Global Conference
Cooperatives for Development

PRESS KIT

Kigali, Rwanda
14-17 October 2019

#coops4dev

Coorganised by:
ICAFE'S 2019 GLOBAL CONFERENCE
What is it about?

WHY SHOULD OUR MEMBERS JOIN US?
Cooperatives learn how to shape policy

SPEAKERS
WHO ARE WE?

PROGRAMME
14 & 15 October 2019

PROGRAMME
16 & 17 October 2019

WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT RWANDA?
RWANDAN COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

PREVIOUS ICA GLOBAL CONFERENCES

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACTS & USEFUL INFO
ICA's 2019 Global Conference on Cooperatives for Development

What is it about?

From 14 to 17 October, the global conference Cooperatives for Development will begin in Kigali, Rwanda, a forum where cooperators and other actors from around the world will share, discuss, advocate and showcase how they deal with global challenges (future of work, climate change, security and peace...) within the framework of the UN Agenda 2030. The conference is organised by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Rwanda and the Rwandan cooperative movement.

Cooperatives, as change-makers and people centered enterprises, have an important role to play in shaping policies and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), along with citizens, local communities, national governments, inter-governmental agencies and multi-lateral institutions. This important conference positions the cooperative movement to unleash its full potential as a global development actor centered on its members’ needs and aspirations.

Besides the SDGs targets and measurement indicators, the conference also aims to engage the cooperative movement from within, as well as with other multi-lateral development actors, in sharing knowledge, challenges and opportunities through exposure and dialogue on direct experiences from the field and exchange with highly knowledgeable speakers from all continents like environmental activist and scientist Vandana Shiva.

Cooperatives across all countries, since their modern-day inception, have continued contributing to development of the communities in which they operate, long before the SDGs existed even as a concept. Indeed, as you will witness during the conference, not only do cooperatives positively impact the lives & livelihoods of their individual members (around 12% of humanity), they are also a development agent for their communities and the society at large. It is this conscientious difference in approaching economic growth that makes cooperatives a key actor in development, and of global relevance.
This conference provides a platform for cooperatives from a wide array of countries to evaluate and recognize their contributions as actors of development. Participants will learn how to advance their advocacy work using the global framework and common language of the sustainable development, which rests on a triple bottom line - economic, social and environmental development.

With a mix of conceptual presentations and concrete testimonies from the grassroots, the conference will equip members with valuable information and tools for advocacy at local, national and international levels, while also providing you with a unique sense of purpose. The conference enhances the interaction of cooperatives with like-minded institutions, individuals and organizations, such as development NGOs, civil society organizations, members of the academia, etc.

The core philosophy of the SDGs, that of progress - not at the cost of resource-depletion for future generations - is indeed at the nucleus of the cooperative enterprise model which operates to meet people’s basic yet common needs, such as

- employment
- responsible production & consumption
- building equal, just and peaceful societies through their voluntary, democratic and participative character

The event is the place to learn how cooperatives can fully harness their potential, demonstrate their contribution to development, and educate the world on cooperatives as sustainable people-centred businesses with a concrete position to tackle global challenges.

Why should our members join us?

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The conference will host several high-level speakers including:

- the Minister of Trade & Industry of the Republic of Rwanda, Hon. Soraya Hakuziyamemeye
- ICA President Mr. Ariel Guarco
- ICA-Africa President Mr. Japheth Magomere
- the President of the National Cooperative Confederation of Rwanda
- the Ambassador of the European Union to Rwanda, Mr. Nicola Bellomo
- the ILO’s Regional Director for Africa, Ms. Cynthia Samuel-Olonje
- the activist and one of the leaders and board members of the International Forum on Globalization, Dr. Vandana Shiva, and
- the Principal Adviser for European Social Policy at the European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC), Patrick Develtere

Who are we?

The ICA unites, represents and serves cooperatives worldwide.

Founded in 1895, it is one of the oldest non-governmental organisations and one of the largest ones measured by the number of people represented: more than one billion cooperative members on the planet.

It is the apex body representing cooperatives, which are estimated to be around 3 million worldwide, providing a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and co-ordinated action for and about cooperatives.

The ICA works with global and regional governments and organisations to create the legislative environments that allow cooperatives to form and grow.
Programme

14 OCTOBER 2019

19:30
Opening cocktail and welcome addresses
• Thacienne Mutezinka, President of the National Cooperative Confederation of Rwanda
• Japheth Magomere, ICA Africa President
• Ariel Guarco, President of the ICA
• Hon. Soraya Hakuziyaremenye, Minister of Trade & Industry of the Republic of Rwanda

15 OCTOBER 2019 (organised by the ICA-EU partnership)

PLENARY SESSION I

09:00 INSTITUTIONAL OPENING
• Nicola Bellomo, Ambassador, Delegation of the EU to Rwanda
• Ariel Guarco, President of the ICA
• Hon. Soraya Hakuziyaremenye, Minister of Trade & Industry of the Republic of Rwanda
• Guest of honour

11:30 COOPERATIVES HELP TO ACHIEVE A MORE SOLIDARITY-BASED AND PARTICIPATORY SOCIETY
Keynote speech by Vandana Shiva, International Forum on Globalization

PARALLEL SESSIONS

14:00 COOPERATIVES AS KEY ACTORS OF COLLECTIVE ACTION TO ACHIEVE AGENDA 2030
Inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships built upon the principles and values of effective cooperation play a vital role in achieving Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Partnerships (SDG17) will be the cross-cutting theme of these 4 parallel sessions with high-level representatives of the UN, European Union, civil society and cooperative development networks discussing the significance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and the role that the Cooperative Movement can play as a key actor for collective action.

16:30 CONTINUATION OF THE PARALLEL SESSIONS

PARALLEL SESSION 1: Tackling inequalities through the cooperative movement
PARALLEL SESSION 2: Women empowerment at the forefront of sustainable development
PARALLEL SESSION 3: Innovation in entrepreneurship through the cooperative model
PARALLEL SESSION 4: Globalisation of inclusive ethical value chains

PLENARY SESSION II

17:30 PROMOTING THE PRESERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN AFRICA AND BEYOND
Keynote speech by Hon. Mohammed Sajid, Ministry of Tourism, Air Transport, Handicrafts and Social Economy of the Kingdom of Morocco

18:45 COOP CINEMA : A COOPERATIVE JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD
PLENARY SESSION III 09:00 COOPERATIVE’S CONTRIBUTIONS TO EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK

PLENARY SESSION IV 11:30 COOPERATIVES’ STRATEGIC POSITIONING IN VALUE CHAINS

PARALLEL SESSIONS

14:30 HOW DO COOPERATIVES FROM DIFFERENT SECTORS PLAY A ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT?

Organised by the ICA’s sectoral organisations - the International Cooperative Agricultural Organisation (ICAO), the Consumer Cooperatives Worldwide (CCW), the International Health Cooperative Organisation (IHCO), the International Organisation of Industrial and Service Cooperatives (CICOPA), the Cooperative Housing International (CHI) as well as the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) . The three parallel sessions show the specificities of cooperatives in different sectors.

PARALLEL SESSION 5: Contributing to food security and sustainable production and consumption
PARALLEL SESSION 6: How health, industrial and services cooperatives contribute to reducing inequalities (only 14:30-16:30)
PARALLEL SESSION 7: Housing and energy
17:00 CONTINUATION OF THE PARALLEL SESSIONS

20:00 Gala dinner + Rochdale Awards

17 OCTOBER 2019

PLENARY SESSION V 09:00 COOPERATIVES CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEACE AND EQUALITY

11:00 SUMMARY OF THE SEMINARS AND ELABORATION OF POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
Institutional panel (UN - ILO - FAO - UNPD) / Grand debate with participants

For the full list of speakers, please check our website: kigali2019.coop
What should you know about Rwanda?

It will be a unique event as it is the first time the global cooperative movement will be gathering with a specific focus on the contribution of cooperatives to sustainable development. Being held in central Africa, it allows the ICA to understand first-hand the subject. On top of that, it will take place in a country that is growing quickly economically!

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 Facts about Rwanda:

- **Population**: 12,000,000 (2017, World Bank)
- **Area**: 26,338 km²
- **GDP**: 9 billion $ (GDP, 2017, World Bank)
- **President**: Paul Kagame (Since 22 April 2000)

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The country is listed as the 9th safest nation globally by the World Economic Forum.

Every last Saturday of the month, Rwandans provide mandatory community service in their neighborhood.

64% of the members of Parliament are WOMEN - the highest number internationally.

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Rwandan cooperative movement

- **Cooperatives**: Around 10,000
- **Memebership**: 5 million (50% of the population are members of cooperatives)
- **Agriculture Cooperatives**: 27%
- **Share Capital**: RWF45 billion

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Job creation in...

- Credit & saving
- Livestock
- Commerce
- Services
- Transport
- Handcraft
- Transformation
- Mining
- Fishing
- Housing

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Previous ICA Global Conferences

Organized every two years, ICA’s Global Conference brings together cooperative opinion leaders and other actors who want to learn, debate and network on topics at the top of the cooperative agenda.

From **14 to 17 November 2017**, ICA’s Global Conference in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**, brought together 1,500 people from more than 80 countries and counted 62 sessions with more than 60 speakers to discuss the role of cooperatives in putting people at the centre of development.

Watch a recap.

Under the theme of "2020: what will your cooperative look like' the **2015’s** edition of the Global Conference was set in **Antalya, Turkey**, from **10 to 13 November**.

From **1 to 5 November 2013**, ICA’s Global Conference was held in **Cape Town, South Africa**. It was the first time in ICA’s history that it was held in Africa. Over 1,000 people from 88 nations joined the debate.
Press Release
ICA's 2019 Global Conference
14-17 October - Kigali, Rwanda

First global conference focusing on cooperatives’ contribution to the SDGs

Renowned speakers to inspire an international audience at the International Cooperative Alliance's Global Conference

From 14 to 17 October in Kigali, Rwanda, the 2019 edition of the International Cooperative Alliance’s (ICA) Global Conference will gather people from all over the world to examine the theme of ‘Cooperatives for Development’. Participants will share, discuss, advocate and showcase cooperatives’ contribution to sustainable development. The event has been organised in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Rwanda.

The global cooperative movement will focus on the contribution cooperatives have made to sustainable development, to the development of their surrounding communities, and to the world at large. Alongside cooperators from more than 90 countries, the conference will bring together civil society actors, development agencies, policymakers, institutional partners, government officials, representatives from international and regional organisations, researchers, and a wide range of actors concerned with issues in development.

The theme of the conference is a crucial one for the ICA and its members, in terms of both the political recognition the cooperative model has gained at different levels over the last five years in international development, and the organisation’s partnership with the European Commission – a partnership which seeks to strengthen the cooperative movement and its capacity to foster international development through policy, knowledge building and sharing, networking, and visibility actions.

As people-centred businesses and key development actors, cooperatives are contributing to achieving a better and more sustainable future for all by supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Sustainable Development Agenda will be the focus of “Cooperatives for Development” debates and the SDGs will constitute angles of intervention for our speakers and participants.

Within the spectrum of development and the SDGs, the issues addressed will include women’s empowerment, the preservation of the environment, the eradication of hunger and poverty, decent work, ethical value chains, affordable housing, equality and peace, and innovation in entrepreneurship.
Held every two years, this is the second time in the ICA’s 124-year history that the event will take place on the African continent, making it an appropriate venue to discuss the topic of sustainable development.

Speakers

The conference includes high-level speakers from the field of development and beyond.

Among them, Vandana Shiva – who will give the keynote speech – is one of the leaders and board members of the International Forum on Globalization, a research and educational institution focused on the cultural, social, political, and environmental impacts of economic globalisation. She is also a prominent figure in the global solidarity movement of alter-globalisation, against the negative effects of the capitalist economy.

Other orators include Patrick Develtere, Principal Adviser for European Social Policy at the European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC), the European Commission’s in-house think tank, and his book “Cooperating out of poverty: The renaissance of the African cooperative movement” will be part of the session on “Globalisation of inclusive ethical value chains”.

Reema Nanavaty, head of the Self-Employed Women's Association of India (SEWA), will likewise participate in a discussion entitled “Cooperatives' contributions to employment and decent work”. The Indian social worker is known for her humanitarian services and has worked closely with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), integrating the institute's Global Commission on the Future of Work.

The event will also have the presence of the Minister of Trade & Industry of the Republic of Rwanda, Ms. Soraya Hakuziyaremeye; the ICA’s Mr. Ariel Guarco; ICA-Africa’s President, Mr. Japheth Magomere; and the President of the National Cooperative Confederation of Rwanda, Ms. Thacienne Mutezinka, and the Ambassador of the European Union to Rwanda, Mr. Nicola Bellomo.

# ENDS #
Press contacts

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Press Pass
Members of the Media & Press are invited to attend the conference free of charge provided that they produce in situ at minimum two articles on the conference (plenary sessions or breakout sessions). Application for the media discount code and Media Accreditation should be submitted to Leire Luengo, Director of Communications, luengo@ica.coop.

Useful information

Venue
Kigali Conference Center (KCC)
KG 2 Roundabout
Kimihurura
Kigali, Rwanda

Languages
For the plenary sessions: Kinyarwanda, English, Spanish, Italian, French, Japanese

For the seminars: Simultaneous translation will be provided in two or even three of the official languages of the conference (ref. programme).

Take a further step
For more information, please visit the website conference www.kigali2019.coop
Use #COOPCONFERENCE19 & #COOPS4DEV to follow the discussion