



International
Labour
Organization

Cooperatives and the Sustainable Development Goals

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Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Adopted by the UN in September 2015 to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- 15 year duration from 2016 to 2030 (“the 2030 Agenda”)
- 17 Goals, 169 targets, and 232 indicators
- Universal (applicable to all countries, not only for developing countries)
- Integrated (the economic, social and environmental dimensions)

- All SDGs are linked to the ILO’s mandate and Decent Work Agenda
- Goal 8 has a specific reference to Decent Work Agenda

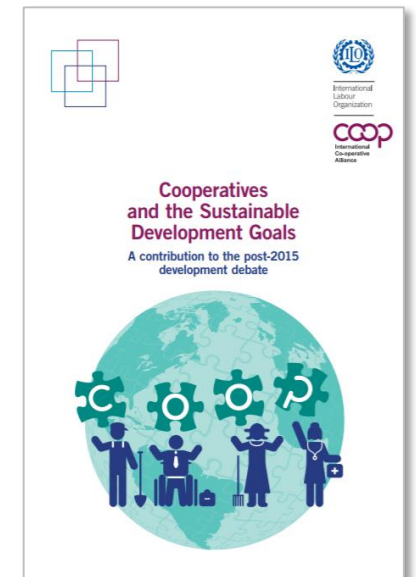
Cooperatives in SDGs discussions

ICA (2013) Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade

- 5 priority themes to achieve 2020 Vision: Participation, **Sustainability**, Identity, Legal Frameworks and Capital
- “*Position co-operatives as **builders of sustainability***”

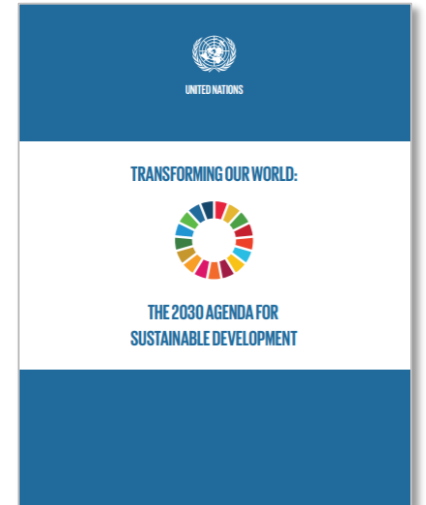
ICA and ILO “Cooperatives and the SDGs” initiative

- Ensure the voices of the cooperative movement are heard in the post-2015 in line with the Blueprint debate
- Published a report that provides examples on the contributions of cooperatives to achieve the SDGs



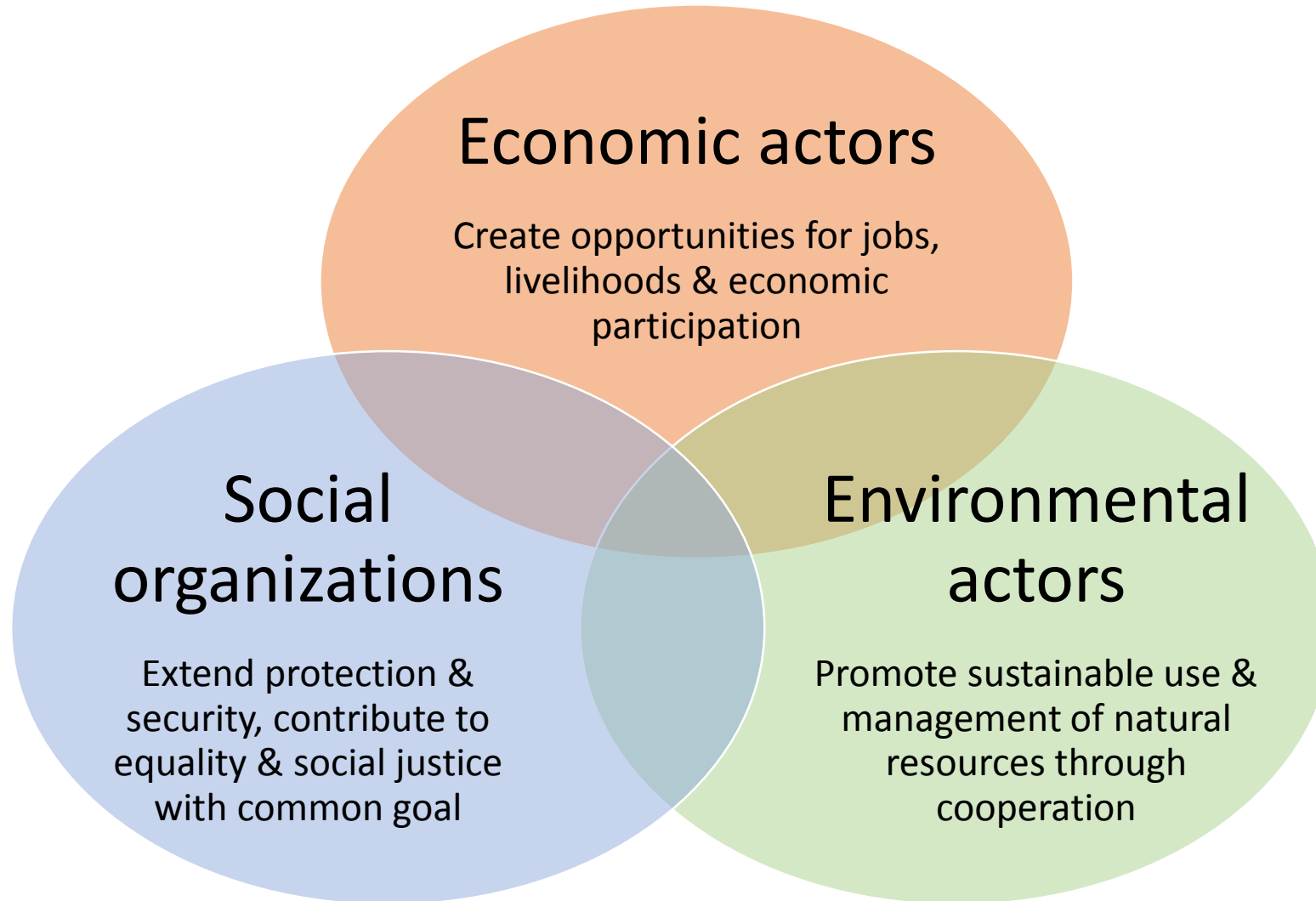
Cooperatives in outcome document of the SDGs

- In paragraphs 41 and 67 of the outcome document, cooperatives are acknowledged within the private sector as important actors in implementation
- Cooperatives are similarly mentioned in paragraphs 13, 35 and 39 of the Financing for Development outcome document adopted in August 2015
- Currently there are no SDG indicators on cooperatives but it may change during the midterm review of indicators in 2020



Cooperatives contributions to the 2030 Agenda

- By their very nature cooperatives serve the triple bottom line:



Cooperatives engagement in SDG 1 & 2



Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

- Promote access to markets
- Increase purchasing power on inputs/negotiating power on outputs
- Minimize costs through joint ownership of assets or risk sharing
- Advance skills, knowledge and farming technologies (e.g. leadership, management skills, information on market trends, efficient and sustainable farming system, etc.)
- Improve livelihoods through provision of water, sanitation, electricity, etc.
- Drive investment and development through affordable financial services to small producers or individuals

Cooperatives engagement in SDG 5



Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- Provide employment and livelihoods opportunities especially for women in rural & informal economies
- Address care needs and offer job opportunities in care provision
- Organize women in individualized self-employment to access information, skills, markets
- Strengthen leadership skills through participation in management and governance of cooperatives
- Serve as centres for life-long learning including in economic democracy
- Allow for social engagement through solidarity action

Cooperatives engagement in SDG 8

8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work

- Ensure that business operations are free of labour rights abuses
- Promote social, economic and political inclusion through open and voluntary membership regardless of backgrounds
- Provide collective voice and negotiation power for members to secure economic and social rights
- Promote livelihoods opportunities and the use of appropriate technologies as means of increasing income
- Serve youth as accessible entrepreneurship model allowing to share risks, knowledge and responsibilities

Cooperatives engagement in SDG 12



Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

- Shorten the global supply chain by linking producers and consumers
- Promote the provision of environmentally friendly products based on members needs and concerns
- Reduce food losses through improving production/distribution systems
- Reduce waste generation in business operations (Reduction, Reuse, Recycle)
- Engage in community mobilization and awareness-raising campaigns among members and within communities on sustainable consumption and lifestyle

Cooperatives engagement in SDG 13, 14, 15



Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

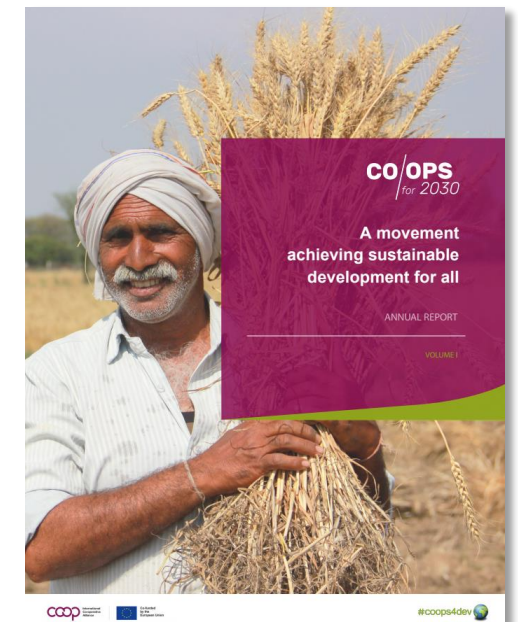
Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

Goal 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation

- Advance sustainable use and management of natural resources by setting rules to achieve common and long-term benefits among members
- Increase resource efficiency through cooperation
- Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity of local communities to natural disasters through awareness raising, training, or adapting new technologies
- Promote decentralized renewable energy system based on the concerns and needs for democratic control over energy issues and sustainable rural development by local community

Co-ops for 2030

- Co-ops for 2030 is a campaign/online platform for cooperatives to learn more about the SDGs, commit to pledges to contribute to achieving the SDGs, and report their progress
- New report on the contributions of cooperatives to the SDGs based on pledges made on the platform
- Only one pledge from Japan (JA Fukushima Mirai)



Challenges

- **Regulatory environment for cooperatives**
 - Inadequate in many countries, either due to restrictive laws stemming from a legacy of state control, or from the absence of an up-to-date cooperative legal framework that reflects the changing realities in the world of work.
- **Unreliability of funding sources**
 - Prevents good cooperative practices from being scaled up and replicated. Traditional financing sources may not have the know-how to recognize new cooperative initiatives.
- **Limited institutional infrastructure on cooperative education and training**
 - Presents a barrier for the creation of an understanding around cooperatives in most countries.
- **Lack of comparable statistics on cooperatives**
 - The lack of statistics on cooperatives and their impact on employment and the economy at large prevents them from being used as a unit of analysis in research that can inform policy and practice.
- **Local focus of cooperatives on their members' and users' needs**
 - Impedes them from greater engagement on policy discussions at the national and international levels.

Ways forward

- **Developing regulatory frameworks**

- New and revised regulation that provides the legal support for startup and growth of new types of cooperatives needs to be developed and adopted with an eye for the rights and protection of workers, members and users of cooperatives.

- **Reaching scale**

- The financial tools and intermediaries that are best suited to support the expansion and replication of good cooperative practices need to be developed. A better understanding on cooperatives requires their inclusion in education and training curricula. Representation of the cooperative movement needs to be strengthened for effective engagement in the future of work debates and the 2030 Agenda.

- **Generating evidence-based data and knowledge**

- International guidelines on cooperative statistics need to be activated in order to assess the impact of cooperatives and to conduct comparative analyses on the advantages and disadvantages of different enterprise governance models.

Thank you for your attention

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