



9<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee of the Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference (TCAMCCO)  
24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
Mombasa - Kenya

### **Summary & Recommendations**

#### **DAY 1: Africa Policy Forum on Cooperative Resilience**

RESEARCH	KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
Resilience of SACCOs in the hospitality aviation and horticulture sectors to covid-19 systemic shock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Encourage SACCOs to open up the common bond to reduce membership concentration of risk</li><li>- Implement strategies to empower women's membership in cooperatives and representation in SACCOs' leadership</li><li>- Sensitize and encourage SACCOs to show more concern to help communities cope better during shocks</li></ul>
Adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices that contribute to the resilience of small-scale farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To implement policies that support and encourage the adoption of Climate Smart Agricultural Practices (CSAP). This should also include policies that relate to the certification, pricing and marketing of products</li><li>- To provide continuous capacity building &amp; training to farmers and all the relevant stakeholders. To include but not limited to; union members, government and district council officials</li><li>- To subsidize or finance the cost of CSAPs through interventions by the government, donors or other goodwill and financial institutions</li><li>- To promote regular and extensive research on CSAPs and its enabling environment to foster evidence-based recommendations</li></ul>
Harnessing youth initiatives in the growth of Kenyan SACCOs: A case of boda bodas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Streamline boda boda operations through appropriate policy guidelines/enforcement</li><li>- Encourage government to intervene by providing capacity building to youth groups and boda boda associations</li><li>- Over the long term promote collective entrepreneurship where SACCOs are domiciled</li><li>- Encourage government to take keen interest in the youth initiatives which are geared toward generating employment opportunities</li></ul>
Cooperative Law and Regulation Initiative (CLARITY) 2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Reform efforts for cooperative law &amp; regulation are ideally led by cooperative stakeholders, but in cases where government takes the lead, reform processes should be participatory and inclusive to ensure the cooperative sector's needs are heard and incorporated to create more enabling legal frameworks</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cooperative law and regulation reform efforts should intentionally consider how to provide equitable opportunities for marginalized groups, such as women and youth</li> <li>- Cooperative stakeholders and legislative bodies should consider using CLARITY tools and methodologies to support cooperative legal framework reform that promotes an enabling environment for the cooperative sector</li> </ul>
Ushirika Hub: A study evaluating the opportunities and outcomes for a social systems network in the Kenyan cooperative sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leverage partnerships to develop a platform to accommodate cooperative business operations online. This platform would form a one-step hub for all cooperative businesses in the country or region</li> <li>- Explore the possibility of building on one of the preexisting social media platforms such as facebook which have the potential to host a ushirika hub-style network and incorporate more applications, including product sales and direct coop to coop communications</li> <li>- Any new or existing platform should be developed and promoted in collaboration with government and cooperative apex bodies so that it is sustainable and responsive to the needs of the cooperative sector</li> </ul>

## **DAY 2: Paper Presentations on the Theme & Sub-themes**

### **a. Coop-to-Coop cooperation**

1. There is an opportunity for Africans to build strong and sustainable value chains through cooperation among co-operatives especially in light of the Africa Free Trade Area (Inter-cooperative trade)
2. There is need to address barriers to cooperation including vast geographical distances between cooperatives, competition for government tenders/funds, perception of other cooperatives as rivals, political and religious differences in local communities, and lack of experience/skills in governance of cooperatives, which undermine cooperation among the cooperatives.
3. Cooperatives must purposefully create access to national and international markets and reposition themselves into higher value-added economic activities along their respective supply chains.
4. It is important to promote and enhance the health and well-being of all co-operators, post Covid-19. Formation of a health co-operative is proposed to assist co-operators in managing health risks.
5. There is need for provision of cooperative member health insurance education and sensitization of health care programs such as Ushirika Afya in Tanzania as a lesson to advance cooperation with other insurance firms.
6. There is need to consider pre-existing platforms such as Facebook and LinkedIn that have the potential to host a Cooperative network and incorporate applications, including product sales and direct co-op to co-op communication.

7. Governments should create an enabling environment and institutional structures that facilitate adoption and usage of a social network for cooperative businesses, to form a one-stop-hub for all cooperative businesses in a controlled centralized platform.
8. Stakeholders/policy makers/regulators in the cooperative sector should strengthen cooperative practices that improve the level of education, increase capacity building, enhance economic empowerment and stimulate intra and inter-regional development.
9. In co-operative education and training, there is need to develop a curriculum for school co-operatives for posterity
10. Coop2Coop trading should adopt the suggested Hybrid Integration Co-operative Model (HICM)
11. Co-operatives need to integrate youth, gender and climate change issues in co-operative activities
12. Cooperatives need to integrate ICT in their operations
13. There is need for the co-operative movement to use evidence-based decision making, meaning that data collection needs to be prioritized
14. Conduct more baseline surveys to collect data on co-operatives and the information used to promote inter-trade for co-operatives in Africa
15. Develop a common framework for reporting achievements and breakthroughs
16. Re-energize the cooperative movement by restoring and strengthening the values of trust and solidarity

#### **b. Enabling Environment**

1. There is a need for government agencies to provide subsidy programs for low- and middle-income households to allow them to participate in the housing market
2. The government should provide an appropriate mechanism for individuals to access finance from the formal market while for those who cannot qualify, the government should provide special incentive programs.
3. Housing co-operative finance models can be promoted to strengthen the community based social network. This can be achieved through strengthening of the regulatory framework and property title deeds system, which in turn can facilitate easier access to formal financing sources with the use of property as collateral.
4. There is need for flexible and affordable mortgage schemes in the co-operative sector to enable large-scale construction of houses for the community
5. Cooperatives should be encouraged to adopt Management Information Systems in the administration of their affairs.
6. African cooperatives must synergize towards adopting cooperative platforms for borderless markets.
7. Build co-operatives cross-border cooperation relationships based on mutual trust and also on co-operative principles and ethos

8. There is the need to have in place an apex tier legal policy, hence an African Charter for Cooperatives is proposed
9. Countries must agree on a common legal framework and implementation rules which promote co-operatives cross-border cooperation.
10. The inter and intra-country legal and policy frameworks promoting sustainable co-operatives cross border co-operation should be encouraged
11. There is need for provision of education, training and information to co-operative boards, employees and members on co-operative principles, policies and legislations
12. A legislative framework should be put in place to enhance the regulation of the Islamic Shariah co-operative industry.
13. There is need for training for Sacco officials on short courses on Islamic financing.
14. There is need for co-creation of public policies where co-operatives need to work with governments, to promote policies that promote value chain reinforcement
15. Cooperative leaders should offer servant leadership to the movement in service to members
16. The government should create an enabling environment to allow cooperatives conduct their business

## **Members Forum**

- Consultation on ICA-Africa strategy
- Presentation on the North Africa sub-regional office
- Establishment of the African Organization for Housing Cooperatives
- Africa's ambition for an extra seat in the global board
- Preparations for October meeting in Egypt

## **Day 3: Country paper presentations**

Highlights on some of the indicators

- Access to financial services : Various innovative mechanisms both from the government and within the cooperative movement. This is commendable but more is needed
- Access to health services: Still a big window of opportunity. Can mention the health stakeholder meetings. ICA-Africa will continue conducting health stakeholder meetings
- Access to affordable housing: improvement in the formation of housing cooperatives. However, big investments are needed
- Policy development: Practices like reviewing the cooperative model/regulations and align it to national development plans

#### Recommendations/Observations

- Administration should further consider a more-friendly report template
- Country reports should be shared amongst countries
- There should be a way to practical monitor progress in the countries
- Review template to include score and comments from the cooperative moment alongside that of the government's