



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

Call for Papers

16th AFRICA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE

THEME: *Cooperatives for a Sustainable Africa*

14th – 15th November, 2023

ICA-Africa and its members in Nigeria are hosting the 16th Africa Regional Assembly and Conference which will be held from **14th – 15th November, 2023** at the **Abuja Continental Hotel in Abuja – Nigeria**. The theme of the 2023 regional conference 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.

This call for papers pertains to the thematic focus of "Cooperatives for a Sustainable Africa" that underscore the pivotal role cooperatives play in advancing sustainable livelihoods, fostering development, promoting peace, and facilitating partnerships and collaborations among various stakeholders for the purpose of sustainable development across the African continent.

One of the primary subthemes of this call is **the exploration of how cooperatives in Africa are actively contributing to the realization of sustainable livelihoods and development**. This encompasses an investigation into the multifaceted ways in which cooperatives, as collective and community-driven enterprises, engage in economic activities that have a positive and lasting impact on local communities and the broader society. This subtheme calls for rigorous examination of specific case studies and empirical research that elucidate the diverse mechanisms through which cooperatives drive economic growth, create employment opportunities, enhance access to essential services, and facilitate inclusive development.

Another crucial facet of the call is centered around **the innovative solutions that cooperatives deploy to facilitate peace and development, thereby fostering a sustainable Africa**. This subtheme prompts researchers to delve into the creative approaches and strategies employed by cooperatives to mitigate

conflicts, alleviate social tensions, and contribute to overall stability. The exploration of such innovative practices may encompass conflict resolution mechanisms, social inclusion initiatives, and the use of cooperative structures as conduits for addressing pressing social challenges.

Furthermore, the call highlights **the imperative of fostering partnerships and collaborations between cooperatives, governments, civil society, and international development agencies to bolster sustainable development efforts in Africa**. This subtheme underscores the significance of a multi-stakeholder approach in achieving holistic and enduring progress. Authors are encouraged to investigate successful models of collaboration, the challenges and opportunities inherent in such partnerships, and the role of policy frameworks in facilitating cooperative engagement with governmental and non-governmental entities.

Possible subtopics under the three subthemes are given below:

- **Exploration of how cooperatives in Africa contribute to the realization of sustainable livelihoods and development**

These subtopics below provide avenues for authors to delve deeper into the various dimensions of cooperative engagement and its impact on sustainable livelihoods and development within the African context:

- Economic Impact of Cooperatives
- Social Inclusion and Empowerment
- Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security
- Access to Essential Services
- Environmental Sustainability
- Innovation and Technology Adoption
- Cooperative Governance and Management
- Financial Inclusion and Access to Credit

- **Innovative solutions by cooperatives to promote peace and development for a sustainable Africa**

These subtopics below provide authors with opportunities to delve into the novel approaches and strategies that cooperatives employ to promote peace, alleviate conflicts, and contribute to sustainable development in the African context:

- Conflict Resolution and Mediation
- Cultural and Creative Industries
- Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality
- Youth Engagement and Social Integration
- Cooperatives in Post-Conflict Reconstruction

- **Fostering partnerships and collaborations between cooperatives, governments, civil society organizations, and international development agencies to support sustainable development efforts in Africa**

These subtopics below provide authors with opportunities to delve into the dynamics of cooperative engagement with various stakeholders and their collective impact on sustainable development outcomes:

- Policy Frameworks and Enabling Environment
- Multi-Stakeholder Platforms for Collaboration
- Role of International Development Agencies
- Resource Mobilization and Funding Mechanisms
- Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building
- Cooperatives and Disaster Resilience

In conclusion, the call for papers on the theme "Cooperatives for a Sustainable Africa" and its associated subthemes underscores the critical role that cooperatives play in driving sustainable development across the continent. By examining the ways cooperatives foster sustainable livelihoods and development, showcasing their innovative contributions to peace and development, and exploring the dynamics of partnerships and collaborations, this call seeks to generate insights that contributes to the advancement of cooperative-driven sustainable development in Africa.

Submission Guidelines:

Interested authors should submit their abstracts by **25th September, 2023** at pm@icaafrica.coop; copy to erickobongo@icaafrica.coop; mentioning as the email’s subject “ICA-Africa Regional Conference Abstract Submission.”

Authors of abstracts of papers addressing the theme of the conference will be selected and requested to submit full papers to be considered for presentation. Priority will be given to policy-and-solution oriented papers. Young researchers, academia and practitioners are encouraged to submit their abstracts. One key objective of the conference being to share knowledge that enables Cooperatives and other stakeholders in Africa to engage effectively in national, regional and international cooperation. **Key dates for the conference are as follows:**

Annotation	Deadline
Deadline for submission of abstracts	25 September 2023
Notification of acceptance of abstracts	28 September 2023
Deadline for paper submissions	13 October 2023
Notification of acceptance of papers	16 October 2023
Last day for registration & confirmation for presenters	30 October 2023
Conference	13 November 2023

Review Process:

Papers received will be peer reviewed through a blind review process by the co-organizing institutions. The papers will be subjected to plagiarism check, and those which meet accepted standards will be accepted for presentation.

Sponsorship:

Authors are expected to cover their travel, accommodation and daily subsistence costs. Presenters will be exempted from paying the conference fee. It is expected that where a paper is jointly written by a team of authors, only one author will attend the Conference to make a presentation on behalf of the other authors.

Abstract guidelines

The following should be included in the abstract: Title, name and affiliation of the author(s); contact of corresponding author; a brief background/context and problem; objectives; theoretical anchorage/conceptual framework; methodology; results; conclusions; and recommendations. Flexibility will be exercised to provide for abstracts for papers from different approaches and disciplines. The abstract, which should have a maximum of 300 words, should be submitted in English, in New Times Roman, italicized, single spacing with 3-5 keywords in bold at the bottom of the abstract.

For further information, please read Concept Note here <https://bit.ly/47IOi3J>

Or contact

Conference organizing committee

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