privately held companies in the United States; and the second largest private company in the state of New Hampshire. CCA is comprised of 14 cooperatives, serving over a million family businesses and 22,000 childcare centres in 4 countries, with aggregated revenue of over 10 billion. Brodsky is a world thought leader on the cooperative shared ownership business model. In 2019, he was the first American to be awarded the Rochdale Award, the Nobel prize of Cooperatives which is given once every 2 years to one person in the world who has made the most impact in cooperatives worldwide. Brodsky was inducted into the Cooperative Hall of Fame, that recognizes individuals who make unparalleled contributions in advancement of the principles of cooperation in the United States. One of Brodsky’s other notable accomplishments was being inducted into the Entrepreneur Hall of Fame along with such notable people as Michael Dell and Starbucks’ Howard Schultz. In 2020, he was named the Business leader of the Decade. In 2019, he received the Global Leadership Award from the World Affairs Council. Brodsky serves on many boards including Southern New Hampshire University, SoutionHealth, NCBA, Big Brother Big Sister and NHPBS and is Chairman of the Better Business Bureau. He also founded and is Chairman of Cooperatives For a Better World, a nonprofit operating in 14 countries. Most recently, Brodsky received an Honorary Degree of Humane Letters from the University of New Hampshire in 2021. He is also the Chair of the ICA Working Group on G20 Affairs.

Mr. Dante Cracogna is a Doctor of Law and he teaches Commercial Law at the University of Buenos Aires (Argentina). He specialized in Cooperative Law with several books and many articles published on the subject. Currently he is chairman of the Law Committee of Cooperatives of the Americas (Region of the ICA) and vice chairman of the Board of the Argentina Federation of Consumer Cooperatives.

Mr. Hans Groeneveld has 30 years of practical, policy and academic experience in – cooperative – banking. His professional career started at the CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis. Thereafter, he worked for ten years as manager at De Nederlandsche Bank in the monetary and supervisory directorate, respectively. In 2000, he switched to Rabobank where he held various senior and managerial positions in staff divisions and business directorates. Currently, he is Director International Co-operative Affairs. In this capacity, he is involved in strategic and governance projects and represents the Managing Board in the national and international co-operative world, among other things. In May 2014, Hans Groeneveld has been appointed as distinguished professor Financial Co-operatives at Tilburg University in the Netherlands.

To date, he is Board member of the International Raiffeisen Union in Germany, chairperson of the Cooperative Identity Forum of the European Association of Co-operative Banks in Brussels, member of the Academic Advisory Group of the EACB, chairperson of the International Cooperative Entrepreneurial Think Tank as well as member of the International Cooperative Banking Alliance of the International Co-operative Alliance. He has published on monetary topics, banking, co-operative banks and co-operatives in academic and policy journals. He has also carried out commissioned research for the ICA on the enabling environment for co-operatives in 33 countries around the globe.

Mr. Paul Hazen became executive director of the Overseas Cooperative Development Council in February 2012. Previously, he represented one of the member organizations and served as OCDC's board chair and as a board member. One of his most-recent initiatives with OCDC is the formation of its Research Group, whose mission is to research, formulate and share effective strategies for the development, performance and growth of cooperatives in developing countries. Throughout his career, Hazen has championed the U.S. cooperative system, which encompasses 29,000 co-ops; generates \$654 billion in revenue; and creates more than two million jobs, representing \$75 billion in wages and benefits. U.S. co-ops include Ace Hardware, Land O'Lakes, Inc., Sunkist, REI and the Associated Press. Hazen helped establish federal legislation promoting rural co-op development, formed a national network of co-op development centers and initiated national research into the impact of co-ops on the U.S. economy. Prior to joining OCDC, Hazen was CEO of the Washington, D.C.-based National Cooperative Business Association. Under Hazen's leadership, NCBA's cooperative development portfolio grew from \$8 million to over \$30 million annually. During his 25-year tenure with the organization, he held key positions, including chief operating officer, vice president of public policy, vice president of member services and director of consumer cooperatives.

Ms. Pamela Komugisha Pamela is a mother of four beautiful children—two girls and two boys. In her role as an Assistant Registrar, she promotes the establishment and expansion, registration, supervision, and inspection of Cooperative Societies among other roles. In Uganda, she is known as Mama Health Cooperatives. As MAMA Health Cooperatives, she has finally found her purpose; serving the privileged communities to access affordable and quality Health Care.

Ms. Christine Lutara is an internationally trained Industrial Chemist with a passion for national and rural development; committed to the creation of development opportunities for vulnerable members of the community. She has extensive experience of working with disadvantaged person, with a specific focus on women.

Mr. Cyprian Mayamba is a productivity practitioner with over 20 years of consultancy to both private and public sector entities. He has a passion for the success of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Cooperatives and Youth/Women/Persons with Disabilities led enterprises. He is currently Director of the National Productivity Development Department in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security in Zambia. He sits on Boards of various state owned, profit and non-profit making entities that include the Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA) in Zambia. He is also a Part-time Lecturer in Quality Management at the University of Lusaka.

Mr. Leandro Pereira Morais graduated in Economics from the Methodist University of Piracicaba (2001), Specialization in Labor Economics (UNICAMP, 2002) and Labor Market (ILO, Italy, 2006); Master's in Social Economy, Local Development and Entrepreneurs - Faculty of Science at Work at the University of Seville (2007), Master's and Doctorate in Economic Development (Social and Labor Economics) from the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP). He was a professor at PUCCAMP (2007-2016) and FACAMP (2012-2016) (Undergraduate) and Collaborating Researcher at the Institute of Economics at UNICAMP (2002-2016). He has experience in Economics, with emphasis on Brazilian Economy, Social and Labor Economy, Public Policies, Territorial Development and Preparation of Socioeconomic Diagnoses. Morais is also a researcher at CESIT/UNICAMP on Labor Market and Employment and Income Generation Programs (2002-2008); Consultant for the New Paradigms of Production and Consumption Project (2009-2011) and IDB Sustainable Cities (2013-2014), both at Instituto Pólis and Gaia Social (2010-2011) on issues of Elaboration of Indicators for ISP Evaluation and Monitoring. He is a consultant for the Solidarity Development Agency (ADS) and the National Secretariat for Solidarity Economy (SENAES 2014-16). He is also a representative of Brazil at the Iberoamerican Observatory on Employment and Social Economy (www.oibescoop.org) and Technical Consultant at the International Training Center of the ILO/UN (Italy and Geneva) and at the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Aside from this, he is a Lead Researcher of the India-Brazil South-South Research Partnership Project (ILO-UN - 2015). He received the CORECON Award - 2002; IPEA CAIXA 2005 and was given recognition by the United Nations Research Institute on Social Development (UNRISD, ONU), 2013. He is a founding member of CIRIEC-BRASIL and a member of the International Scientific Committee of CIRIEC International and Member of the Task Force on SSE at the United Nations (UNTFSSSE). He is currently a professor of Brazilian Economy at UNESP - Araraquara, Scientific Advisor to FAPESP and a Titular Member of the Digital Platform on the Interuniversity Initiative on the Future of Work (OIT) and Leader of the Research Group: Nucleus for Extension and Research in Solidarity, Creative and Citizenship Economy (NEPESC) of UNESP at CNPq; External Consultant UN Agencies.

Ms. Merav Niv is a Senior legal counsel specializing in Cooperative Law and head of the Cooperative Promotion department of the Kibbutz Movement in Israel, focusing on enhancing internal and external implementation of cooperative values and principles within Kibbutzim and across Israel, and promoting cooperative-oriented collaboration and partnerships between various actors. Ms. Niv holds an MA in democratic studies from Haifa University School of Political Science and took an active part in writing the “Kibbutz Community at its Best” identity model and the processes supporting its implementation, and in academic research groups studying the contemporary kibbutz.

Mr. Joseph Njuguna is the Director of Policy at the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) Global Office based in Brussels, Belgium. His main responsibilities comprise advocacy work, establishing and maintaining strategic relations with the United Nations bodies, governments and international organizations to advance the interests of the cooperative movement and create a more supportive environment in which cooperatives can thrive. He also coordinates various working groups and committees within the ICA such as the International Cooperative Entrepreneurship Think Tank (ICETT), ICA G20 Working Group and the ICA Board Committee on Policy. He previously worked as the Policy Officer at the ICA Regional Office for Africa in Nairobi, Kenya.

Ms. Sonja Novkovic, Ph.D. is a Professor of Economics and the Academic Director of the International Centre for Co-operative Management at Saint Mary’s University in Halifax, Canada. She is former Chair (2013-2021) and member of the ICA Committee on Co-operative Research. She sits on the NCBA-CLUSA Cooperative Economics Council and serves in advisory role for the Overseas Cooperative Development Council Research Group in the US; the UNRISD Sustainable Development Performance Indicators project; the ICA World Cooperative Monitor, and the Cooperative Identity Advisory group of the ICA. Sonja’s research interests include theory of worker and multi-stakeholder cooperatives, humanistic governance and cooperative management, and measures of socio-economic sustainability performance in democratic organizations. She co-edited numerous books on the social economy, cooperative governance and cooperative economics, and is currently involved in research on cooperatives and the circular economy; systems thinking and cooperative networks.

Mr. Steven Otieno is a social enterprise development specialist with more than 20 years of experience in the sustainability arenas, including 11 years in deploying market-led approaches to grow Kenya’s Agri-business sector and enhancing food security by creating sustainable livelihoods while helping communities adapt to climate change. He has vast experience in implementing market systems and facilitation approaches in the agriculture sector in which he has supported agro-processors to foster improved and more inclusive linkages with smallholder producer organizations and co-operatives most of which are women- based, leading to increased uptake of smallholder agricultural crops thereby increased nutrition and a healthy society. He has valuable experience in designing and implementing pilot programs and business models and scaling up successful simulations. His networks extend throughout all levels of the value chain from input providers, and buyers including corporate off-takers, government officials, research institutions, donor representatives, and other development partners. He is also an ILO certified ‘Start and Improve Your Business’ (SIYB) trainer. He has been responsible for and provided leadership in promoting the creation of women and youth- owned worker/service co-operatives across value chains using the market systems approach to create employment opportunities and enhance value addition.

Ms. Ateca Rounds is the Chief Business Advisor at the Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications in Fiji. Ateca is a proud Fijian with over 10 years of experience in Public Sector Development, focusing on Project Management, Financial Management and Analysis, Policy Review and Governance. She graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Banking from the University of the South Pacific, Fiji. She is currently working on MSME Development in Fiji and works particularly with Co-operatives. She enjoys going out into communities and engaging with the grassroots on how to improve and develop the co-operative industry in Fiji.

Ms. Aimee Marie Tumukunde is the Cooperative Policy Specialist in Ministry of Trade and Industry. She enrolled in Lead Tech Global Executive MBA since October 2023 and holds a Master's degree Microfinance of Institut d' Enseignement Supérieur de Ruhengeri (INES). She has over eighteen years' experience developing and leading programs that drive financial inclusion and economic prosperity. Prior to the current position in Ministry of Trade and Industry, she held senior positions in Civil Society Organizations including Umbrella of Farmers organizations as Executive Secretary and Executive Secretary of Apex of Cooperative Movement in Rwanda. Aimee Marie Ange has supported various Gender and Youth Empowerment initiatives through her memberships in the Board of Directors of Action Aid International, Rwanda Chapter, Member of International Advisory Committee of Global Youth Entrepreneurship and Industry Connect, Focal Point of Rwanda in International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) Region of Africa, Speaker and Panelist on "How to grow cooperatives by Gender Factor" and Cooperatives for Peace Building, Member of Steering Committee and Capacity Building Advisory Committee in Financing of Refinancing Fund and Development of Microfinance with special attention to women and Youth initiatives. TUMUKUNDE Aimee Marie Ange is also member of Audit Committee in Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources and active member of Private Sector Development and Youth Employment Sector Working Group.