



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Division for Inclusive Social Development

**7th CIRIEC International Research Conference on  
Social and Solidarity Economy**  
Presentation by Andrew Allimadi





## Current State of Play

1. Fracture of consensus on poverty and development issues, meaning more resolutions going to a vote.
2. The lines drawn between G77 and China on one side and Western European and Others Group (WEOG) on the other
3. Key resolutions include Third International Decade for the Eradication of Poverty; Eradicating Rural Poverty; Financing for Development.
4. Current discussions on rationalizing the UN agenda to reduce number and length of resolutions – make many of them biannual.
5. Budgetary questions – currently 102 out of 193 fully paid.





## Opportunities for Social and Solidarity Economy

The key mandates in the latest General Assembly resolutions on cooperatives makes the following specific requests:

### 1. Government support for cooperatives

- Governments to support cooperatives as sustainable and successful business enterprises that contribute directly to employment generation, poverty and hunger eradication, education, social protection and the creation of affordable housing options.

### 2. National Legal and Regulatory Environment

- Called for countries to review existing legislation and regulations on cooperatives and take actions to make the national legal and regulatory environment more conducive to the creation and growth of cooperatives.

### 3. Strengthening cooperatives

- Invited governments, in collaboration with the cooperative movement, to develop programmes for capacity-building of cooperatives, including by strengthening the organizational, management and financial skills of their members, while respecting the principles of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.





## General Assembly Resolutions on Cooperatives (cont'd)

### 4. Agricultural Cooperatives

Invited Governments to strengthen efforts to enhance food security and nutrition and to focus efforts on smallholders and women farmers, as well as on agricultural cooperatives and farmers' networks, supported by measures to improve access to markets.

### 5. ICT and Cooperatives

Encouraged Governments to promote access to new technologies including information and communications technologies as a vital channel for collaboration and the expansion of cooperatives, especially in rural areas.

### 6. Cooperatives and Education

Requested the Secretary-General to continue rendering support to Member States, as appropriate, in their efforts to create a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives,

### 7. Communication and promotion of cooperatives

Requested the Secretary-General to promote an exchange of experience and best practices through, inter alia, conferences, workshops and seminars at the national and regional levels to share best practices.





## Outline – Secretary-General’s Report on “Cooperatives in Social Development”

- The overarching goal of the 2030 agenda is eradication of poverty. Growing concern about the rising levels of inequality within and between countries.
- Poverty often is a cause of ill health (cannot afford medical attention therefore minor illnesses go untreated and become major) or a consequence of ill health (having to take time off work or pay for expensive medical attention).
- UN in September this year will hold a high-level debate on universal health coverage often which is threatening progress towards achieving sustainable development goals.
- Cooperatives are also a major provider of healthcare services in many countries. The report will examine the cooperative role in social development through the provision of healthcare services.





## Enablers for cooperative development

1. Financing and the role of cooperative savings and credit associations
2. Supportive legislation
3. The importance of statistics
4. Skills and capacity building
5. Networking and sharing information





## Areas for Future Research

1. How to create policies and programmes that support scaling-up the provision of cooperative healthcare services to cover a wider section of the population including people without formal employment (informal sector).
2. Possibilities to extending the role of Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisations to undertake savings mobilization and investments beyond their membership
3. The optimal role of governments in providing incentives and support for growth and development of cooperatives, while respecting their independence.
4. Building cooperatives capacity for self-regulation to reinforce their independence and the optimal role of Apex bodies and national and international levels.



## Key Messages and Policy Recommendations

6. Need for clear legal framework and some models and good practices have been developed on cooperative legislation that can be promoted in other countries.
7. The United Nations system should continue to provide technical support and capacity-building assistance to cooperatives and national Governments.
8. There is an urgent need to develop and harmonize a statistical framework for the systematic collection of comprehensive data on cooperatives and to promote and disseminate evidence-based research on cooperatives.





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