

CONCEPT NOTE

VALIDATION WORKSHOP ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL COOPERATIVE GENDER PLATFORM

1. Introduction:

In an effort to promote gender equality and women's empowerment within cooperatives and in celebration of the International Women's Day 2025, ICA Africa – Gender Equality Committee has developed the National Cooperative Gender Platform (NCGP) framework/guidelines in line with its 2025 action plan. The platform will be a hub to address gender systemic barriers and promote inclusive policies and practices. This platform will serve as a focal point for advancing gender-responsive initiatives in cooperatives across the nation, ensuring that women and other marginalized groups are represented and empowered in cooperative governance, leadership, and decision-making.

The Validation Workshop will play a critical role in refining and validating the NCGP framework, gathering input from stakeholders, and ensuring that the platform meets the needs of its target audiences.

2. Purpose of the Validation Workshop:

The primary goal of the Validation Workshop is to present the draft NCGP to stakeholders for review, discussion, and validation. This will allow participants to provide their feedback, suggestions, and recommendations to ensure that the platform is comprehensive, inclusive, and effective in addressing gender disparities within cooperatives.

The workshop will also seek to:

- **Validate the Draft Gender Platform Framework:** Ensure that the platform is aligned with national and international gender policies and frameworks.
- **Gather Input from cooperative stakeholders:** to provide their feedback, suggestions, and recommendations to ensure that the platform is comprehensive, inclusive, and effective in addressing gender disparities within cooperatives.
- **Promote Stakeholder Collaboration:** Strengthen cooperation among government bodies, cooperatives, civil society organizations, gender experts, and international partners.

3. Objectives:

- To review and validate the key components of the National Cooperative Gender Platform.
- To receive feedback and suggestions from key stakeholders on gender-sensitive policies and actions in cooperatives.
- To ensure that the platform aligns with national gender policies and international commitments such as the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).
- To facilitate an inclusive dialogue that strengthens the capacity of cooperatives to mainstream gender.
- To build consensus around actionable steps for promoting gender equality within cooperatives.

3. Target Audience:

The workshop will bring together a diverse group of stakeholders, including:

- Government representatives (Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Cooperatives, etc.)
- Cooperative leaders and members
- Gender and development experts
- Civil society organizations working on gender equality
- International organizations involved in gender and cooperative development
- Academia and researchers in gender studies and cooperative development

5. Methodology

The workshop will use a participatory approach to ensure that all voices are heard. The key activities will include:

- **Presentations:** An overview of the NCGP and its core components.
- **Group Discussions:** Small group sessions to discuss specific components of the platform and suggest improvements.
- **Plenary Sessions:** Sharing key findings from group discussions and allowing for open debate.
- **Feedback Collection:** Using surveys and feedback forms to gather structured input from participants.

6. Expected Outcomes:

- A validated National Cooperative Gender Platform with a comprehensive operational framework.
- Clear action plans and strategies for implementing gender-responsive initiatives within cooperatives.
- Strengthened cooperation and networking among gender equality advocates and cooperatives.
- A report summarizing workshop discussions, feedback, and validated recommendations for the National Cooperative Gender Platform.

7. Venue and dates:

The validation workshop will be held in Nairobi, Kenya (hybrid event) on Friday, March 28, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM.

8. Agenda of the Validation Workshop:

Time	Session Title	Description
8:30 -9:00 AM	Registration & Welcome	Arrival and registration of participants.
9:00 - 09:30 AM	Opening Remarks	Welcoming remarks from key stakeholders, including government representatives and cooperative leaders.
09:30-10:00AM	Introduction to the National Cooperative Gender Platform	Presentation of the platform, its objectives, and components.

10:00 -11:00 AM	Group Discussions on Platform frameworks/ guidelines	Participants will break into groups to discuss specific elements of the platform and provide feedback.
11:00-11:20AM	Tea and Coffee Break	
11:20-12:30PM	Plenary Session: Group Presentations	Each group will present their feedback and suggestions for the platform.
12:30-1:30 PM	Closing Remarks & Next Steps	Summarizing the key outcomes, closing remarks from organizers, and outlining the next steps for implementing the platform.
1.30-2.30 PM	Lunch and Networking	

9. Conclusion:

The Validation Workshop on the National Cooperative Gender Platform will be a critical step in ensuring that cooperatives across the country become more gender-inclusive. By gathering input from a diverse group of stakeholders, we aim to refine the platform, identify actionable strategies, and encourage a shared commitment to gender equality within cooperatives.