



**International Co-operative
Alliance – Africa**
A Region of the International
Co-operative Alliance

9TH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE AFRICA MINISTERIAL COOPERATIVE CONFERENCE (TCAMCCO)

THEME: Accelerating Cooperation Among Cooperatives in the Post Covid-19 Era.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

In 1995, the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) adopted the revised Statement on the Cooperative Identity which contains the definition of a cooperative, cooperative values as well as the seven cooperative principles, namely, Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Member Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community.

The Co-operative Principles have been forged in the furnace of over 150 years of practical experience and provides a basis upon which successful operations for a sustainable Co-operative enterprise is built. Furthermore, in 2016 the ICA's Principles Committee released the Guidance Notes on the Cooperative Principles¹, giving detailed guidance and advice on the practical application of the Principles to cooperative enterprise.

THE SIXTH COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE

The Sixth Principle calls for Cooperation Among Cooperatives. It reads: "Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures."

The 6th principle highlights the importance of solidarity to cooperatives and unlike other types of businesses it illustrates that cooperatives are formed to prioritize the needs of members within the movement rather than corporate shareholders' sole focus on profit.

THE COVID-19 IMPACTS

The past two years have brought unprecedented pressure upon cooperatives as a result of Covid-19. The pandemic has disrupted optimal economic operations in all sectors, including the cooperative sector. It is important that cooperatives should draw strength from Cooperative Principle No. 6 to build back better from the impacts of Covid-19.

¹ <https://www.ica.coop/en/media/library/research-and-reviews/the-guidance-notes-on-the-co-operative-principles>

Cooperation among cooperatives will help improve the vision of social and solidarity economy among cooperatives; lead to the achievement of various economic benefits including eliminating duplicated costs, seeking better deals, expanding services to members and strengthening the movement as a whole.; and, ensure the voice of cooperatives is heard when governments craft and operationalize national, regional, international economic recovery blueprints. This will ensure that the more than 28.7 million cooperative members in Africa play a bigger and conspicuous role in the economic recovery plans.

It is against this understanding that we desire to continue the discussions to establish deeper benefits of working together and how the 6th principle will enable cooperatives to remain relevant during times of shock, such as witnessed in the last two years, and the recovery phase of the same. The Theme of the Conference is '**ACCELERATING COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES IN THE POST COVID-19 ERA.**' The 2022 conference has two sub-themes:

- 1. Cooperation among cooperatives: opportunities and challenges:**
- 2. Promotion of an enabling environment for Cooperation among cooperatives**

Two sub-themes are particularly considered:

1.) For Sub-theme one (Cooperative to Cooperative cooperation opportunities and challenges) has as its focus on opportunities created by the prevailing environment. Covid-19 has disrupted the operating environment and, in the process, provided new opportunities for engagement. We expect participants to discuss the opportunities that have presented in their specific environment for cooperation among cooperatives to be realized. Papers will also address the challenges that have been brought about by the Covid-19 disruptions. Some of the areas participants should focus on include:

- √ Best Practices for Cooperation among cooperatives (Agricultural, Financial, Housing, Health, Consumer etc.)
- √ Structures for Cooperation among Cooperatives
- √ Economic and social benefits of cooperation among cooperatives
- √ Cooperation among cooperatives in the digital era/4th industrial revolution/platform cooperatives
- √ Cooperative to Cooperative trade
- √ Cooperation among Cooperatives for recovery from Covid-19 impacts

2). The second sub-theme (Promotion of an enabling environment for Cooperation among cooperatives) focuses on establishment of an enabling ecosystem within which cooperation

among cooperatives might occur. If we are to achieve cooperation among cooperatives either within and across borders, then it is critical to review the legal and policy frameworks through which this cooperation might be realized. Papers presented under this theme shall address these factors. Areas of particular focus include:

- √ Cooperative development policies and legislation to support Cooperation among cooperatives for recovery from Covid-19 impacts.
- √ The idea of an African Cooperative Society in post Covid-19 era.
- √ Cross Border Cooperation in Africa
- √ African Cooperative legal frameworks on Cooperation among Cooperatives (Progress, challenges and Opportunities in post Covid-19 recovery)
- √ An Africanist explication of the sixth Cooperative Principle during Covid-19 and in recovery.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The general objective of this conference is to bring government officials, cooperative leaders and other stakeholders into a forum to deliberate on how best cooperatives could foster accelerated cooperation amongst themselves at national, regional and global level beyond Covid-19.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To identify potential synergies, opportunities and benefits for cooperation nationally, regionally and internationally to foster cooperative development in post Covid-19.
- To share knowledge that enables Cooperatives and other stakeholders in Africa to engage effectively in national, regional and international cooperation. E.g., coop to coop trade, investments and other opportunities.
- To promote an enabling environment (laws & policies) that promotes economic and socio-political cooperation among cooperatives

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Potential synergies, opportunities and benefits for national, regional, international cooperation identified.
- Knowledge that enables Cooperatives and other stakeholders in Africa to engage effectively in national, regional and international cooperation shared.
- Stakeholders encouraged to promote an enabling environment (laws & policies) that promotes economic and socio-political cooperation among cooperatives

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Day	Time	Sessions	Facilitator/Speaker
DAY 1: 23 rd MAY, 2022	09H00 – 14H00	International Cooperative Alliance-Africa Board meeting (Closed)	
	14H00-18H00	Participants arrival and Registration	Host and ICA Staff
DAY 2: 24 th MAY, 2022	07H30 – 08H00	Participants Registration	ICA Staff
	08H00 – 17H00	Training Workshop: Effective Leadership and Management for Organizational Sustainability in the new era	ICA Staff/ Trainers:
DAY 3: 25 th MAY, 2022	08H00 – 08H30	Registrations	ICA -Africa Staff
	08H30 – 10H00	Opening Session and Welcoming <u>Master of Ceremony: Host and MC – Vice MOCU</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ ICA-Africa Regional: Dr. Chiyoge B. Sifa (Mrs) √ KUSCCO President: Mr. George Magutu √ Director: Mr. Roelants Bruno √ ICA-Africa President- Chief Ayeola Oriyomi √ ICA President: Dr. Ariel Guarco √ Guest of honor's remarks: Minister 	
	10H00 – 10H30	<i>COFFEE & TEA BREAK / GROUP PHOTOS</i>	
	10H30 – 11H30	Session 1: Background paper presentation on the theme: Accelerating Cooperation Among Cooperatives in The Post Covid-19 Era.	
	11H30-13H00	<u>PARALLEL SESSION</u> Session 2: Coop to Coop cooperation opportunities and challenges Session 3: Promotion of an enabling environment for Cooperation among cooperatives	
	13H00 – 14H00	<i>LUNCH BREAK</i>	
	14H00 – 15H00	<u>PARALLEL SESSION</u> Session 4: Coop to Coop cooperation opportunities and challenges Session 5: Promotion of an enabling environment for Cooperation among cooperatives	
	15H00- 16H00	Action Plan	
	16H00 – 16H15	<i>COFFEE & TEA BREAK/ GROUP PHOTOS</i>	
	16H15 – 16H30	Summary Conclusions and Recommendations	

	18H:30-21H:00	GALA DINNER	
DAY 4: 26 th MAY, 2022	08H00 – 08H30	Registrations	ICA Staff
	08H30 – 10H30	Consultation on cooperative development strategy	
	10H30 – 11H00	<i>COFFEE & TEA BREAK/ GROUP PHOTOS</i>	
	11H00 – 12H00	<u>Master of Ceremony:</u> Presentation of Country progress Reports by Registrars/ Commissioners/Directors ✓ Eastern Africa ✓ Central Africa	
	12H00 – 13H30	Presentation of Country progress Reports by Registrars/ Commissioners/Directors ✓ Southern Africa ✓ North Africa ✓ Western Africa	
	13H30 – 14H30	<i>LUNCH BREAK</i>	
	14H30 – 16H00	Conclusions and Recommendations and setting the agenda for the Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference (AMCCO)	
	16H00 – 16H30	Drafting agenda of the October 2022 Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference	
DAY 5: 27 th MAY 2022		Excursions	