



The ILO and Cooperatives – A global perspective towards the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC)

Igor Vocatch-Boldyrev
23 November 2010

ILO Sub-Regional Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Cooperatives in the Arab States, Beirut

Outline



1. A Cooperative Branch
2. Four ILO Strategic Objectives
3. Fair Globalisation
4. Cooperatives and Poverty
5. The Global Cooperative Campaign against Poverty
6. International Year of Cooperatives 2012



A Cooperative Branch



- 1920 Albert Thomas establishes the Cooperative Branch.
- The ILO recognises the importance of cooperatives in article 12 of its Constitution.
- « I'm Co-operator and, as such, i have the greatest and fullest confidence in the virtue and efficacy of the cooperative spirit » Albert Thomas



Four ILO Strategic Objectives



- Promote and realize fundamental principles and rights at work.
- Create greater opportunities for women and men to secure decent employment.
- Enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all.
- Strengthen tripartism and social dialogue.



Fair Globalisation



- March 2002 Establishment of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation.
- February 2004 Publication of the report « A Fair Globalisation. Creating opportunities for all ».
- Decent work is a global goal.
- « Cooperatives are... a global force... ».



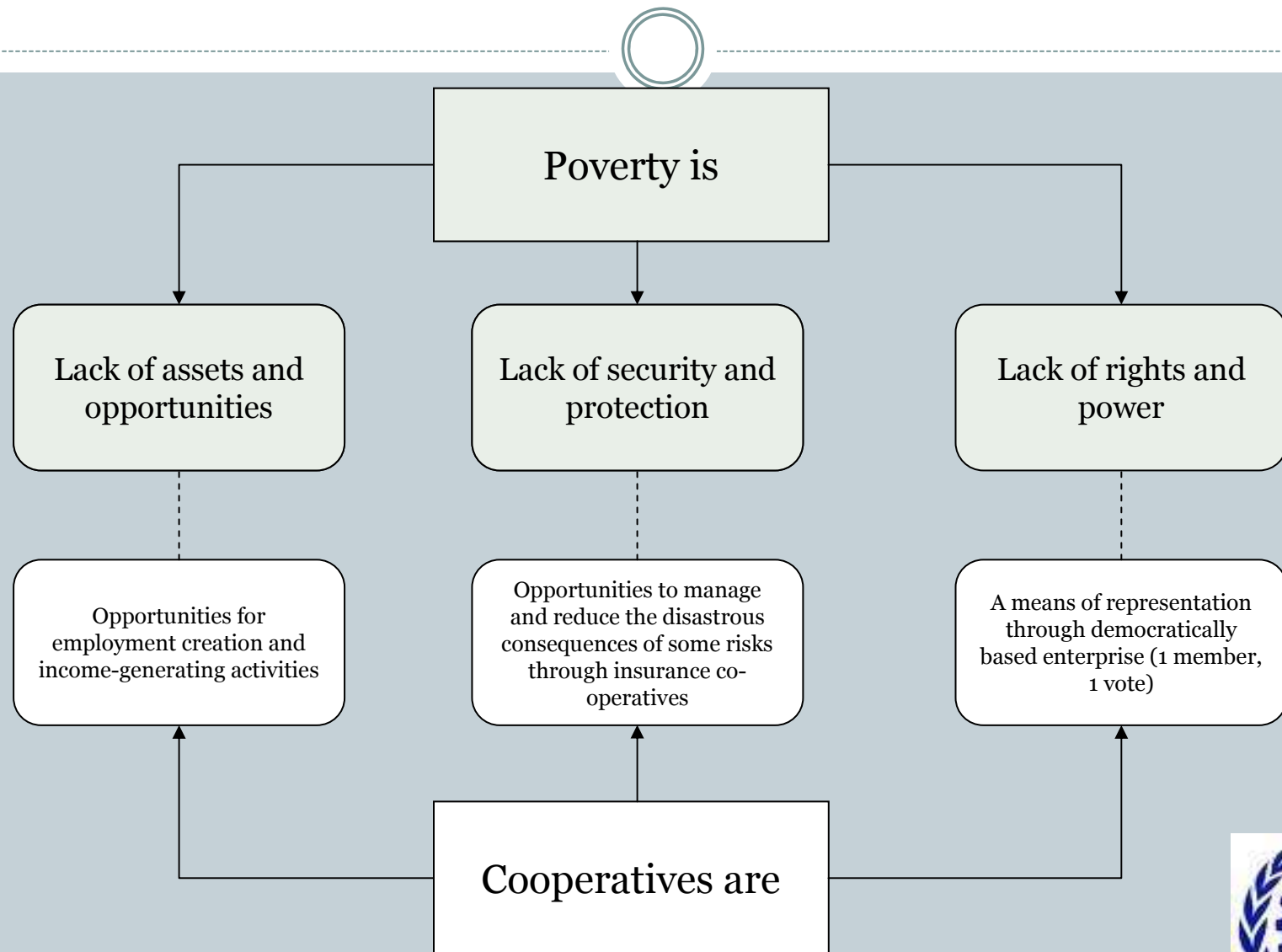
Cooperatives and Poverty



- Cooperatives are considered as an important means of overcoming poverty.
- 1995 World Summit for Social Development.
- 1996 Resolution at the UN General Assembly.
- 1999 Report of the ILO Director-General.
- 2001 UN Guidelines on the role of cooperatives.



Cooperatives and Poverty



The Global Cooperative Campaign against Poverty

- 2004 The Memorandum of Understanding between the ILO and the ICA.
- 2004 Summit of the African Union Heads of State on Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Ouagadougou.
- 2005 Launching of a Global Cooperative Campaign against Poverty.



Cooperatives and Job Creation



- Cooperatives as **workplace** in the case of worker cooperatives
- Cooperatives as **employers** in the case of service cooperatives which employ members or non-members (consumer cooperatives)
- Cooperatives **promoting self-employment** which occurs if service cooperatives provide promotional services to their members (supply and marketing cooperatives)



Cooperatives and Job Creation



- Cooperatives effect **indirect employment** where jobs are created as a consequence of the very existence of cooperatives (apex organizations, training institutions, audit societies).
- Cooperatives through their operations induce **spill-over effects** on their environment some of which are directly related to employment.



International Year of Cooperatives 2012



- On December 18, 2009 the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed **2012** as the **International Year of Cooperatives** (GA Res. A/RES/64/136).
- UN GA Resolution A/RES/64/136, Operative Paragraph 3:
“*Encourages* all Member States, as well as the United Nations and all other relevant stake-holders, to take advantage of the International Year of Cooperatives as a way of promoting cooperatives and raising awareness of their contribution to social and economic development;”



International Year of Cooperatives 2012



- **UN main objectives:**

- To increase public awareness about cooperatives and their contribution to socio-economic development and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals including the MDGs;
- To promote the formation and growth of cooperatives for socio-economic empowerment; and
- To provide an enabling environment with policies, law and regulations.

- **ILO focus areas:**

- Policy dialogue: Awareness raising/communication
- Statistics and data on cooperatives
- Cooperatives and education, training and research
- Policy and legal environment for cooperatives



Conclusion



Please visit us @ www.ilo.org/coop

