



Expert Group Meeting on Cooperatives in Social Development

30 May – 1 June 2023,
United Nations Headquarters, New York.

“Cooperatives contribution to the implementation of SDGs and Lessons from the International Year of Cooperatives”

By:
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International Cooperative Alliance



Who we are

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The apex organisation for cooperatives worldwide, a non-profit international association established in 1895



Whom we represent

-
- 316 Cooperative federations and organisations across 110 countries
 - 3 million cooperative enterprises
 - More than 1.2 billion members
 - 10% of the world's employed population

ICA's mission

Advocating the interests and success of cooperatives, providing a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and co-ordinated action.

- **Uniting the global cooperative movement**

The ICA serves as a forum to boost cooperation between cooperatives.

- **Promoting the cooperative difference**

Working on the cooperative minimum standards or common denominators.

- **Developing an economic instrument**

The ICA provides individuals and communities with an instrument of self-help and influence



Unite

Member engagement

Putting in place all the necessary tools to foster **intercooperation.**



Promote

Leadership and commitment

Promoting the cooperative brand.



Develop

Growth and solidity

Make coops recognised leaders in economic, social and environmental development.

Agenda 2030

A shared blueprint for People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships



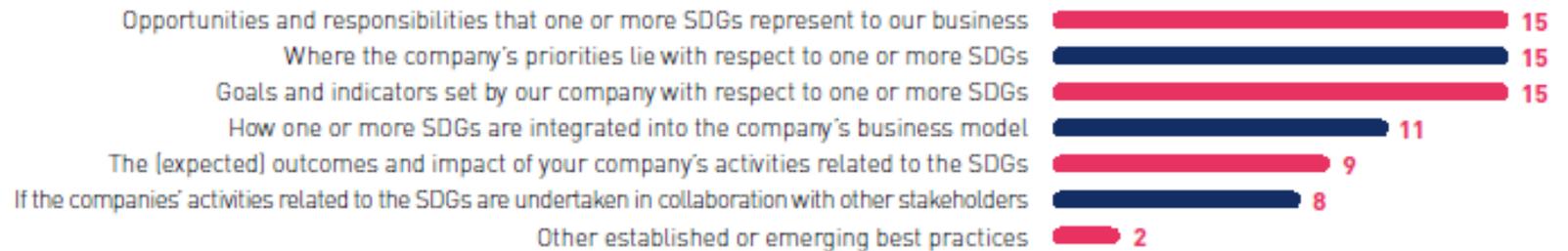
Which SDGs are coops addressing?

A study by the WCM on Communication on Progress (CoP) by the Top 300 large cooperatives showed that **Cooperatives address All SDGs.**

FIGURE 4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) ADDRESSED IN THE COPS OF THE TOP 300 ORGANISATIONS THAT ADHERE TO THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT PROJECT.



FIGURE 5. WITH RESPECT TO THE ORGANISATION'S ACTIONS TO ADVANCE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS), THE COP DESCRIBES:



TOP 300 AND SDGs

REPORT 2018

BEYOND ECONOMIC IMPACT: THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOP 300 TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Size, in economic terms, is only one of the dimensions that can be used to evaluate cooperative enterprises. And it is just one of the many aspects of sustainable development, which has been a key theme in recent years.

In fact, since the end of the 1980s, the theme of integrating economic development, natural resources management and protection, and social equity and inclusion has been at the centre of the international debate (see the 1987 Brundtland Report) that culminated in 2015 with the adoption by the United Nations of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs aim to reduce poverty, fight inequality, support social development and address aspects that are fundamentally important to sustainable development, such as climate change and the construction of peaceful societies, by the year 2030. As already emphasised by the Millennium Development Goals (Birchall, 2004), the SDGs also offer a multidimensional view of development in which human well-being and poverty reduction are at the centre of the actions which are based on essential conditions such as environmental sustainability, equity and enabling a global economic environment.

Although the SDGs were conceived as a call to action for countries, they can also be considered targets that companies can focus on when they plan their activities. From this point of view, the assessment of the contribution of companies to the achievement of the SDGs requires not only an analysis of their economic dimension, but also an assessment of their sustainability in social and environmental terms. More generally, this entails assessing their ability to counteract inequalities and generate human well-being and social capital.

Of course cooperatives also contribute to achieving the SDGs. Speaking on the 2013 International Day of Cooperatives, Guy Ryder, Director General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), emphasized "As global attention focuses on the challenge of sustainable development, cooperatives can and must play a key role as creative enterprises expanding into new and innovative areas" (Dale et al, 2013). Despite this, an ILO-ICA report (Wanyama, 2014) highlighted that, although the Rio+20 Conference recognised the role of cooperatives in achieving social inclusion and poverty reduction, they have been marginally involved in the process of defining the

Top 300 and SDGs 43



<https://monitor.coop/en>

The 7 Cooperative Principles and the Cooperative Values

Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity.

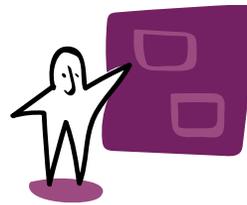
In the tradition of their founders, cooperative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.



Voluntary and Open Membership



Democratic Member control



Education training and information



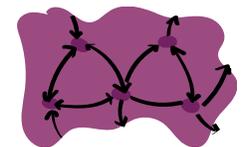
Member's Economic participation



Autonomy and Independence



Concern for community



Cooperation among cooperatives

International Day of Cooperatives

This year's IDC theme is “**Cooperatives: partners for accelerated sustainable development**”

Related slogan is “**Cooperatives for sustainable development**”

The celebration will mark the 29th International Day of Cooperatives recognized by the United Nations and the 101st International Cooperative Day.

Join the **#coops4sdgs** campaign!

<https://www.coopsday.coop/>



**International Day
of Cooperatives**

Cooperatives 4
sustainable development

1 July 2023



Committee for
the promotion
and advancement
of cooperatives

Monitoring the contribution of cooperatives in the Agenda 2030



ICA has identified various sustainable development activities carried out by cooperatives in the report on Cooperatives and SDGs.

SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

CORE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Community support initiatives

Committing/Communicating/Calling for action

Integrating SDGs in internal policies

Organizing conferences, forums and other events

Building evidence, research and data collection

Building partnerships

Policy and government related activities

Providing equitable access to goods and services

Providing access to sustainable and social housing

Providing access to healthcare, social and insurance services

Providing access to sustainable energy sources

Providing access to finance to their member communities

Fostering sustainable agriculture

Encouraging sustainable production and consumption

Creating decent work & promoting entrepreneurship

Protecting environment and climate

Coop-to-coop cooperation

Empowering women

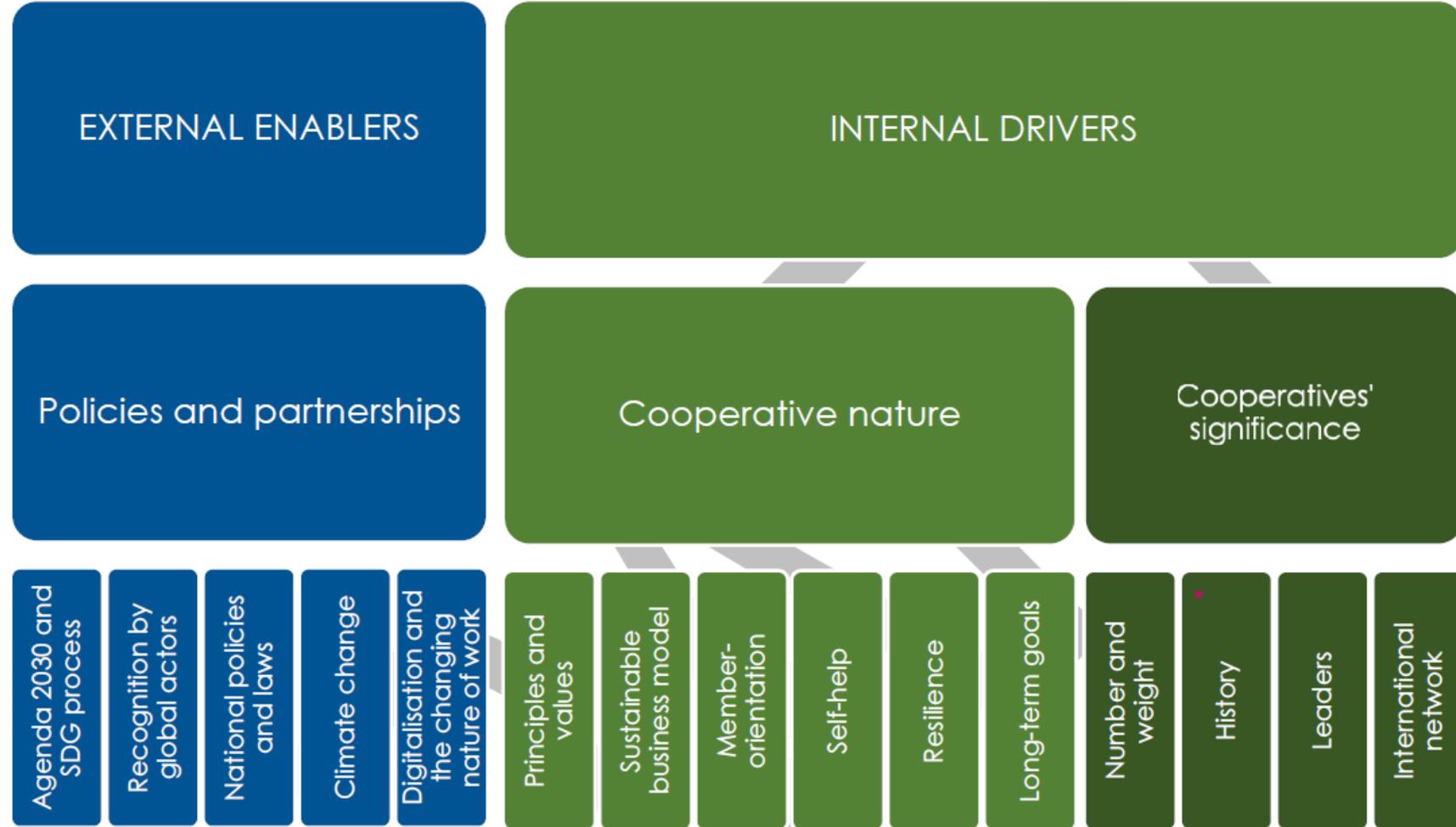
Empowering youth

Member education and training

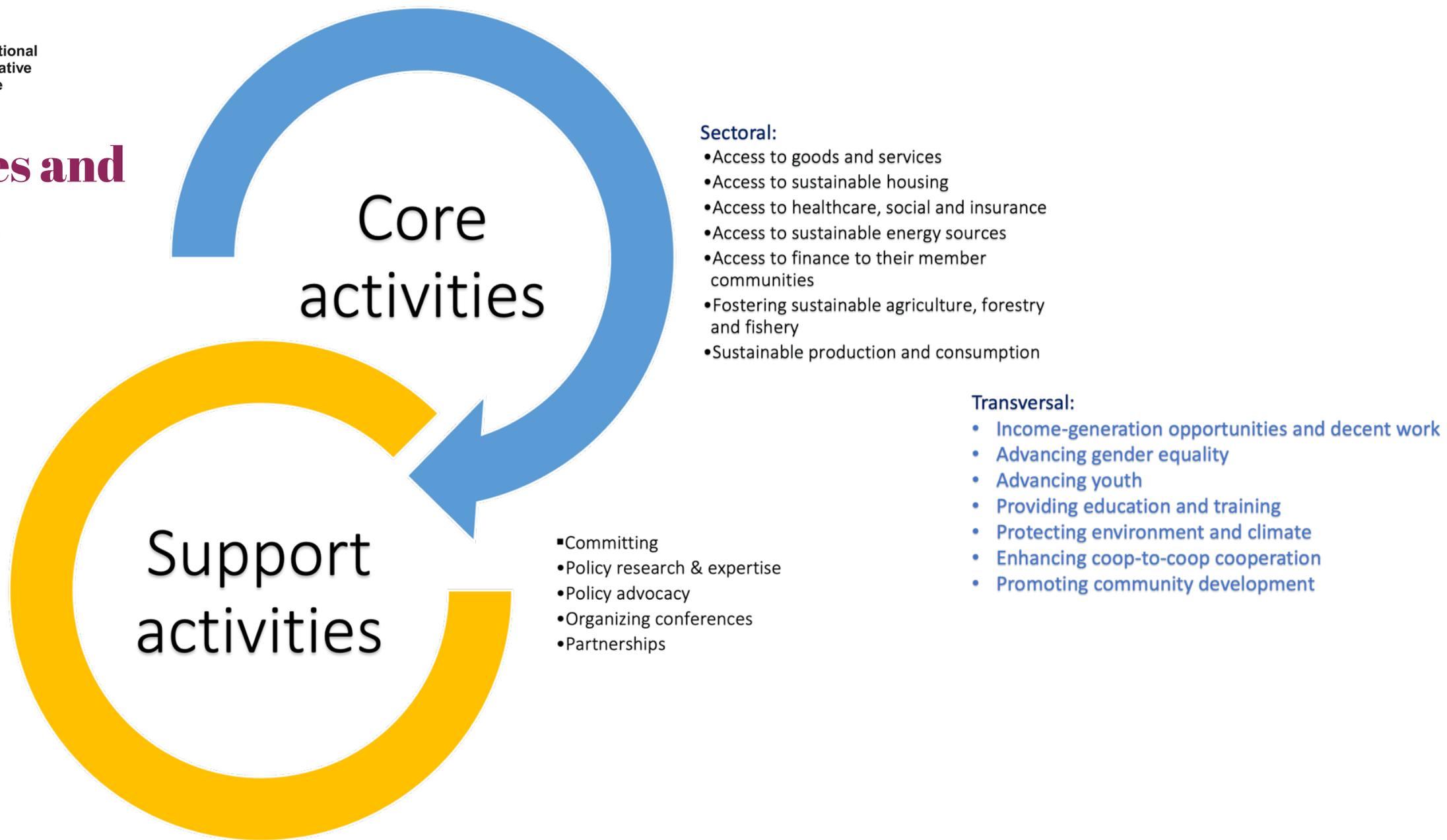
Drivers and Enablers

Enablers – factors related to policies and partnerships representing contextual and external processes that are beyond cooperatives’ immediate control.

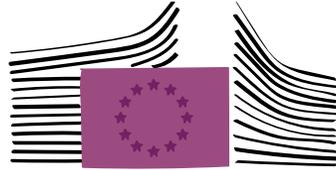
Drivers - set of internal factors that drives cooperatives contributions to SDGs that stem from cooperative nature but also from their significance in their contexts.



Activities and Outputs







MiCDP
MAPPING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

HOME MAP CDO PARTNERS STATISTICS CONTACT

Explore International Cooperative Development Projects Around The World

EXPLORE THE MAP →

More resources available on our website

<https://www.ica.coop/en>

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Thank you for your attention

