

9th Technical Committee of the Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference (TCAMCCO)

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

Background and Context

In 1995, the International Cooperative Alliance; which is the global steward of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity, the Values and Principles of the cooperative movement, adopted the revised Statement on the Cooperative Identity which contains the definition of a cooperative, the values of cooperatives as well as the seven cooperative principles. The cooperative principles are guidelines by which cooperatives put their values into practice as listed: 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 Cooperative Principles have been forged in the furnace of over 150 years of practical experience of what constitutes the foundational principles necessary for the successful operation of a sustainable co-operative enterprise. 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 is known as Cooperation Among Cooperatives. The full statement reads: "Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures."

This 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 focus on solely profit.

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

The Purpose

The purpose of cooperation can include; economic, socio-political, capacity building, knowledge and resources transfer or a combination of all of them.

Cooperation among cooperatives will help improve the vision of social and solidarity economy. Further, it will also 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.

Cooperatives should also ensure their voice is heard as governments craft and operationalize national, regional, international economic agreements. In order to do that, they need to be fully aware of the issues, potential benefits, opportunities and most importantly, the role they can play.

It is against this understanding that we desire to continue the discussions and establish deeper benefits of working together and how this principle will enable cooperatives to remain relevant even during turbulent times and the post recovery of the same.

General Objective

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

Specific Objectives

- To identify potential synergies, opportunities and benefits for cooperation nationally, regionally and internationally.
- 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	Room
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 Covid-19 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</u> ✓ Host speech from ✓ Dr. Chiyoge B. Sifa (Mrs): ICA-Africa Regional Director ✓ ICA-Africa President ✓ ICA President ✓ Guest of honor's remarks:		
	10H00 – 10H30	<i>COFEE & TEA BREAK / GROUP PHOTOS</i>		
	10H30 – 11H30	Background paper presentation on the theme:		
	11H30-13H00	Session 1 Coop to Coop cooperation opportunities and challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coop to Coop Trade • Investments/financing cooperation among cooperatives • Best practices for cooperation among cooperatives 		

	13H00 – 14H00	<i>LUNCH BREAK</i>		
	14H00 – 15H00	Session 2 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		
DAY 4: 26 th MAY, 2022	08H00 – 08H30	Registrations	ICA Staff	
	08H30 – 10H30	Consultation on cooperative development strategy	Moderator	
	10H30 – 11H00	<i>COFFEE & TEA BREAK/ GROUP PHOTOS</i>		
	11H00 – 12H00	<i>Master of Ceremony:</i> 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)		Auditorium
	16H00 – 16H30	Drafting agenda of the October 2022 Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference		
	DAY 5 27 th MAY 2022		Excursions	