

# 16TH AFRICA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE REPORT



Abuja Continental Hotel  
Abuja, Nigeria  
14th-15th November 2023

## Acknowledgement

International Cooperative Alliance – Africa (ICA - Africa), on behalf of its Board of Directors and the Management would like to thank the Government of Nigeria through the Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security and ICA–Africa members in Kenya: CFN, NNPC, ODUK & FDC for hosting the 16<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly & Conference

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our distinguished speakers, paper presenters, session moderators and facilitators for their commendable work during the conference. Finally, we acknowledge the financial support from our sponsors that enabled us to carry out this event.

## Sponsors

# Thank You to Our Sponsors



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## Introduction

The ICA-Africa 16<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly & Conference was jointly organized by ICA-Africa and its members in Nigeria. The conference was held in Abuja, Nigeria from the 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at Abuja Continental Hotel. The Regional Assembly is held every two years and the conference theme of this year is: *“Cooperatives for a Sustainable Africa.”*

The Africa Regional Conference on Cooperatives aims to bring together key stakeholders, experts, practitioners, and policymakers from across Africa to explore the significant role of cooperatives in promoting sustainable development on the continent. This forum seeks to create a platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and innovative solutions to address Africa's socio-economic and environmental challenges through the cooperative movement. The specific objectives for this conference included:

- To identify ways cooperatives in Africa are fostering sustainable livelihood and development in Africa
- How cooperatives can promote peace and development for a sustainable Africa
- Evidence of fostering partnerships and collaborations between cooperatives, governments, civil society organizations, and international development agencies to support sustainable development in Africa

To help achieve these objectives, there was a thematic conference with a panel session and various paper presentations on the following sub-themes

- Exploration of how cooperatives in Africa contribute to the realization of sustainable livelihoods and development
- Innovative solutions by cooperatives to promote peace and development for a sustainable Africa
- Fostering partnerships and collaborations between cooperatives, governments, civil society organizations, and international development agencies to support sustainable development efforts in Africa

The conference saw a participation of 166 participants drawn from 13 countries. The countries represented at the conference were Botswana, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

The participants in the various sessions of the conference included government officials, cooperative leaders, cooperators, partners and other stakeholders.

## Opening Ceremony

### Remarks by the Regional Director of ICA-Africa – Dr. Chiyoge Sifa



She welcomed all in attendance and stated that the conference is not only to explore the transformative potential of cooperative initiatives but also to highlight the compelling works that cooperatives have done to demonstrate their impact in shaping a more sustainable development on the continent. Africa is still faced with a lot of challenges, with over 40% of the African

Population lived in extreme poverty as of 2021, according to the World Bank.

Notwithstanding, the continent has the potential to forge a new development path, harnessing the potential of its resources and people. Africa has rich natural & human resources, and the world's largest free trade area; a 1.3-billion-person market.

She stated that in the pursuit of sustainable development, we are continually reminded of the pressing need for innovative solutions that promote economic growth, social equity, and environmental stewardship. Cooperatives have emerged as a compelling force, addressing these challenges head-on and should seek to do even better.

She concluded that she hopes the conference will not only be a platform for knowledge exchange, but also a call to action. She also thanked the host country: the federal Government of Nigeria, the Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security, and ICA members in Nigeria for hosting the event

### Remarks by the Regional President of ICA-Africa – High Chief Oriyomi Ayeola

The ICA-Africa President expressed his special honor to welcome everyone to Abuja, Nigeria; his homeland. He reiterated that Africa, with its unparalleled natural resources and human potential is ripe for a new era of development and prosperity. An era in which unity, collaboration and shared efforts become the driving force behind our pursuit of a sustainable and self-sufficient continent.

He stated that cooperative development should not only be considered an instrument for realizing national social objectives, but also as



an instrument for poverty alleviation and fulfilling economic objectives. The movement is keen in participating and playing a bigger role in projects geared towards a sustainable Africa. This participation has to be “spontaneous” and sometimes has to take place outside the confines of rigid bureaucratic structures.

He concluded that together, we can forge a path towards a sustainable Africa where cooperatives play a pivotal role in a brighter future for all. The collaborative spirit of cooperatives should be capitalized on.

### **Remarks by the President of ICA – Dr. Ariel Guarco**

**Dr. Guarco** sends his warmest cooperative greetings to the Regional Board, distinguished guests and all delegates present. He said exchanging views and proposals during the conference will strengthen regional ties and help to promote a sustainable future in Africa and beyond. He said there is great potential in Africa based on the great diversity, trajectory and working



capacity of millions of cooperators. He has experienced the human warmth of the continent and seen the cooperative principles and values been put into action.

He mentioned that the world is faced with serious challenges, but the answers can be found in each community, nation and region. He urges the African cooperative movement to redouble its efforts and continue building sustainably.

He concluded that the cooperative model is ready to serve those who want to join together to meet their needs in an associative, democratic and supportive way. Hence the cooperative paradigm should be strengthened regionally and at a global scale. ICA will continue to support this push. The delegates were wished fruitful deliberations.

### **Remarks by the Guest of Honor – Barr. Caleb Muftwang; Governor of Plateau State**

Chief D. G Mwantok, Coordinator, Plateau State Liaison represented His Excellency Barr.



Muftwang and was thrilled to welcome delegates to Nigeria on behalf of the Plateau Governor and thanked the organizers for the important invite. He stated that cooperative societies in the world have a very robust history dating back as far as the early 17<sup>th</sup> century where there was scarcity of resources including labor; this practice continued to evolve and was adopted by the

international cooperative alliance in 1937 based on records and for Nigeria, first introduced in 1926. He explained that cooperatives have evolved over the years and that the importance of cooperatives cannot be over emphasized.

He stated that the cooperative approach is an available tool for government and also for organizations at all levels for wealth creation and distribution. Government can resort to cooperative societies for interventions and policy disseminations.

He announced that Barr. Mutfwang is poised to providing the enabling environment for cooperatives to thrive in plateau state by providing the right framework for the operation of the cooperative societies to create more wealth thereby eliminating extreme poverty. He said his state has one of the most organized cooperative society in Nigeria, saying, citing the Jos University Teaching Hospital and the university as a very robust cooperative society that is contributing very well to the economy of the state.

He urged African governments to provide enabling environment for cooperative societies to thrive as their survival will deliver economic dividends to the continent. The enormous benefits of cooperative societies can form pedestal for development in Africa.

He wished participants a successful conference and a pleasant stay in Nigeria.

### **Regional Conference:**

#### **Panel Session on Innovative Solutions by Cooperatives to promote sustainable development**

**Moderator: Mr. Peter Ashade**

**Panelists: Mr. Koffy Kouacou** (FAOR ad Interim in Nigeria, and Coordinator of the Food and Agriculture (FAO) Resilience Team for West Africa and the Sahel), **Mr. Ezra Wango** (Project Coordinator TERRE SANS FRONTIERS), **Ms. Aicha Errifaai** (General Director of Cooperation Development Office; Morocco) **and Mr. Oladipo Olanrewaju Shobule Esq.** (President, Lagos State Cooperative Federation).



**Mr. Ashade** gave a brief summary to the conference theme and highlighted the importance of cooperatives in promoting sustainable development in Africa.

He reiterated that solutions for Africa, should come from Africa and that solutions emanate from challenges. With 2025 being declared by the UN as the Year of the Cooperatives, he mentioned that this is an opportunity for cooperatives to make a strong statement with providing solutions to the world's problems.

The panel discussion was around five (5) key questions as follows:

- What challenges and obstacles do cooperatives face in their efforts to promote sustainable development?
- What are some of the solutions to these challenges and examples of cross-sectoral collaborations between cooperatives, governments, and other stakeholders that have led to innovative solutions for addressing sustainable development
- Are there specific policies, incentives, or regulatory changes that could further support cooperative initiatives aimed at sustainable development?
- In what ways can cooperative businesses foster the above solutions that directly address the Sustainable Development ?
- How can cooperatives effectively communicate their efforts and impact to the wider public and stakeholders to garner support and recognition for their work?

**Mrs. Aicha Errifaai** reiterated that cooperatives constitute a fundamental pillar in the economies of many countries around the world, representing as a core driver for comprehensive and sustainable development in societies. With regard sustainable development, she stated that cooperatives can serve to attain at least twelve of the SDGs: end poverty, gender equality, quality education & lifelong learning, ensure healthy lives, food security & good nutrition, access to water & sanitation, sustainable energy, create jobs & sustainable livelihoods, good governance, stable & peaceful societies, and create a global enabling environment.

She explained some of the challenges faced by cooperatives to include: financial constraints, regulatory & legal barriers, climate change & environmental challenges, limited access to markets, inequality & inclusivity.



For solutions she suggested financial support from governments and development organizations will allow cooperatives to thrive. Financial support can also come from International Financial Institutions (IFIs). She said countries should adopt updated and cooperative-friendly laws and regulations; the proposed model law on cooperatives would be a useful guide.

Cooperatives should implement climate-resilient practices and invest in renewable energy; in Morocco as an example, solar pumping and drip irrigation has brought positive changes to operations. Cooperatives should collaborate with trade associations, and governments can facilitate market access and fair-trade agreements to ensure better prices for cooperative products. Lastly, cooperatives should implement policies that promote inclusivity, gender equality, and representation of marginalized groups in their leadership and decision-making processes.





**Oladipo Shobule Esq.** listed some of the challenges facing cooperatives in Nigeria include: infrastructure problem, access to funds, problem of mismanagement and lack of the prerequisite education. He suggested some solutions for access to funds: government can set up a Cooperative Development Fund, the movement and relative stakeholders should work towards the establishment of a Cooperative Bank and cooperatives should partner with other financial institutions like mortgage banks. On solving the infrastructure and mismanagement problem, the regulatory bodies should help to ease this issue. He advocated for a uniform ministry to supervise cooperatives across the country.

Going forward, cooperatives should make themselves more visible and collaborate with policy makers. They should advocate for an enabling environment and partner with fair trade organizations especially for agriculture cooperatives.

**Mr. Kouacou** stated the four root causes cooperatives should address to become stronger; their structure, how they are organized, access for credit, fund & market, and strategically positioning themselves.



Cooperatives can borrow the FAO approach of Integrative Business Model; in which data guides and dictates policies. Cooperatives should also be able to anticipate situations. The movement should coordinate within each other and with other strategic players; cooperatives should not work in silos. They should be champions of livelihood and peacebuilding activities.

Going forward, cooperatives should continue to promote the participation of youth and women in the movement, and should have concrete actions. There should be more advocacy, knowledge sharing, networking and collaboration.

He concluded by advocating for a three-pronged approach: Social – Technical – Financial Approach.

**Mr. Ezra** addressed the challenges of governance in cooperatives, lack of a succession plan and inadequate cooperation among cooperatives.

He advised the movement to capitalize on networking and marketing to improve the image of cooperatives.

Cooperatives should also improve their technology uptake if they want to make more inroads in available markets. There should be significant investment in education, training and innovation. Relevant research studies should be conducted and the findings well disseminated to the target audience.



Lastly, he encourage the establishment of management systems to help address governance gaps. Cooperatives should be systematic and embrace unity in diversity.

### **Paper Session 1: Exploration of how cooperatives in Africa contribute to the realization of sustainable livelihoods and development**

**Mr. Solomon Atsiaya Okiria** CEO, Kenya National Police SACCO presented that



cooperatives can contribute to the realization of sustainable livelihoods and development if they are competitive and effective. To maintain a competitive position in the market place, a firm must have a long-range plan.

Operations strategy is a long range plan for the operations function that specifies the design and use of resources to support the business strategy.

His paper focus was on Operations Strategy and Firm-level Competitiveness among SACCOs in Africa : Kenya as case study.

With increasing liberalization of the African economies, SACCOs have grown to occupy a significant portion of the financial industry. SACCOs play an important role in increasing financial access in Africa.

Survival and success in these times demand new perspectives on strategy and competitiveness. Expanding global competition, rapidly changing markets and technology, and increasing complexity and uncertainty are creating new competitive environments in Africa which demands high quality and reliability, timely delivery, enhanced customer service, rapid new product introduction, flexible systems, and efficient capital deployment, and cost reduction, to effectively compete in the market.

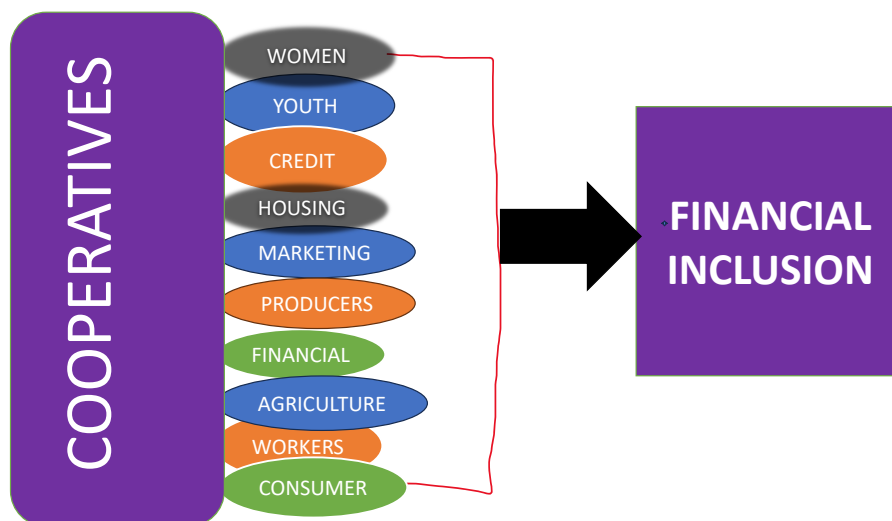
He concluded that with increasing competition, SACCOs must develop operations strategies that can enable them achieve competitive priorities. Competitive priorities denote a strategic

emphasis on developing certain firm capabilities that may enhance organizational position in the marketplace. Emphasis should be placed on competitive priorities such as quality, cost, flexibility, and delivery to achieve, develop and maintain the competitive advantage. The paper findings also confirmed that there is a positive relationship between operations strategy and firm-level competitiveness.

**Dr. Olugbenga Olusanjo** President, Federal Medical Centre Abeokuta United Staff Cooperative Multipurpose Society Limited presented on how cooperatives stimulate financial inclusion, with Nigeria as the case study. He stated that financial inclusion is a strategy for achieving inclusive growth, a part of a broader concept called inclusive development. According to the World Bank, financial inclusion means making essential financial services, such as savings, credit, insurance, and payment services, accessible to individuals and businesses in an environmentally sound and responsible manner.



## COOPERATIVES AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION



The cooperative model aligns closely with the principles of financial inclusion. The model is a promising approach to bridge the gap between the unbanked population and the formal financial sector. He mentioned that cooperatives have a rich history of promoting economic self-sufficiency and social solidarity across diverse sectors which gives cooperatives an advantage.

According to data from the *Enhancing Financial Innovation & Access* (EFInA 2020), 36% of Nigerian adults are still completely financially excluded. Women make up a significant portion

of the financially excluded population, with only 45% of them using formal financial services compared to 56% of men. According to the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in May 2023, the financial inclusion in Nigeria in 2023 stands at 64%.

He concluded that to address this issue, cooperatives should:

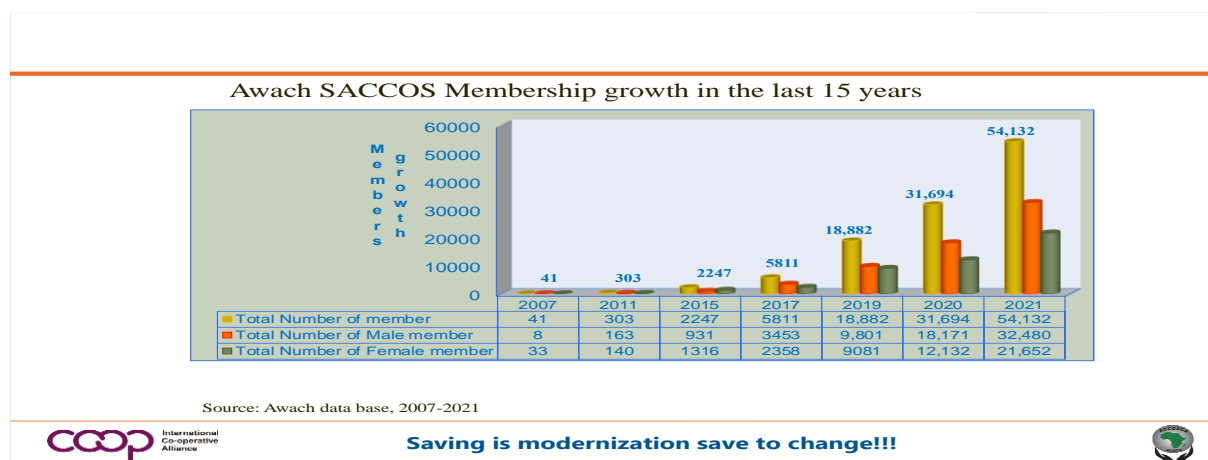
- Tailor their services to meet specific needs
- Emphasize on participatory decision-making
- Engage in mutual assistance and community development
- Mobilize local resources through savings products
- Serve remote rural areas

The study recommends the establishment of cooperative banks in Nigeria to effectively drive financial inclusion in the country.

**Mrs. Ruth Damtachew** Team Head Research, Marketing and International Relation of AWACH Saving and Credit Cooperative Society, presented on the contribution of AWACH to the livelihood of its beneficiaries, financial cooperative sectors development and socio-economic development of Ethiopia for the last 15 years.



She stated that AWACH is a leading cooperative in development & social initiatives and like other African countries, Ethiopia has witnessed significant improvements in how people manage their savings and avail loans for productive purposes through means of cooperative association.



One of the key economic contribution of AWACH is saving mobilization and financial capital formation. Awach SACCOS has mobilize more than Birr 2.5 Billion through various saving products and created huge capital, which has been used for issuing of loan to improve socio-

economic status of members. Both voluntary and regular savings are catered for and by December 2021, 37.2% were female borrowers.

Social contributions of AWACH include: Financial inclusion, Concern for Community/Corporate social responsibility, Loans for social service, Women empowerment, Education, training and information.

Contribution of Awach for Financial Cooperative Sector Development include: State-of-the-art-technology adoption and International & National cooperation.

She concluded that SACCOS like Awach should be supported and scale-up to make available financial service for all group of the community and to bring considerable change in the society livelihood as well as national economy



**Dr. Adebosin Gbadebo** Deputy Provost, Academics, Lagos State Cooperative College, presented on cooperatives effect on economic growth : case study of Lagos West. He started by stating that cooperative societies can arise in every sector of the economy where there is a perceived need and readiness to collaborate. Cooperative societies are a real growth engine in most developing nations, notably Africa, since

they are consistent with the African social structure, which is based on collectivity, community level, and a collaborative approach to problem resolution.

He mentioned that the findings show that economic growth has a very weak positive correlation with interest rate and savings while it has a weak negative correlation with educational training and education. Also, it has a weak positive correlation with regulatory quality index and an extremely weak positive correlation with corruption index.

He concluded that stakeholders should continue to support and strengthen the cooperative movement as an essential tool for empowering communities and driving sustainable economic growth.

## **Paper Session 2: Innovative solutions by Cooperatives to facilitate and address issues affecting sustainable development**

**Dr. Jibrin Gowon** Chief consultant pathologist at the Nigeria Medical Association, presented a case for cooperators's health as a determinant of sustainable development of cooperatives in Africa.

He stated that cooperative development aspirations and



objectives are achieved by healthy member of the cooperative.

Therefore, he encouraged the cooperative movement to embrace better kind of lifestyles and to be engaged in health solutions to the community.

**Mr. Otinwa Olanrewaju** Secretary at the Ogun State Cooperative Federation (Remo Branch), as an innovative solution to promoting youth engagement and social integration presented on digital and other ways cooperatives can operate.

He stated that the Cooperative-from-home model is an innovative approach to managing cooperatives, where the primary activities, such as meetings and financial transactions, are conducted in a non-physical digital online environment.



The youth constitutes a significant demographic in many countries, especially in Africa. For context, 25 African countries, i.e., half of the continent, have the youngest median ages globally. In Nigeria for example, youths aged 15-39 represent roughly 40% of the population (Institute of Security Studies, 2023).

He mentioned that the high number of youths on the African continent underscores the urgency for constructive youth engagement, particularly when addressing issues like insecurity, unrest, underdevelopment, and poverty in Africa

### ***Youth Engagement***

Youth engagement takes on various forms, reflecting the diversity of young people's involvement in society.



**Mr. Mike Oke** presented on the use of technical advancement in achieving financial inclusion and the general operation of cooperatives. He stated that cooperative members, need to uphold the founding principles of self-help, self-reliance, democracy, equality,



equity, and solidarity as well as the moral principles of openness, honesty, and compassion for others.

He explained that the cooperative society needs a simple generated technology that will advance some aspects of the cooperative management, administration, financial disciplines smooth running of the society in which some of the data base of the cooperative society can get enhanced and developed. Cooperative societies have to develop strategy and look inward to see on how to use the different available technology to transact cooperative activity, accounting systems and encourage all members to key into all forms of technology platforms, to conduct businesses.

**Dr. Mathias Nkuhi** Senior academic at the Department of Law, Moshi Cooperative University, presented on Unleashing the Potentials of Cooperatives in Peacebuilding.

He stated that cooperatives are duty bound to contribute to peacebuilding as it is a prerequisite of the concern for community principle. Cooperatives are better placed in addressing violent conflicts as well as contributing to positive peace through social, economic, and cultural interventions. They are rightly underlined, in the UN Agenda 2030, as part of the private sector enterprises that can contribute to realization of SDGs including SDG No. 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.



However, he said the African cooperative movement lags in preventing and addressing conflicts likely to occur or resulting from communities socio-economic as well as political needs. The ICA Africa adoption of the Positive Peace Declaration in Kigali Rwanda stood as an important starting point, though it remains unknown to majority of the movement in the continent. Furthermore, the Africa Cooperative Development Strategy (ACDS) 2023-2033 seals the enterprise roles on conflicts and peacebuilding and underlines the ICA-Africa objectives in promoting and strengthening the Cooperative Movement in the region. Amongst the objectives and crucial to the present discussion is the ultimate objective of contributing to Africa's peace and security.

He concluded that for the smooth realization of the concern for community principle, there should be focus on cooperative interventions in peacebuilding, creation of conducive policy and legal environment in addition to what government and other stakeholders may support, the deliberate self-reservation of funds for roles in peacebuilding.

### **Paper Session 3: Fostering partnerships and collaborations between cooperatives, governments, civil society, and international development agencies to bolster sustainable development efforts in Africa**

**Ms. Tindi Sitati** Program Officer USAID CLEAR Program, Global Communities Kenya



presented the worker cooperative model and its potential to significantly contribute to local economic development. Additionally, she gave highlights on how development programming can be designed to lay the groundwork for a market systems approach as a catalyst for enhancing worker cooperatives development.

She stated that the worker cooperative model seeks to address the challenges of youth unemployment, poor business skills & performance, and inadequate market support for startups. Africa possesses the world's youngest population, with a median age of 19.7 years, presenting both potential and challenges for development (UNECA, 2017). The issue of youth unemployment threatens the modest developmental achievements of African Union (AU) member states, especially in regions like Southern Africa, where high unemployment rates, reaching approximately 51% for young women and 43% for young males, have been reported (ILO, 2022). Projections from UNDESA's World Youth Report indicate a continuous growth of the youth cohort in sub-Saharan Africa, potentially representing almost 30% of the world's youth by 2050. This demographic reality underscores the urgent need to address youth unemployment and precarious work, which elevate the risk of poverty.

Recognizing the need for innovative solutions, Cooperative Leadership Engagement Advocacy and Research (CLEAR) program in Kenya, implemented by Global Communities (GC), has been laying the groundwork since 2018 for a market systems approach to advance the worker cooperative model as a solution to youth unemployment. According to USAID, the market systems implementation approach is firmly rooted in the principles of facilitation, co-creation, co-investment, and co-implementation of interventions all of which involve local system actors who play a pivotal role in shaping and influencing the performance of the system



## The Worker Cooperative Business Model

Worker cooperatives are businesses owned and controlled by the workers, characterized by:



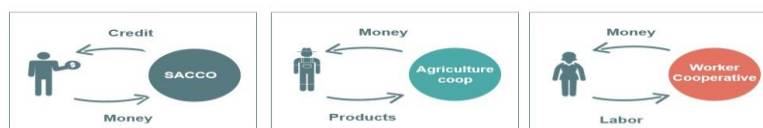
**Ownership**



**Benefit**



**Control**



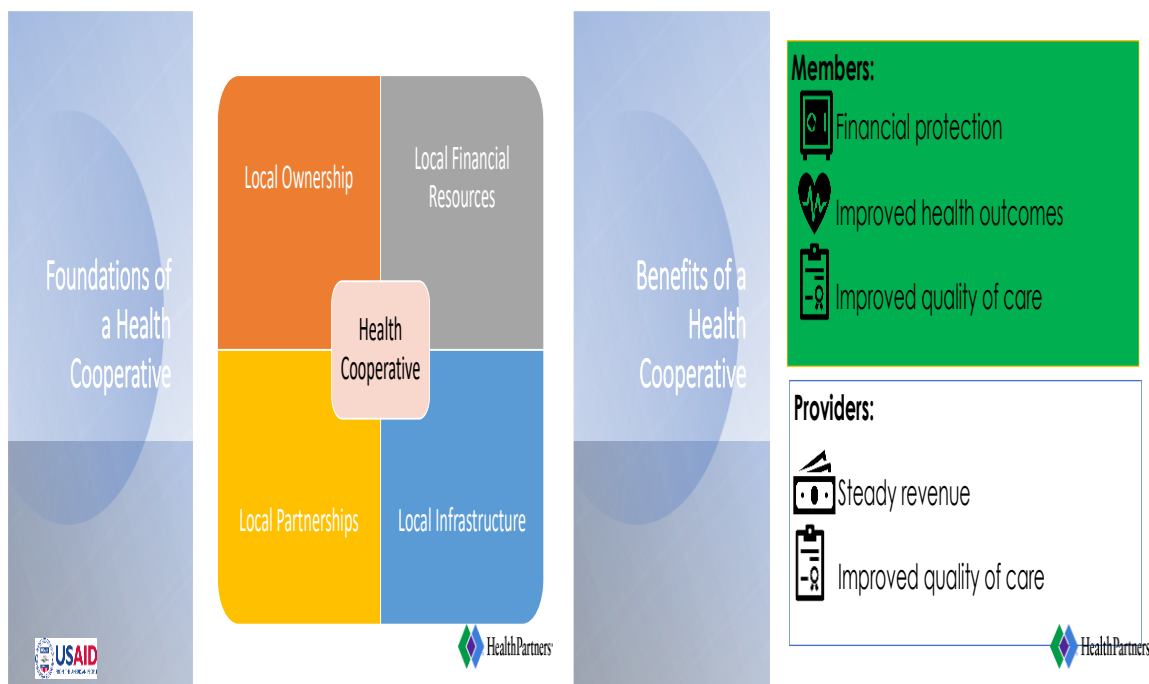
She recommended that to advance worker cooperatives, there needs to be:

- A shift by development partners from a delivery-focused to a facilitative role, emphasizing systemic change and local stakeholder empowerment.
- Address both formal regulations and informal norms, including gender norms and contractual systems impacting production and market outcomes.
- Incorporate monitoring approaches that capture systemic changes and develop tools for measuring worker cooperatives performance.



**Ms. Britt Cruz** Deputy Director of International Development, Health Partners presented on leveraging the cooperative sector to advance Universal Health Coverage. She stated that despite the global commitment to expansion of health coverage, its attainment remains out of reach for a variety of reasons – one of which is the challenge of covering the informal sector. In Africa, where nearly 83 percent of employment is informal, the lack of coverage is particularly consequential.

She explained the need for collaboration between governments, international development agencies, and cooperatives that mobilize resources and develop funding mechanisms to overcome the challenge of covering the informal sector.



as savings, credit, insurance, and payment services, accessible to individuals and businesses in an environmentally sound and responsible manner.

She concluded that, given the vast cooperative network across Africa where 40 percent of all households are members of a cooperative society, these cooperative and partnership-based solutions can help overcome the challenge of providing health coverage. She recommended to include exploring the possibility of leveraging cooperatives – either by linking existing cooperatives to a social health insurance scheme or by launching locally-managed health cooperatives – to move the continent closer to its stated goals of universal health coverage and sustainable development.

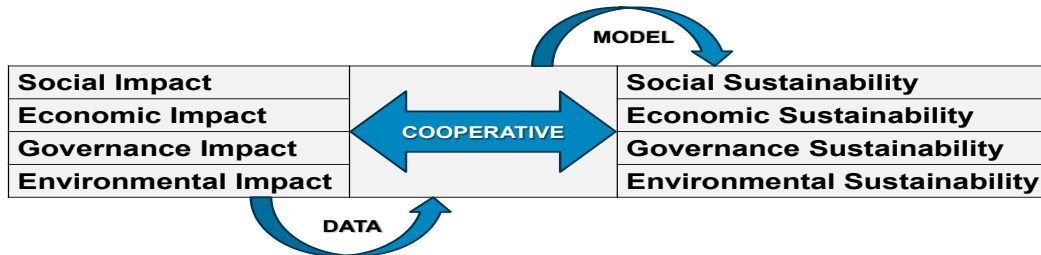
**Mr. Peter Ashade** Group Chief Executive Officer of United Capital Plc, presented a case for harnessing cooperatives growth in Africa through data and measurement.

He stated that cooperatives have crucial roles to play in sustainable development, poverty reduction, and creating inclusive societies and growth in Africa. However, for there to be meaningful impact on the African economy, cooperatives must first experience quantitative and qualitative growth. The quantitative growth areas include; technology, assets & capital accumulation, and membership growth. The qualitative growth areas include; improved governance & management, training and economic impact.

It is important for cooperatives to resolve the issue of data paucity for effective determination of actual contributions of the cooperatives to the growth of their respective economies. Addressing this data vacuum is essential for harnessing the full potential of cooperatives in Africa as so far, efforts to advocate for and support cooperative growth face challenges in the absence of concrete data, making it difficult to convince policymakers, governments, and stakeholders of their vital role in the region.

### The Hypothesis: Concrete Data Illuminates Cooperative Contribution

The hypothesis being put forward is that the production of concrete data will beam light on cooperatives' contributions and prove to decision makers across Africa, once and for all the socio-economic impact of cooperatives in the development of respective economies.



When cooperative data and measurement become clear, it will highlight the economic, social, and political influence of cooperatives, making it easier for them to advocate for their agendas with governments and partners.

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He recommended (i) Conducting cooperative enumeration should be a priority as this exercise would give insight into the depth of cooperative activity in Africa and (ii) Encouraging Management Information System adoption as this will address the need to improve management systems and stakeholder relationships.

### The Way Forward

In conclusion, data is the linchpin that can unlock the true potential of cooperatives in Africa, aligning their social, economic, and environmental impact with the interests of leaders and decision-makers, and ultimately fostering sustainable growth and development.



**Data's Role in Cooperative Practice:** Data is used for different purposes in cooperative practice. These purposes include Planning, Monitoring and assessment, and Event management and intervention amongst others.



**The Importance of Making Leaders and Decision Makers Cooperative Loyalists:** Emphasizing the need of leaders and decision-makers to embrace the cooperative model in wealth allocation and policy enactment is paramount.



**The Need to Address Data Paucity in Africa:** It is possible and important to have data about cooperatives in Africa, it would give insight into what specific needs there are by geography. it would also form a basis for trend analysis and prescription of conduct.



**Implementing Appropriate Technology for Data Needs in the Cooperative Eco-System in Africa:** Appropriate technology must be implemented to address data need of the cooperative eco-system in Africa.



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## Closing Ceremony

**Prof. Alfred Sife** read the Communique which was moved for adoption by Comrade Labaran of CFN and seconded by Mr. Mike Duru of ZINAHCO. In the Communique, commitment was made to encourage all stakeholders to redouble their efforts to work towards realizing the Sustainable Development 2023 as well as the Africa Agenda 2063 that calls for “A Prosperous Africa Based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development”



Closing remarks were given by: Chairperson Local Organizing Committee – **Mrs. Hannatu Meshak**, Regional Director ICA-Africa **Dr. Chiyoge Sifa** and President ICA-Africa **High Chief Ayeola Oriyomi**.

## **Annex**

- (i) Presentations & Speeches

<https://bit.ly/3GjwVKl>

- (ii) Communique

<https://bit.ly/40ThFxf>

- (iii) Photos

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjB49HW>

- (iv) Evaluation Form

<https://forms.gle/APUEjz9ok7atv1De9>