Expert Group Meeting on Cooperatives in Social Development

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“Cooperatives contribution to the implementation of SDGs and Lessons from the International Year of Cooperatives”

By:
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Who we are

The apex organisation for cooperatives worldwide, a non-profit international association established in 1895

Whom we represent

- 316 Cooperative federations and organisations across 110 countries
- 3 million cooperative enterprises
- More than 1.2 billion members
- 10% of the world’s employed population
ICA’s mission

Advocating the interests and success of cooperatives, providing a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and co-ordinated action.

- **Uniting the global cooperative movement**
  The ICA serves as a forum to boost cooperation between cooperatives.

- **Promoting the cooperative difference**
  Working on the cooperative minimum standards or common denominators.

- **Developing an economic instrument**
  The ICA provides individuals and communities with an instrument of self-help and influence.

**Unite**
Member engagement
Putting in place all the necessary tools to foster intercooperation.

**Promote**
Leadership and commitment
Promoting the cooperative brand.

**Develop**
Growth and solidarity
Make coops recognised leaders in economic, social and environmental development.
Agenda 2030

A shared blueprint for People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships
Which SDGs are coops addressing?

A study by the WCM on Communication on Progress (CoP) by the Top 300 large cooperatives showed that Cooperatives address All SDGs.
BEYOND ECONOMIC IMPACT: THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOP 300 TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Text: In economic terms, it is only one of the dimensions that can be used to evaluate cooperative enterprises. And it is just one of the many aspects of sustainable development, which has been a key theme in recent years.

In fact, since the end of the 1980s, the theme of integrating economic development, natural resource management and protection, institutional support and inclusion has been at the heart of the international debate. The 1992 Brundtland Report, which culminated in 2015 with the adoption by the United Nations of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the SDGs aim to reduce poverty, fight inequality, support social development and address aspects that are fundamentally important to sustainable development, such as climate change and the construction of peaceful societies, by the year 2030. As already emphasized by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs also offer a multidimensional view of development in which human well-being and poverty reduction are at the centre of the action which are based on essential conditions such as environmental sustainability, equity and enabling a global economic environment.

Although the SDGs were conceived as a call to action for countries, they can also be considered targets that companies can focus on when they plan their activities. From this point of view, the measurement of the contribution of cooperatives to the achievement of the SDGs requires not only an analysis of their economic dimension, but also an appreciation of their sustainability in social and environmental terms. More generally, this entails assessing their ability to contribute to inequalities and generate human welfare and social capital.

Of course, cooperatives also contribute to achieving the SDGs. As described in the 2013 International Day of Cooperatives, Day Nelson, Director General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), emphasized: "Global attention focuses on the challenges of sustainable development. Cooperatives can and must play a key role in creating enterprises engaging into new and innovative areas. (ILO, et al, 2013)." Indeed this, in the Co-operation conference recognized the role of cooperatives in achieving social inclusion and poverty reduction. They have been marginally involved in the process of defining the
The 7 Cooperative Principles and the Cooperative Values

Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity.

In the tradition of their founders, cooperative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.
International Day of Cooperatives

This year’s IDC theme is “Cooperatives: partners for accelerated sustainable development”

Related slogan is “Cooperatives for sustainable development”

The celebration will mark the 29th International Day of Cooperatives recognized by the United Nations and the 101st International Cooperative Day.

Join the #coops4sdgs campaign!

https://www.coopsday.coop/
ICA has identified various sustainable development activities carried out by cooperatives in the report on Cooperatives and SDGs.
The Theory of Change of cooperatives contributions to the SDGs
Drivers and Enablers

Enablers – factors related to policies and partnerships representing contextual and external processes that are beyond cooperatives’ immediate control.

Drivers - set of internal factors that drives cooperatives contributions to SDGs that stem from cooperative nature but also from their significance in their contexts.
Activities and Outputs

Core activities

- Sectoral:
  - Access to goods and services
  - Access to sustainable housing
  - Access to healthcare, social and insurance
  - Access to sustainable energy sources
  - Access to finance to their member communities
  - Fostering sustainable agriculture, forestry and fishery
  - Sustainable production and consumption

- Transversal:
  - Income-generation opportunities and decent work
  - Advancing gender equality
  - Advancing youth
  - Providing education and training
  - Protecting environment and climate
  - Enhancing coop-to-coop cooperation
  - Promoting community development

Support activities

- Committing
- Policy research & expertise
- Policy advocacy
- Organizing conferences
- Partnerships
Cooperatives have sustainability in their DNA which help them to develop a wide range of strengths but also to suffer weaknesses. What are the characteristics that help coops to grow?
More resources available on our website

https://www.ica.coop/en

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