14TH AFRICA MINISTERIAL COOPERATIVE CONFERENCE (AMCCO 2025) CONFERENCE REPORT

6th –9th OCT 2025

NAIROBI, KENYA

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

International Year of Cooperatives 2025
Cooperatives Build a Better World

Acknowledgement

The International Cooperative Alliance – Africa (ICA-Africa), on behalf of its Board of Directors and Management, extends its sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Kenya, through the Ministry of Co-operatives and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development, for graciously hosting the 14th Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference (AMCCO) in Nairobi, Kenya.

We also express our heartfelt gratitude to all Ministers and representatives responsible for cooperative development, ICA-Africa members, and development partners whose active participation contributed to the success of this event. Special thanks go to our distinguished speakers, panelists, session moderators, and facilitators for their invaluable insights and contributions that enriched the conference discussions.

Finally, we acknowledge with appreciation the financial support from our sponsors whose contributions made this conference a success.

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Our Vision:
A hub for people's socio-economic transformation.

Our Mission:
To promote adynamic and inclusive cooperative movement through shared resources.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In pursuit of stronger collaboration between African governments and the cooperative movement, the International Cooperative Alliance–Africa (ICA-Africa) established the Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference (AMCCO) in 1984. AMCCO serves as a high-level forum that brings together government representatives and cooperative leaders to engage in dialogue, share experiences, and chart a common course for advancing cooperative development across the continent.

Held after every three years, the Conference provides an opportunity to review progress made in implementing the Cooperative Development Agenda within member countries. Its discussions focus on key areas such as creating an enabling policy and regulatory environment, fostering institutional growth, and enhancing the contribution of cooperatives to national and regional development priorities. The overarching objective of AMCCO is to offer a platform for policymakers, both in government and within the cooperative movement to assess achievements, identify challenges, and define strategic directions for sustainable cooperative development in Africa.

Preceding AMCCO is the Technical Committee of the Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference (TCAMCCO), an annual ICA-Africa forum that convenes cooperative leaders, policymakers, and technocrats. TCAMCCO functions as a preparatory and consultative platform where participants deliberate on emerging issues affecting cooperatives in Africa and propose actionable recommendations for ministerial consideration.

The 14th Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference was convened under the theme “From Commitment to Action: Leveraging Global, Regional, and Local Partnerships for Sustainable Cooperative Development in Africa.” The Conference attracted over 500 participants, including ministers and senior government officials responsible for cooperative development from over 30 countries in Africa, Europe and Asia Pacific region these countries include: Kenya, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Senegal, The Gambia, South Africa, Botswana, South Sudan, Mozambique, Uganda, Lesotho, Mauritius, Togo, Liberia, Morocco, Egypt, Rwanda, Belgium, Angola, Cameroon, Brazil, Côte d’Ivoire, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, South Korea, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, the United Kingdom, Benin and others, highlighting the Conference’s broad international engagement.

1.1 PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

7 Cooperative Principles Run/Walk:
A vibrant morning of movement, learning, and networking through seven interactive cooperative principle stops.

ADR Training & Design Dash
Participants gained hands-on skills in peaceful dispute resolution and co-designed innovative solutions to real cooperative challenges using human-centered design.

Regional Dialogue of Cooperative Development Organizations (CDOs)
CDOs across Africa joined in meaningful dialogue to strengthen collaboration and drive transformative cooperative growth.

Ahead of the official opening of the 14th AMCCO, participants took part in engaging pre-conference activities designed to spark collaboration, innovation, and practical learning. The 7 Cooperative Principles Run/Walk brought together attendees for a lively morning of walking, jogging, and networking through interactive stations representing each of the 7 cooperative principles. This was followed by the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Training & Design Dash, where participants explored effective conflict-resolution practices and applied human-centered design techniques to co-create solutions to real cooperative challenges. In addition, the Regional Dialogue of Cooperative Development Organizations (CDOs) convened key stakeholders to reflect on strengthening partnerships, addressing sector challenges, and advancing inclusive cooperative development across Africa. Reports from these sessions are available in the annex.

2.0 OPENING CEREMONY

In readiness for the opening ceremony, the Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Johnson Mwakazi, guided participants through conversations centered on the theme of AMCCO 2025, exploring its spirit, shared expectations, and collective vision for the cooperative movement in Africa.

The dialogue brought forth key reflections on empowering youth, strengthening cooperatives across the continent, enhancing access to tailored financial and social products for women and young people, expanding cooperative membership, and championing the unifying call of “One Africa, One Cooperative.” Participants also emphasized the importance of continuous learning and the exchange of experiences as a foundation for sustainable growth. The atmosphere grew even more anticipatory with the arrival of Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Oparanya, EGH, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Cooperatives and MSMEs Development.

Moderated by the Principal Secretary, State Department for Cooperative Development in the Ministry of Cooperatives and MSMEs Development in Kenya, Hon Patrick Kilemi CBS welcomed and acknowledged representatives from across the countries present. He Then invited the chief guest, Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Oparanya, EGH, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Cooperatives and MSMEs Development to deliver his keynote address and to open the forum.

Keynote speeches

Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Oparanya, EGH Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Cooperatives and MSMEs Development

In his opening speech, the Cabinet Secretary Dr. Wycliffe Oparanya welcomed delegates to Kenya and highlighted the significance of the conference theme: transforming commitments into concrete actions through strengthened global, regional, and local partnerships. He reflected on Kenya's longstanding leadership in cooperative development, rooted in the principles of African Socialism and supported by progressive policies and legislation that have shaped one of Africa's most dynamic cooperative sectors.

Dr. Oparanya emphasized the vital role cooperatives continue to play across Africa in addressing socio-economic challenges through inclusive, community-driven solutions. He underscored their values of democracy, equity, and solidarity, noting that cooperatives are uniquely positioned to tackle issues such as unemployment, poverty, and climate-related vulnerabilities. As the continent moves toward deeper integration through initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Area, he stressed the growing importance of strategic partnerships both within Africa and globally to accelerate investments, strengthen financial systems, and ensure that growth benefits underserved communities.

He commended the International Cooperative Alliance–Africa (ICA-Africa) for advancing inclusion, equity, and sustainable development through the cooperative model, rooted in the African spirit of ubuntu. Addressing continental challenges like poverty, unemployment, and climate change, he emphasized that cooperatives offer practical solutions.

Looking ahead, the Cabinet Secretary urged African nations to harness the momentum of the celebrations of the Second International Year of Cooperatives in 2025 by adopting supportive policies, harmonizing regulatory frameworks, and investing in leadership, education, and institutional capacity. He commended the efforts that yielded the Cooperative Model Law for Africa as a tool for strengthening governance and alignment of the Cooperative business model across the continent. He encouraged delegates to forge partnerships that will position cooperatives as catalysts of innovation, sustainability, and shared prosperity. He then declared the conference officially open.

Mr. Jeroen Douglas, Director General of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA

Jeoren Douglas took the stage and started by extending an invitation to government and leaders present to the upcoming 2nd World Social Summit (3rd– 4th November, Doha, Qatar), an event convened by the United Nations and allied stakeholders, thirty years after the first summit in Copenhagen. The summit responds to widening global inequality, exclusion, and regression in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals following the COVID-19 pandemic. Held amid a challenging geopolitical climate marked by renewed market-driven and reactionary policy trends, WSSD2 presents both risks and significant opportunities. While social rights and social justice are under pressure worldwide, the summit offers a critical platform to reaffirm and strengthen the global social development agenda. By mobilizing civil society, trade unions, academia, and progressive political actors, WSSD2 has the potential to reassert social justice as a central pillar of sustainable development and to foster collective action toward a more equitable global order.

He then provided an overview of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), noting that it represents 320 cooperatives from 120 countries across key sectors such as retail, housing, finance, agriculture, and insurance. He encouraged African cooperatives to join ICA to strengthen its impact and achieve the “One Africa, One Cooperative” vision. He reiterated ICA’s commitment to a growth-focused, future-proof strategy for the Cooperatives as encapsulated in its strategy; ICA 2026–2030 Strategy: Practice, Promote and Protect.

High Chief Oriyomi Ayeola, President of ICA-Africa

High Chief Ayeola Oriyomi, in his speech, emphasized the urgency of the theme, “From Commitment to Action,” and called for a shift from pledges to measurable implementation. He highlighted the vital role cooperatives already play across Africa in addressing food security, employment, financial inclusion, and social cohesion. To build on this momentum, he stressed that partnerships at global, regional, and local levels must translate into concrete policies, stronger institutions, and governance systems that embed cooperatives into national development strategies.

He underscored the broader global challenges of climate change, geopolitical tensions, inequality, and lingering pandemic impacts that make strategic investment in health, education, energy, technology, and infrastructure essential. Chief Oriyomi stressed that Africa must be a co-creator of solutions, not merely a beneficiary, pointing to the promise of South–South cooperation and digital innovation. He also highlighted the transformative potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), calling for harmonized cooperative legislation and recognition across borders to unlock cooperative-driven intra-African trade.

A central focus of the speech was the empowerment of Africa’s youth and women, whom he described as indispensable to the future of the cooperative movement. He argued that cooperatives can offer ownership, agency, and opportunity for young people, while ensuring women have equal access to leadership and resources. Chief Oriyomi concluded with a call for the conference to be a turning point; committing not just to dialogue but to actionable steps that strengthen cooperatives as engines of inclusive growth, sustainable development, and shared prosperity across the continent.

Video messages from Dr. Ariel Enrique Guarco, ICA Global President, and Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Under-Secretary-General and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, were presented during the session.

In his opening remarks, ICA President Ariel Guarco reaffirmed ICA's strong support for the conference theme, which emphasizes mobilizing local, regional, and global alliances toward a sustainable future. He highlighted the significance of the UN-declared International Year of Cooperatives 2025 as the culmination of years of collective work and noted that Africa has played a major role in helping achieve this recognition. He encouraged participants to keep the momentum going beyond 2025 to accelerate progress toward achieving the SDGs. He emphasized that cooperatives need supportive laws and systems in place to reach their full potential, and reminded participants that cooperatives have a long history of creating positive change and improving lives. He called for deeper integration of Africa's 250 million cooperative members as part of a global movement of over one billion people, asserting that goals such as decent work, food security, financial inclusion, and gender equity can only be achieved through cooperation (video of remarks shown at the conference).

In her address, Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Under-Secretary-General and Director-General of the United Nations Office, emphasized that cooperatives must remain people-centered, urging governments to recognize them as strategic partners in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. She further called on development partners to align their financial and technical support toward strengthening and expanding cooperative growth across the continent.

In her opening remarks, Hon. Therese Faye (Senegal), Chairperson of the Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs, of the Pan African Parliament (PAP) highlighted the mandate of the Pan African Parliament as an organ of the African Union established to ensure full participation of African peoples in governance, integration, and development processes of the continent. Its core mandate is to provide a platform for dialogue, consultation, and collective decision-making among the people of Africa through their elected representatives.

She noted that PAP offers recommendations, opinions, and advisory reports to African Union organs on issues related to governance, democracy, human rights, economic integration, and development, Drafting, adopting, and promoting Model Laws to guide harmonization of national legislation across AU Member States, thereby advancing continental integration, Support in oversight of AU policies, programs, and budget implementation to ensure transparency, accountability, and good governance across the Union and finally promote African unity, cooperation, and integration through public participation, civic engagement, and representation of citizens' voices at the continental level. Ultimately, PAP's long-term goal is to evolve from an advisory body into a legislative institution with full law-making powers; enhancing democratic governance and ensuring that African citizens have a central role in shaping the continent's future noting that Hon. Oparanya was one of the pioneer members of the Committee of Monetary and Financial Affairs for the PAP when it was started.

In her conclusion, she alluded to the Africa Cooperative Model Law that PAP has facilitated its completion and that the soft law will be launched during this important gathering.

2.1 Handing Over Ceremony of the Chairmanship of the Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference (AMCCO) to Kenya.

The ceremony featured the outgoing Chair, the Hon. Minister of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities of the Arab Republic of Egypt; represented by the Chairman of the CHC, Major General Eng. Waleed Farouk Elbaroudi who presented the milestones achieved during their tenure and pledged their support to the new chair before formally handing over by presenting the instruments of power to AMCCO Chairmanship to Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Oparanya, EGH, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Cooperatives and MSMEs Development. In his acceptance address, delivered on behalf of the Government of Kenya, Dr. Oparanya expressed profound gratitude for the confidence bestowed upon Kenya and reaffirmed the nation's commitment to advancing Africa's cooperative agenda.

He commended the exemplary leadership of the outgoing Chair, particularly Egypt's pivotal role in spearheading the development of the Africa Cooperative Model Law an instrumental framework designed to harmonize cooperative legislation across the continent. Dr. Oparanya reiterated Kenya's dedication to sustaining the momentum achieved and strengthening the foundations of cooperative growth and integration.

Outlining his priorities for the AMCCO Chairmanship, Dr.Oparanya emphasized the urgent need to champion the domestication of the Africa Cooperative Model Law, transition from declarations to concrete action through robust policies, and foster impactful partnerships. He pledged close collaboration with ICA-Africa to expand membership and implement the 14th AMCCO Nairobi Declaration. Additionally, he underscored the importance of advancing cooperative education, empowering youth and women, and enhancing cooperative competitiveness and market access within the AfCFTA framework.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Oparanya affirmed that the AMCCO Chairmanship is a solemn call to service, stewardship, and collaboration. He highlighted the transformative power of cooperatives in driving inclusive economic growth, resilience, and social progress across Africa, and urged all governments, partners, and cooperative stakeholders to unite in moving the cooperative movement from commitment to action and from vision to measurable impact.

3.0 COUNTRY MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The session was dedicated for present ministers and representatives of ministers from African countries to present their ministerial statements.

Republic of Senegal: The Hon Minister Dr Alioune DIONE highlighted the critical role of cooperatives in fostering inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development across Africa. He expressed gratitude to the Government of Kenya and the International Cooperative Alliance-Africa for their leadership and support, emphasizing that the 2025 International Year of Cooperatives is a call to move beyond declarations toward tangible results, including decent employment, sustainable incomes, accessible basic services, and participatory governance. Cooperatives, he noted, combine economic efficiency with social solidarity, strengthen local communities, and position people at the center of development strategies.
The minister outlined Senegal's ambitious approach to embedding the socialand solidarity economy (ESS) at the core of national growth.

This includes legal and institutional reforms, the creation of a dedicated Ministry and national council for ESS, a national cooperative registry, local incubation structures, and innovative financial mechanisms to support microfinance institutions and cooperative enterprises. Concrete achievements were highlighted, such as the launch of nearly 600 Coopératives Productives Solidaires (CPS) in six months, initiatives in agriculture, artisanal production, and green energy, as well as a national digital platform to monitor cooperative activity and ensure transparency, governance, and accountability. Looking ahead, Senegal's model aligns with broader African objectives, including the African Decennial Strategy on ESS, the ICA-Africa Strategic Plan, and the African Union's Model Cooperative Law. On Cooperatives, the country advocates for integrating cooperatives into the AfCFTA, establishing an African Cooperative Development Fund, and creating a continental center of excellence for ESS and cooperative innovation. The minister concluded with a strong message that Africa seeks cooperative partnerships, not aid, and reaffirmed Senegal's commitment to translating the Nairobi Declaration into measurable actions. He emphasized that the continent's future is cooperative, inclusive, and rooted in solidarity.

Republic of Zimbabwe; Hon. Monica Mutsvangwa, Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, highlighted the role of Cooperatives in Zimbabwe. In Zimbabwe, cooperatives play a central role in improving livelihoods and driving agricultural growth, with Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCOs) serving as key instruments for financial inclusion and economic empowerment. These cooperatives facilitate access to credit, enable resource pooling, and strengthen collective bargaining, particularly benefiting smallholder farmers and rural communities. By fostering cooperative-led agricultural initiatives, Zimbabwe has been able to enhance food security, improve income generation, and support local entrepreneurship, positioning cooperatives as vital engines of sustainable development.

The Government of Zimbabwe actively supports this progress through targeted interventions, including funding for women's groups, SMEs, and cooperatives, as well as offering free collateral loans with special emphasis on women-led enterprises. Community development funds further reinforce local initiatives, while training programs at universities and sector-specific seminars build skills and enhance productivity. Digitization initiatives, such as the use of Starlink for connectivity, along with structured cooperative dispute resolution mechanisms, have improved operational efficiency and transparency. These efforts collectively strengthen the cooperative ecosystem, promote inclusive growth, and ensure that cooperatives remain a cornerstone of Zimbabwe's economic and social development.

Federal Republic of Nigeria: Hon State Minister; Senator Dr. Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi CON, expressed his profound gratitude to the Government of Kenya and the International Cooperative Alliance-Africa for their hospitality and leadership. He highlighted the alignment of the conference theme, "From Commitment to Action," with Nigeria's national Renewed Hope Agenda, which positions cooperatives as key drivers of inclusive growth, job creation, food security, and sustainable development. The Senator emphasized Nigeria's commitment to translating policy into action through targeted reforms in the cooperative sector.

Central to Nigeria's strategy is the Renewed Hope Cooperative Reform and Revamp Programme (RH-CRRP), built on four pillars: governance and regulatory overhaul to enhance transparency and accountability; strategic financing and credit access, including the Cooperative Relief Fund and proposed Cooperative Bank of Nigeria; digital transformation via the National Cooperative Smart Registries to improve market access; and inclusive capacity building with a focus on empowering youth, women, and persons with disabilities. These initiatives aim to modernize Nigeria's cooperatives and position them as engines of economic and social transformation.

Senator Abdullahi concluded with a call for continental collaboration, urging harmonization of cooperative standards, creation of pan-African financing mechanisms, and sharing of best practices to strengthen the cooperative movement across Africa. He stressed that success would be measured by tangible results that empower communities, enhance productivity, and anchor Africa's place in the global economy. Nigeria remains committed to both contributing to and learning from the broader African cooperative agenda, underscoring the shared vision of an inclusive, resilient, and modern cooperative sector across the continent.

Uganda, the Minister for Cooperatives Hon. Fredrick Gume Ngobi noted that Uganda has recorded substantial progress in strengthening its cooperative sector. With an estimated 15 million Ugandans now registered under cooperatives, the country is experiencing one of the most significant expansions of cooperative membership in the region. This growth reflects increasing public trust in cooperatives as platforms for financial inclusion, community development, and economic empowerment; particularly in rural areas where formal financial services remain limited. The cooperative movement has also demonstrated strong capacity for mobilizing savings, building share capital, and fostering local economic participation, reinforcing its role as a pillar of Uganda's development agenda.

Despite these strides, Uganda continues to confront structural challenges. A central concern is the absence of a dedicated Cooperative Bank, which limits access to affordable and appropriate financing tailored to cooperative needs. Commercial financial institutions frequently overlook grassroots economic actors, leaving cooperatives without adequate credit, liquidity support, or investment capital. Additionally, governance gaps, limited technical capacity, and uneven regulatory enforcement still hinder the full professionalization and modernization of the sector. These constraints underscore the need for sustained institutional reforms and stronger support mechanisms.

Hon Ngobi asserted that expanding cooperative membership base offers a strong foundation for scaling financial services, deepening community-driven development, and enhancing local value chains. Strengthening cooperative education, digitizing operations, and improving access to finance, alongside renewed government commitment to revive a Cooperative Bank, could unlock greater economic resilience and productivity.

The Gambia- represented Hon. Dr. Demba Sabally, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Security; expressed his gratitude to the Government of Kenya for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation and conveyed the greetings of the President of the Republic of The Gambia. He noted that the 14th AMCCO provides an important opportunity to assess progress since the 13th AMCCO held in Egypt. Although The Gambia did not participate in the Cairo meeting, the country fully aligned itself with the Cairo Declaration. He emphasized that the Ministry of Agriculture has since made significant strides toward its implementation, including transforming the Agriculture Business Unit into a full-fledged Department of Cooperative Development. With support from FAO, The Gambia developed its National Cooperative Development Policy (2021–2030), a framework designed to revitalize the cooperative sector. Through the African Development Bank, a new agriculture financing instrument has been crafted to de-risk lending and enhance financial access for cooperatives.

The Minister reaffirmed the essential role cooperatives play in advancing social, economic, and environmental sustainability, noting that Africa is poised to become a major frontier for trade. In this regard, he highlighted the strategic importance of the AfCFTA in positioning countries like The Gambia to fully leverage emerging continental opportunities. He also referenced ongoing government interventions to strengthen the cooperative sector and concluded by announcing that the World Bank will support the establishment of a cooperative registry. This registry will feed into national statistics and enable more effective planning and development across the cooperative ecosystem.

Botswana- Represented by the assistant minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship Hon. Baratiwa Mathoothe highlighted Botswana strong political commitment to positioning cooperatives as central drivers of national transformation. Following the country's newly renewed mandate for inclusive development, the government has placed cooperatives at the heart of the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP), recognizing them as engines for job creation, economic diversification, and community empowerment.

Reforms currently underway include: the review of the Cooperative Societies Act, efforts to harmonize regulatory frameworks, and expansion of cooperative education to reflect Botswana's determination to build a modern, resilient, and competitive cooperative sector aligned with Vision 2036 and continental commitments such as the AMCCO Cairo Declaration of 2022. At the operational level, Botswana has made significant investments in strengthening the enabling environment for cooperative growth. hese include leadership training, targeted empowerment programmes for women, youth, and marginalized groups, tailored financing through CEDA, and infrastructure support in rural areas.

The government is also deepening partnerships with development agencies and local authorities to expand access to resources, capacity building, and market opportunities. Additionally, Botswana is equipping its cooperatives to participate meaningfully in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) through specialized training, trade-readiness initiatives, and exposure to regional business networks. Digitalization efforts such as the cooperative e-registration platform, sector surveys, and data-driven policy development further signal its shift toward a modern cooperative ecosystem.

Looking ahead, Botswana sees regional integration and cooperative values as essential pillars of its strategy. Plans to establish an ICA-Africa Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa reflect its ambition to contribute to continental cooperative leadership and strengthen cross-border collaboration. The government also emphasizes governance integrity, transparency, and member participation as the ethical foundation of cooperative development. Overall, Botswana presents a clear narrative of progress, challenges, and opportunity driven by strong political will, structured reforms, and a cohesive vision to ensure that cooperatives remain a powerful instrument for sustainable and inclusive socio-economic transformation.

Republic of South Africa- Hon. Deputy Minister Jane Sithole expressed her deep appreciation to the Government and people of Kenya for their warm hospitality, noting that it was a privilege for South Africa to participate in the 14th AMCCO at a time when the continent continues to confront persistent inequalities. She affirmed that Africa remains the proud home of vibrant cooperative traditions, which have long served as engines of inclusive growth and instruments of community resilience. The Deputy Minister emphasized the urgent need to move beyond fragmented, isolated projects and instead strengthen cooperatives as structured, sustainable, and community-owned enterprises capable of transforming livelihoods. She underscored that cooperatives must not be viewed as passive recipients of aid, but as equal development partners with the capacity to drive socio-economic change, especially among marginalized groups.

Hon. Sithole highlighted several efforts underway in South Africa to reinforce the cooperative ecosystem, including procurement policies that deliberately integrate cooperatives into public supply chains, thereby expanding their market access and enabling them to scale. She called for enhanced regional and cross-border collaboration to support cooperative aggregation, improve competitiveness, and foster continental value chains aligned with the opportunities of the AfCFTA.

To propel this vision, she stressed the need to establish continental standards, including quality-assurance and certification frameworks, that will allow African cooperative products to compete globally. She concluded by noting that the robust deliberations at AMCCO renew Africa's collective commitment to deepening cooperative development and accelerating the continent's journey toward shared prosperity.

South Sudan- The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. Lilly Albino Akol, expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity to participate in AMCCO, emphasizing its value in shaping strategies to strengthen the cooperative movement and in celebrating the progress made across the continent. She highlighted that the Ministry places strong importance on the role of cooperatives in advancing socio-economic development through mobilizing communities, supporting regulatory processes, and fostering inclusive growth. She further noted that the upcoming National Cooperative Development Strategy will create a more favorable environment for cooperatives to thrive, enabling them to generate employment, increase household incomes, and benefit communities through education, training, and capacity-building.

Hon. Akol reaffirmed South Sudan's commitment to the continental cooperative agenda, as reflected in the strides made since the Cairo Declaration of 2022. She underscored the country's ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperative development policies and legal frameworks, advance cooperative digitalization, improve access to markets, and foster strategic partnerships. These priorities, she noted, will be essential in empowering cooperatives to become catalysts of resilience, food security, and sustainable economic transformation in South Sudan. She concluded by acknowledging ICA-Africa for participating in the South Sudan International Cooperative Day celebrations and the National Forum on Cooperatives.

Mozambique- Hon. Custodia Paunde, Secretary of State of Industry from Ministry of Economy highlighted Mozambique progress in strengthening the cooperative sector since the 13th AMCCO and the Cairo Declaration of 2022. The country reaffirmed the centrality of its General Cooperative Law (Law No. 23/2009), which enshrines cooperative principles such as autonomy, democratic governance, and mutualism. Mozambique has also aligned its cooperative framework with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), publishing tariff concessions and implementing a national strategy to facilitate intra-African trade, particularly for cooperative enterprises. These steps provide legal clarity and market predictability, positioning cooperatives to participate effectively in regional value chains.

Despite these achievements, Mozambique faces ongoing challenges, including incomplete operational regulations, absence of a specialized fiscal regime for cooperatives, limited structured national programs for youth and women in cooperatives, and insufficiently targeted financing mechanisms. The government has made strides in promoting cooperative education, partnerships with civil society, digital transformation initiatives, and green and blue economy projects, but the sector still requires strengthened governance, capacity building, and dedicated digital and financial tools to fully leverage opportunities.

Looking ahead to 2028, Mozambique prioritizes three strategic actions: fully operationalizing the General Cooperative Law with a dedicated fiscal framework; establishing national cooperative training programs with explicit targets for youth and women; and deploying innovative financing and digital platforms to enhance market access, competitiveness, and climate resilience. By addressing these gaps, Mozambique aims to transform cooperatives into a robust engine of inclusive socio-economic development, integrating legal, financial, digital, and environmental dimensions while maximizing the benefits of intra-African trade and sustainable practices.

Togo - representing the minister; Chief Promotion De l'Entrepreuriat Agricole Hon M. Akakpo Mawuli asserted Togo's strong commitment to positioning cooperatives as engines of inclusive economic growth, in line with Africa's collective ambition to move from commitment to action was emphasized. With a resilient economy, strategic geographic location, and a dynamic agricultural sector engaging 70% of the population, Togo has embraced a national vision that recognizes cooperatives as central to food security, value-addition, and rural livelihoods. The government has established a robust architecture for cooperative development; formalizing thousands of cooperatives, strengthening agricultural value chains, and deploying flagship instruments such as the **Programme de Modernisation de l'Agriculture Togolaise (ProMAT)**, **the Agence de Transformation Agricole (ATA)**, and **the Direction de l'Entrepreneuriat et du Financement Agricole (DEFA)** to drive modernization, access to inputs, contract farming, and agribusiness scaling.

In keeping with the Cairo declaration of 2022, Togo's emphasis on financing, digitalization, and enabling environments has expanded innovative financing mechanisms that de-risk agricultural lending and support cooperative entrepreneurship. Regional and international partnerships including programmes such as ProMIFA, PRIMA, FSRP, and collaborations with GIZ are enabling cooperatives to access guarantees, matching grants, modern production technologies, and business development services. The country's cooperative financial sector is also highly structured, with extensive credit unions and microfinance networks serving millions of members, demonstrating how decentralized finance strengthens inclusion, resilience, and community-driven development. These interventions reflect Togo's commitment to creating empowered and competitive cooperatives capable of participating meaningfully in intra-African trade under the AfCFTA.

Looking forward, Togo echoed the Nairobi AMCCO vision by presenting clear priorities to accelerate cooperative transformation. These include adopting a new agricultural orientation law, establishing a national cooperative agency, and creating a comprehensive national registry to ensure transparency, data-driven planning, and better governance. The government also plans to restructure key agricultural cooperatives based on African best practices and enhance technical support systems so cooperatives can capture value across diverse sectors. Togo reaffirmed its readiness to learn, share, and collaborate with African partners in the continental spirit of solidarity.

Kingdom of Morocco - Representing the minister at the 14th African Ministerial Cooperative Conference (AMCCO) in Nairobi, Directrice Générale de l'office du Développement de la Coopération Madam Aicha Errifaai, Morocco showcased Morocco's significant progress in strengthening the cooperative sector, particularly through the implementation of Law No. 112-12. This legal framework modernizes Morocco's cooperative system by promoting good governance, transparency, and the active inclusion of youth and women, reflecting the country's strategic commitment to building a robust and equitable cooperative environment. Morocco reaffirmed its dedication to advancing a strong, inclusive, and sustainable African cooperative movement. By engaging with regional partners and African counterparts, the country emphasized its commitment to digitalization, harmonization of cooperative legislation, and the integration of African cooperatives within the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Morocco's participation underscores its ongoing leadership in shaping cooperative development on the continent, guided by the vision of His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

Kingdom of Lesotho- Delivered by the Commissioner for Cooperative Development Mr. Mokheseng Notsi noted that the Kingdom of Lesotho is firmly committed to fostering cooperative development by establishing strong foundational frameworks and a level playing field for cooperatives. Key initiatives include providing member education and technical support, safeguarding members' rights and obligations, and offering free conflict resolution and arbitration services to streamline disputes outside conventional court processes. The government recognizes the critical role cooperatives play in socio-economic and political development, integrating them into the National Strategic Development Plan II to support private-sector-led growth, enhance financial inclusion and literacy, and expand access to clean energy and electricity in remote rural areas through cooperative-led solar initiatives.

Lesotho further supports youth and school cooperatives to instill cooperative values early and ensure the sustainability of the sector. To strengthen cooperative operations, the government is facilitating the development of a Cooperative Development Fund to provide liquidity management, market access, deposit and loan guarantees, and capacity-building support. Additionally, Lesotho is progressing toward separate legislation for financial cooperatives to enhance the protection of member and cooperative assets, strengthen sector self-regulation, and complement the government's broader cooperative development initiatives.

Egypt- Egypt presented a comprehensive overview of its national action plan to strengthen the cooperative sector, emphasizing key reforms in policy and legal frameworks designed to create a more enabling environment for cooperative growth. The government has taken deliberate steps to support cooperative expansion by allocating land to cooperatives at significantly discounted prices, thereby lowering entry barriers, particularly for housing and agricultural cooperatives. In addition, Egypt has invested heavily in capacity-building programs to equip cooperative members with the technical, managerial, and governance skills needed to manage cooperative enterprises sustainably. To enhance access to finance, the government has established strong partnerships with national banks aimed at providing affordable and tailored financial products for cooperatives.

Finally, the speaker highlighted its ongoing efforts to position cooperatives to benefit from regional and international free trade agreements, including those under the AfCFTA framework. These initiatives are aimed at improving market access, stimulating cross-border business opportunities, and increasing the export readiness of cooperative enterprises. Egypt also underscored its commitment to advancing green cooperation, promoting environmentally responsible cooperative models, and integrating sustainability principles into cooperative operations. This approach aligns with the country's broader vision of fostering resilient, inclusive, and climate-conscious economic development.

Benin; represented by Mr. Arnaud Dogbe, Technical Advisor for Cooperatives within the Ministry of Agriculture, who highlighted the major reforms undertaken in the agricultural sector since the government assumed office in 2016. One of the most significant reforms involved land management, where the country was divided into zones with dedicated areas earmarked for agricultural development and allocated to cooperatives. This restructuring was accompanied by targeted efforts to develop strategic value chains, including the fish industry. To strengthen coordination, every administrative department in Benin now works directly with organized groups of cooperatives to ensure alignment with national development priorities.

Mr. Dogbe noted that the government administers structured questionnaires to cooperatives to assess their activities, challenges, and specific needs, enabling more responsive and tailored support. Benin is actively seeking strategic partners to enhance cooperative development and has introduced a digital platform to centralize cooperative data, improving transparency and visibility of cooperative operations nationwide. Additionally, the government is restructuring cooperatives from the grassroots to the national level, while engaging professional bodies to establish clear operational standards that promote value addition and strengthen producer cooperatives across the country.

Liberia; Madam. Lwopu Kandakai Registrar General of Cooperatives Extended thanks and appreciation to ICA-Africa for accepting Liberia into ICA membership. She highlighted the lasting impacts of the civil war, noting that the cooperative movement is being rebuilt from the ground up. Liberia is revising the very old Cooperative Act of 1936; the revised act has been completed and is ready for submission to the President, followed by the House of Parliament.

Efforts are being intensified to raise cooperative awareness and training, with a focus on emphasizing the principles of cooperatives. Plans are also underway to organize a women's alliance for cooperatives. Liberia is collaborating with international NGOs and development partners, including IFAD, FAO, UNDP, and the World Bank, to support these initiatives.

Rwanda: Represented by Director General Mr. Francis Kamanzi, Rwanda was described as a “land of a thousand hills.” Cooperatives operate across multiple sectors, including agriculture, mining, services, financial services, and security. An assessment identified around 10,000 cooperatives, some of which were dormant, leaving approximately 5,000 active cooperatives.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry serves as the parent ministry, with support from the Ministries of Agriculture, Health, and Security. Cooperatives play a significant role in job creation and gender empowerment, with women and youth actively engaged; gender equality is emphasized nationally, with 50% of parliamentarians being women.

Rwanda is embracing digital solutions to manage cooperatives, including digital awareness initiatives in rural areas to facilitate access to finance and other services. Cooperative laws are aligned with the country’s national transformation policy, ensuring a supportive legal and policy environment.

Mauritius- Presented by the Registrar of Cooperative Development Mrs. Geeta Anita Beegoo noted that Mauritius is an island nation known for its cultural diversity and economic transformation. The country has evolved into an upper-middle-income economy through political stability, strong institutions, and diversification beyond its historical sugar-cane dependence. Within this national context, the cooperative movement of over a century old, plays a vital role in economic and social development. Today, more than 1,100 active cooperative societies operate across 25 socio-economic sectors, including agriculture, fisheries, transport, handicrafts, and especially credit unions, which have become among the most dynamic segments.

The Government of Mauritius recognizes cooperatives as essential partners in democratizing the economy, reducing inequality, and promoting inclusive growth. Through a dedicated Ministry for Cooperatives, the country has implemented policies, legislation, and capacity-building measures to modernize and strengthen the sector. This includes amendments to the Co-operatives Act introducing a robust AML/CFT framework, the establishment of the National Cooperative College for continuous training, and a suite of government grant schemes that support food security, green initiatives, digitalization, and innovation. Regulatory oversight, good governance, data systems, and visibility initiatives further reinforce sector credibility and sustainability.

Mauritius also aligns cooperative development with national priorities such as digital transformation, climate resilience, and integration into the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). By improving digital tools and online services, supporting sustainable and climate-friendly practices, promoting research and knowledge-sharing, and preparing cooperatives for expanded regional markets, the government aims to enhance competitiveness and long-term resilience. These efforts are complemented by ongoing reforms that promote transparency, democratic management, and professionalization across the cooperative structure.

Looking ahead, Mauritius is committed to translating continental commitments into practical action by empowering youth and women in cooperatives, fostering innovation in emerging sectors, and strengthening value-chain participation. As the country prepares for the next Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference in 2028, it reiterates that cooperatives are not only economic entities but also agents of social justice and sustainable development. Through deeper partnerships, modernized frameworks, and shared learning across Africa, Mauritius aims to contribute to a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous cooperative ecosystem for the continent.

4.0 STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL COOPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT IN AFRICA

The session explored how a strong and cohesive cooperative environment can unlock Africa's full potential. Conversations centered on creating structures that foster inclusivity, good governance, and sustainable growth within the cooperative ecosystem. Participants highlighted the importance of collaboration, innovation, and policy alignment as key enablers of regional transformation.

The discussions painted a picture of a dynamic and opportunity-rich future for Africa and beyond— one guided by a clear framework for development and regional uniformity. A strong cooperative system was seen as vital for improving governance by ensuring the inclusion of youth and women in leadership, while promoting harmony, transparency, and collective progress across the continent. Participants also emphasized that strengthening the cooperative movement not only enhances productivity and food security but also drives employment creation and empowers youth.Moreover, the inclusivity of the private and public sectors, alongside women, youth, and marginalized groups, was recognized as essential to building a resilient and people-centered cooperative landscape in Africa.

5.0 PARALLEL SESSIONS

During the AMCCO, parallel group discussions were conducted to facilitate interactive engagement among participants and to explore key thematic areas in cooperative development across Africa. Recognizing the diversity of experiences, sectors, and challenges represented by member states, the parallel group format allowed participants to delve deeply into specific issues, share practical experiences, and collectively identify solutions.

The parallel group discussions focused on thematic topics mainly:

- Unlocking Cooperative Finance and Market Access Through Regional Integration
- Sealing Impact Through Partnerships in Agriculture, Health, Consumer, Housing, and Worker Cooperatives
- Digital Innovations and Cooperative Education Partnerships for Future-ready Cooperatives

Across the event, each panel discussion attracted an average of 50 to 60 participants. Attendees were given the opportunity to select and join the panel that aligned most closely with their interests, resulting in highly engaged and interactive sessions.

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5.1 Unlocking Cooperative Finance and Market Access through Regional Integration panel discussion

The first thematic session, "Unlocking Cooperative Finance and Market Access Through Regional Integration," was moderated by Vincent Marangu, Director, Banking Division, Cooperative Bank of Kenya and featured four panellists Mr. Kurt Moors, General Coordinator CERA, CPA David Sandagi Ag. CEO, SASRA, Abbey Ogunwale- Founder and CEO Defined Impact Group and Ms. Mary Mwiti, CEO, Council of Governors.

The discussions centered on several key questions, with each panelist sharing insights and experiences drawn from their work in cooperative development.

Regarding the challenges cooperatives face in accessing finance, the panelists observed that weak governance structures continue to erode investor confidence, while cooperatives with strong and accountable committees are better positioned to attract financing opportunities. They further noted that limited and poorly managed data not only hinders cooperative growth but also exposes them to external competition, particularly when valuable information is shared with outside investors. Additional constraints include high borrowing rates that make bank loans unattractive, low savings culture among members, and persistent trust issues within some cooperative systems. Panelists therefore encouraged financial institutions to extend more credit facilities tailored to cooperative needs.

The discussion also underscored the importance of stronger legal frameworks and inclusive policies that protect and empower all members. The panelists called for targeted incentives such as tax reliefs and deposit protection mechanisms to safeguard members' savings and strengthen financial stability within cooperatives. In addition, they stressed the need to expand access to credit and promote investment opportunities, including participation in bond markets.

Capacity building was highlighted as a critical requirement for improving the sector's performance. Strengthening members' and leaders' understanding of cooperative laws, rules, values, and business planning and management is essential for enhancing governance, financial performance, and institutional resilience. Ultimately, these improvements will bolster cooperatives' ability to attract both internal and external financing.

The panelists outlined several major barriers affecting cooperatives' ability to access both local and international markets. Weak organizational capacity and poor governance practices, market information gaps, understanding market requirement, adherence with national, regional and international market standards, lack of reliable traceability systems, often resulting from inadequate data management at the producer level as key constraints that reduce cooperatives' competitiveness in wider markets. They noted the need to foster stronger cooperative-to-corporate partnerships and build trusted networks that can support long-term business relationships. In addition, removing existing trade barriers is essential to facilitate smoother and more efficient cross-border transactions among cooperatives across the region.

In summary, the panel highlighted governance gaps, poor data management, and weak legal frameworks as major challenges limiting cooperative growth. Strengthening institutional capacity, building trust, improving data utilization, and establishing supportive policies were identified as essential steps for unlocking cooperative finance and expanding regional market access.

5.2 Scaling Impact Through Partnerships in Agriculture, Health, Consumer, Housing, Worker Cooperatives panel discussions

The thematic session, “Scaling Impact through partnerships in agriculture, health, consumer housing and worker Cooperative,” was moderated by Ms. Nancy Wanjiku, We Effect program manager and featured four panellists Sara Vicari, Cooperative Development Expert at FAO NENA Regional; Stijn van Geel Regional Manager East Africa, Agriterra. Dr. Annastazia Nyalita, CEC Nairobi County Mike Duru, President ZINAHCO, Dr. Dan Atuwaire Kagaha KAMACOS-Uganda, Ms. Madeleine Müller, Project Director DGRV Kenya and CEO German Kenyan Cooperative Development. The discussions centered on several key questions, with each panelist sharing insights and experiences drawn from their work in cooperative development.

The discussion emphasized that cooperatives can significantly enhance their impact and sustainability by leveraging strategic partnerships. Such collaborations open access to new markets, strengthen service delivery, and stimulate overall growth. Partnerships were noted to improve agricultural productivity by providing farmers with quality inputs, supporting knowledge sharing and digitization—such as the use of digital platforms in avocado value chains—and expanding cooperative market access. They also play a vital role in enhancing food security through more efficient production and distribution systems, enabling cooperatives to participate in policy dialogue and fostering stronger community bonds.

Looking ahead, participants highlighted the need for effective cooperative regulation and supervision to sustain these partnerships, as well as the role of collaborations in breaking barriers to cooperative formation. Partnerships can also empower consumer cooperatives to secure better terms for their members, improve access to credit, and contribute to job creation, particularly for youth.
Priority areas for strengthening cooperative partnerships include developing regional collaboration platforms, establishing a continental committee for worker cooperatives, promoting open-door policies that encourage engagement, increasing cooperative visibility, and ensuring that partnerships empower cooperatives to lead their own development. Harnessing Africa’s diverse resources was underscored as an opportunity for innovation and long-term cooperative growth.

5.3 Digital Innovations and Cooperative Education Partnerships for Future-ready Cooperatives

The thematic session, “Digital Innovations and Cooperative Education Partnerships for Future-ready Cooperatives” was moderated by Prof. Wycliffe Oboka- Associate Professor, Department of Community and Development and Environment Management and featured four panellists Prof. Isaac Nyamongo – Cooperative University of Kenya, Roeland Monasch, CEO, Aflatoun International Sboniso Madlopha, Vice President, Operations JA Africa and Solomon Angutsa Atsiaya, Kenya Police SACCO.

The panel discussed how digital transformation and educational collaboration can strengthen cooperatives to remain competitive, sustainable, and adaptable in the modern economy. They emphasized that digital tools could help attract new members while motivating existing ones to participate more actively in cooperative activities.

The panelists highlighted that digitalization enhances cooperative competitiveness at local, regional, and global levels. Digital transformation was noted to simplify logistics, improve communication between cooperatives and their members, and expand access to timely information. One panelist shared school cooperative model in the Eswatini country implemented by Junior Achievement Africa and other stakeholders including SACCO, government and school to promote financial education and leadership skills at young age. He explained that integrating cooperatives into school systems equips learners with financial literacy and responsibility in collaboration with SACCO and the Government. Through the school-cooperative model, students access financial services such as bank cards and mobile money, which has drawn public interest and media coverage. Inter-cooperative collaboration in sharing digital innovations further promotes empowerment and knowledge exchange, particularly among youth.

The speakers also explained that building sustainable digital innovations requires strategic partnerships, sound financial planning, and long-term collaboration with national cooperative bodies. Developing relevant technology tools is essential to strengthening the broader cooperative ecosystem.

In discussing the best training models, the panelists emphasized the importance of accessible and impactful cooperative education. They advocated demand-driven curricula and effective training delivery methods, including continuous learning, refresher sessions, coaching and mentorship, peer-to-peer exchanges, and study tours. They stressed that training programs must be inclusive, practical, relevant, and adaptable to emerging challenges. Key elements include providing both digital and in-person training, conducting regular needs assessments, and incorporating monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure impact. Flexibility and responsiveness to member needs were identified as essential for sustained cooperative growth.

Panelists also noted that cooperatives can collaborate with technology firms to enhance members' digital skills, unlock new opportunities for innovation, and reinforce cooperatives' roles in safeguarding livelihoods, fostering social dialogue, and ensuring member representation in the evolving digital economy. As the session concluded, the panelists recommended that successful cooperatives are those that integrate technology with human development, aligning innovation with people-centered growth.

6.0 Plenary session on Cross-Cutting Dialogue Through Strategic Partnerships

The thematic session, “Cross-Cutting Dialogue Through Strategic Partnerships” was moderated by Dorothy Kipsang, Global Advisor for Sustainable Livelihoods, We Effect, Department of Community and Development and Environment Management and featured four Ms. Madeleine Müller, Project Director DGRV Kenya and CEO German Kenyan Cooperative Development, Stijn van Geel Regional Manager East Africa, Agriterra, Joseph Njuguna- Director of policy at International Cooperative Alliance / COPAC committee member, Frederic Wanyama, and CoopStart project , Nicolas Demers-Labrousse - Country Director, SOCODEVI Ghana, Ms Lilian Ndinda- National Coordinator at ILO -Kenya, Francesca Ottolenghi - Chair of ICADP – International Cooperative Alliance.

The session emphasized the vital role development partners play in strengthening the sustainability and resilience of the cooperative movement in Africa, aligning with Agenda 2063, the SDGs, and the theme “From Commitment to Action for Africa’s Rise.”

Professor Wanyama presented findings from a recent CoopStar study covering 20 African countries, revealing major growth in the cooperative sector: the number of cooperatives has increased from 151,851 in 2005 to 433,910 in 2023, and membership has increased from 29,326,000 to 118,255,498 respectively in 2005 to 2023. He highlighted the expanding contributions of cooperatives to socio-economic development. He added that the movement is growing, and new types of cooperatives have emerged such as worker-owned cooperatives beyond the marketing/agricultural/financial. The cooperatives have ventured into new sectors like renewable energy, waste management, apiculture, environmental conservation, manufacturing, micro-insurance, building construction, mining, transport, handicraft, etc. He emphasized on the importance of research in generating knowledge and data in design evidence-based policies, strategies and programs for sustainable growth of cooperative movement in Africa.

Mr. Joseph, one of the panelists, emphasized that the CoopStar project is a valuable tool for generating reliable and up-to-date cooperative data. Such data is essential for informing program design, strengthening advocacy, improving policies, and guiding strategic interventions. He noted that COPAC members—including the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), the International Trade Centre (ITC), and the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) have expressed strong interest in investing in cooperatives to enhance their contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. UN DESA is already piloting related initiatives in Tanzania, Botswana, and Malawi.

Development partners emphasized that for cooperatives to grow sustainably and remain resilient, they must be built on strong, well-supported foundations. This begins with ensuring access to essential extension services, appropriate infrastructure, continuous capacity-building, and strong market and financial linkages. Many emerging cooperatives still lack these fundamentals, limiting their ability to operate effectively and deliver meaningful value to their members.

They further highlighted that transforming the cooperative movement requires targeted and strategic interventions. These include strengthening governance and leadership, promoting value addition across different value chains, enhancing financial literacy, and advancing climate-smart agricultural practices. Inclusive value chain development ensuring active participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups, was noted as equally important for equitable growth.

A key message from the development of partners was the central role of partnerships and collaboration among cooperative stakeholders. They underscored that cooperation between governments, cooperative apex bodies, private sector actors, technology providers, and development agencies is critical for creating a supportive ecosystem. Such collaboration enables shared learning, coordinated investments, harmonized policy advocacy, and joint implementation of scalable solutions.
The cooperatives can better drive their own development, enhance productivity, strengthen market competitiveness, and significantly improve members' livelihoods while contributing to national, regional, and global development goals through these combined efforts, strong internal foundations, targeted external support, and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Overall, the session concluded that the transformative potential of African cooperatives can only be realized through coordinated support among stakeholders, evidence-based planning, and the adoption of inclusive and context-appropriate innovations. Strong strategic partnerships and collaborations among governments, development partners, cooperative apex bodies, private sector actors, and research institutions were emphasized as critical for strengthening cooperative foundations, expanding market and financial opportunities, and ensuring long-term sustainability and impact.

6.1 Regional Technical Cooperative Development Committee Meeting

A meeting of Cooperative Technocrats was held alongside the cooperative development programs in Africa, providing a platform for technical experts to draft the Nairobi AMCCO Declaration in preparation for its endorsement by the Honourable Ministers. The finalized version of the Declaration is annexed to this report.

6.2 Launching of the Africa Cooperative Model Law

Presiding over the session, Hon. Therese Faye (Senegal), Chairperson of the Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs; of the Pan African Parliament (PAP) noted that PAP pride in contributing to the strengthening of the cooperative movement across the continent. The Model Law, conceived as a “soft-law” instrument, is designed to guide African Union member states in shaping national legislation and policies on cooperative governance while allowing flexibility to adapt to national contexts. Its purpose is to support countries in creating enabling frameworks that advance cooperative growth, accountability, and sustainability.

The development of the Model Law was a collaborative and inclusive process. In August 2023, Members of the Pan African Parliament, experts, civil society representatives, and leaders of cooperative movements from the five African regions convened in Nairobi to review and refine the draft. This engagement aimed to identify gaps in the initial draft, gather stakeholder recommendations, share legislative best practices, and cultivate continental ownership of the law. The feedback provided during this consultative meeting informed the final text and ensured that the Model Law reflects Africa’s diverse cooperative realities.

The Pan African Parliament followed its formal three-stage process to develop the Model Law. Initiated in 2022 at the request of International Cooperative Alliance- Africa (ICA-Africa), the drafting process was anchored by a policy framework and endorsed by the relevant PAP committees before gaining full parliamentary approval in May 2023. In June 2024, the Plenary of the Pan African Parliament officially adopted the Model Law. Its significance was later highlighted to African Foreign Ministers at the 46th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in February 2025, where member states were encouraged to domesticate the Model Law within their national legislative systems through Decision EX.CL/Dec.1288(XLVI).

Hon. Faye concluded by urging African ministers to champion adoption of the Model Law within their respective jurisdictions, stressing that it marks the beginning of a new era for cooperative-driven development. The Pan African Parliament reaffirmed its readiness to support national-level advocacy and legislative processes. The Model Law is presented as a transformative tool to elevate cooperatives into central pillars of Africa’s economic architecture, empowering citizens, promoting shared prosperity, and ensuring that economic power and opportunity are broadly distributed across societies.

7.0 AWARDS CEREMONY

The conference featured an award ceremony recognizing the contributions of key leaders and participants. The incoming and outgoing board members, including High Chief Ayeola Oriyomi (President), Macloud Malonza (Vice President), Hilda Ojal (Women's Representative), Thapelo Obateng, and Mesfin Gebresselassie, were acknowledged for their service. In addition, ministers and representatives of ministers responsible for cooperative development were honored for their support and commitment to advancing the cooperative movement across Africa.

8.0 CLOSING CEREMONY

The President of ICA-Africa High Chief Oriyomi Ayeola, emphasized the importance of continental unity and collaboration among the cooperative movement. He called for a common sensitization campaign to promote the cooperative agenda at all levels and strengthen awareness of the seven cooperative principles through continued capacity-building initiatives, such as the symbolic "Cooperative Run" held earlier in the conference. He commended the active participation and commitment demonstrated by all delegates, particularly the ministers and government representatives, in developing practical solutions and actions throughout the sessions. He urged participants to carry forward the spirit of partnership, ensuring that the progress made during the conference translates into tangible results for cooperative development across the continent.

He further noted the significance of witnessing the launch of the Africa Cooperative Model Law, which marked a new chapter for cooperative legislation and integration in Africa. He concluded by encouraging delegates to build on the gains achieved during the conference and thanked the hosts for their warm hospitality and excellent organization.

Representing the Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Patrick Kilemi CBS, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Cooperatives and MSMEs Development (Kenya), expressed deep appreciation for the strong turnout of delegates, ministers, and government officials at the 14th AMCCO Conference, noting that their collective presence reflected a shared vision for advancing Africa's cooperative movement.

He commended the unity and collaboration displayed by all participants, stating that it signaled renewed momentum toward implementing the Africa Cooperative Model Law and the Nairobi ministers' declaration. On behalf of the Kenyan Government, he reaffirmed the government's commitment to support and operationalize of the Model Law, transitioning from declaration to concrete action.

Hon. Kilemi further underscored the importance of investing in the future by embedding cooperative education in learning institutions and empowering youth and women to take active roles in cooperative leadership and entrepreneurship. He further encouraged African cooperatives to enhance competitiveness and innovation to ensure they thrive in regional and global markets.

In conclusion, he thanked all partners, delegates, and organizers for making the conference a success and called on everyone to sustain the partnerships and momentum built during the sessions. He then officially closed the 14th Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference.

The 14th Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference (AMCCO) concluded on a high note at the Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi, marking the end of a successful gathering of cooperative leaders, policymakers, and development partners from across the continent.

9.0 ANNEX

I) Photos: https://ica-africa.pixieset.com/14thafricaministerialcooperativeconferenceamcco/

II) Video: https://youtu.be/ZU6INJsS2VM

III) Conference concept note: https://icaafrica.coop/sites/default/files/2025-11/concept_note_14th_amcco.pdf

IV) Model Law on Cooperatives for Africa: https://icaafrica.coop/en/newsroom/news/pan-african-parliament-launches-model-law-cooperatives-africa-14th-africa-ministerial

V) 14th AMCCO Nairobi Declaration:https://icaafrica.coop/sites/default/files/2025-10/amcco_nairobi_declaration_2025.pdf

VI) Report on Design Dash Training: https://icaafrica.coop/sites/default/files/2025-11/report_on_the_design_thinking_training_dash.pdf

VII) Report on CDO event: https://icaafrica.coop/en/newsroom/news/regional-dialogue-cooperative-development-organizations-cdos

VIII) Evaluation Form Feedback:

An evaluation was conducted at the conclusion of the 14th Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference (AMCCO) to gather participant feedback on their conference experience and identify areas for future improvement. The feedback received indicates a highly positive reception of the conference and reinforces its value as a key platform for dialogue, connection, and collaboration within the African cooperative movement.

Participants expressed strong appreciation for the networking opportunities, which allowed cooperators and leaders from across the continent to exchange ideas, build partnerships, and strengthen regional solidarity. Many highlighted the vibrant and engaging atmosphere, enriched by cultural expression, diversity, and the energy of participants. The conference was also commended for its high level of organization, quality of speakers, and overall coordination. Notably, the Master of Ceremonies received significant praise for contributing to a dynamic and lively conference experience. Feedback also provided constructive insights to guide future improvements. Participants recommended enhancing time management to allow more space for dialogue, discussion, and interactive sessions. Additional suggestions included expanding opportunities for youth engagement, strengthening language inclusivity, and increasing the use of breakout sessions and practical knowledge-sharing formats. These recommendations will help organizers continue to refine and elevate the experience of future conferences.

Moving forward, participants expressed a collective vision for the conference to inspire a legacy of action-oriented leadership, inclusivity, innovation, and strengthened cooperation across the continent. There was a strong call to empower youth and women, promote transparency and good governance, and drive a cooperative movement that contributes meaningfully to social and economic transformation in Africa.The organizing team extends its appreciation to all participants for their valuable contributions and constructive feedback, which will inform planning for future AMCCO events.