

13TH AFRICA MINISTERIAL COOPERATIVE CONFERENCE (AMCCO)

St. Regis Almasa Capital Convention Center; EGYPT

17th – 20th October, 2022

THEME: Growing Africa Together: The role of African Cooperatives in accelerating Sustainable Development Goals (2030) and the Africa We Want (Agenda 2063)

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

African cooperatives have key roles in facilitating both the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs) and African Agenda 2063 implementation at the International, regional, national and local levels.

As umbrella bodies, cooperatives aspire to use tools and initiatives to facilitate a ‘trickle-down’ effect throughout the movement and their communities; thereby ensuring inclusive and sustainable development at all levels. Unlike other enterprises, cooperatives contribution to the implementation of SDGs and African Agenda 2063 is part and parcel of their critical role towards its membership and surrounding communities. This is evident from the purpose for which they are formed and the principles and values under which they operate. While it is universally accepted that cooperatives are formed to solve common socio-economic problems for its members across sectors, they operate under, among others, the principles of openness in membership, democratic control, equity in economic undertakings, education training and information as well as concern for the community making them responsible for not only the membership, but also its surrounding communities. Because of their uniqueness, important lessons (including those of democratic governance, economic equity, unity in poverty alleviation and social capital) which are critical to inclusive and sustainable development are harnessed by multiple other enterprises at local, regional and international stakeholders for sustainable development. Besides, co-operatives formation purposes, their nature of business across sectors and the operational principles are in line with the 17 objectives of the SDGs and the aspirations, goals and priorities of the Agenda 2063.

SDGs 2030

Sustainable development has been one of the crucial topics of the contemporary world since the introduction of the SDGs 2030 in Rio de Janeiro in 2012¹. Most global commitments are currently into sustainable development and the topic is central to both global and regional discussions. The SDGs adoption was a move towards a common set of universal goals that

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/rio20>

meet the urgent environmental, political and economic challenges facing our world. They are an urgent call to global paradigm-shifting particularly into a more sustainable path, by calling all countries to rise to the occasion in meeting the set targets by 2030.

In parallel, value- and principle-based, people-centered business, cooperative organizations, have a growing role to play in facilitating present and future SDG implementation at the global, regional, national and local levels. Like the SDGs, cooperatives have a wholesome approach to development, as they are in all sectors of the economy and because their impact contributes substantially to the objectives pursued.

African Agenda 2063

Adopted in May 2013, Agenda 2063² is Africa's development blueprint and strategic framework for the continent's inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic development over the next 50 years. It builds on and seeks to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development.

The agenda envisions an integrated prosperous and peaceful Africa driven by its citizens and people-based enterprises like cooperatives. With an ideal enabling environment and support from the government, cooperatives can play a vital role in achieving the Africa we want as envisioned in Agenda 2063.

This will include but is not limited to: the creation of employment opportunities, equitable wealth creation, availability of better health facilities and amenities. Also, strong partnerships between and within cooperatives can be instrumental in improving the emerging role of the cooperative movement as a pivotal actor in achieving Agenda 2063.

It is against this understanding that we desire to continue the discussions to reposition and highlight the cooperatives' key role and relevance as strategic development partners. We seek to purposefully engage government leaders and major stakeholders in development.

The theme of the conference is Growing Africa Together: The role of African Cooperatives in accelerating Sustainable Development Goals (2030) and the Africa We Want (Agenda 2063); to be discussed in 6 sub-themes as follows:

Theme 1: Governments Support and enabling environments for Cooperatives

- Government support to cooperatives in challenging world
- Continental and financial institutions and cooperatives working environment

² <https://au.int/en/agenda2063/overview>

- Dealing with challenges facing cooperatives in the construction industry and other cooperative activities
- National, regional and interregional cooperative bodies and their potential in Africa's development.
- Cooperative joint projects (ventures) between African countries.
- Mutual benefits of international projects targeting the African continent.
- Use of technologies and digital transformation to enhance cooperative projects.

Theme 2: “Cooperation among cooperatives”: An integrated socio-economic development model

- Patterns of “cooperation among cooperatives” as an integrated development model.
- Mechanisms to enhance cooperatives roles in realizing Agenda 2063 & the SDGs2030.
- The role of cooperative financial institutions in achieving “cooperation among cooperatives” for accelerated continental development.
- Best practices and experiences in developing innovative construction systems and low- cost housing construction through “cooperation among cooperatives.”
- Addressing global ultimate challenges (COVID19, War, Value Chain...etc.) through cooperation among cooperatives

Theme 3: Cooperatives and Community Development

- The role of cooperative joint ventures in consolidating economic integration and socio-economic development among African countries.
- The effect of global changes on African cooperative projects.
- Stimulating social participation and empowerment through cooperatives.
- Transforming socioeconomic development through agricultural cooperatives.
- The role of cooperative education and training to create employment opportunities
- Achieving Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and development through locally adapted cooperative policies in line with Africa's land ownership patterns.

- Best practices and experiences from cooperatives (e.g., with low-income housing).
- The role of Worker Cooperatives in Community Development
- Strengthening Participation of Youth, Women and PWDs in Cooperative Development Agenda

Theme 4: Maximizing the benefits of the “African Continental Free Trade Agreement” (AFCFTA, 2019) through Cooperatives.

- The role and benefits for cooperatives in achieving AFCFTA’s goals in the global marketplace.
- Promoting the role of cooperatives among African countries in the AFCFTA to establish an African single market.
- The role of different cooperative sectors through exploring the best practices in this regard.
- The role of Cairo - Cape town Road (Pan-African Highway) in boosting intra-African trade among cooperatives

Theme 5: Legal and regulatory policy frameworks.

- Exchanging and developing legal, administrative frameworks, codes and regulations in accordance with each country’s regulations; legal, administrative, engineering, financial and cooperative conditions.
- International and regional commitment to certified charters relevant to improving, sharing and following- up the cooperative work and knowledge among cooperatives.
- The role of the "International Human Rights System" in building an integrated cooperative society.
- Necessity of policy and legislative reforms to keep abreast with the SDGs 2030 and Agenda 2063 requirements.
- Rethinking on model African cooperative development policy

Theme 6: Cooperatives and Climate Change

- The contribution of cooperatives in climate change adaptation

- The use of renewable energy sources in cooperative projects innovative approaches in planning and architecture to meet environmental needs and achieve sustainability.
- Urban and architectural design approaches in cooperatives to reduce energy consumption and participate in the Global efforts to combat climate change Environmental Impact Assessment of cooperative projects.
- Best practice and experiences of cooperatives.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The general objective of this conference is to bring government ministers & officials, cooperative leaders and other stakeholders into a forum to deliberate on how best cooperatives could continue to contribute to the growth of Africa particularly in the achievement of SDGs 2030 & African Agenda 2063.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of this conference are:

- To deliberate and suggest best environment under which African cooperatives can operate in attempts to maximize their contribution to the transformation of the lives of their members and realization of SDGs 2030 and Agenda 2063
- To discuss and recommend innovative and inclusive cooperative models pertinent to Africa's sustainable development
- To explore the nexus between cooperatives and community development
- To underline the opportunities and challenges created by the AFCFTA 2019 and means through which cooperatives can harness and address them, respectively.
- To delineate the role of cooperatives in addressing climate change and associated environmental issues.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The meeting is expected to have the following main outcomes:

- A creation of a network of co-operators and partnerships development through interactions prior and during the Conference.
- Best practices and lessons learned from the deliberations and resolutions on the

current and potential contribution of co-operatives in sustainable development.

- Actionable socio-economic policy and legislative proposals and follow-up actions for the relevant stakeholders on the overall context of co-operatives role in realization of SDGs 2030 and Agenda 2063.
- Enhanced cooperation amongst cooperatives through appropriate integrated cooperative models
- Best practices on the contribution /role of cooperatives in climate change