

# ▶ Cooperatives and the SDGs: 5 years of progress?

Rodrigo Gouveia  
CEO - PromoCoop

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1. **Context**
2. **Contributions of cooperatives to the SDGs**
3. **Analysis**
4. **Conclusions and Recommendations**

## About Us

- ▶ PromoCoop - Promoting Cooperatives Development is an international partnership of consultants with the objective of helping cooperatives and other social economy organizations to thrive
- ▶ The authors: Rodrigo Gouveia, Manuel Mariño, Jorge Cabrera
- ▶ More information: [www.promocoop.coop](http://www.promocoop.coop)

## 1. Context

- ▶ 15 September 2015 the UN adopts the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development;
- ▶ International cooperative movement endorses SDGs and commits to their implementation;
- ▶ Expectation of more visibility, participation and recognition of cooperatives.

## 2. Contributions of cooperatives to the SDGs

- ▶ The nature of cooperatives is conducive to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental
- ▶ Economic contributions are centred on providing access to essential goods and services to everyone in a democratic, inclusive and non-discriminatory way (e.g. access to food, housing, health, decent work, financial services)
- ▶ Through their economic activity, cooperatives contribute to multiple SDGs.

## ▶ 2. Contributions of cooperatives to the SDGs (cont.)

- ▶ Social activity is also an expression of cooperative identity.
- ▶ These are people-centred, community-based policies approved by the members
- ▶ Social activity also contributes to multiple SDGs

## 2. Contributions of cooperatives to the SDGs (cont.)

- ▶ Environmental concern is enshrined in the cooperative values and principles (#7).
- ▶ Many cooperatives have active environmental policies linked to the way they do their business (e.g. selling environmentally-friendly goods and services)
- ▶ Besides their entrepreneurial operations, there are many examples of cooperative contributions for environmental goals

## 3. Analysis

- ▶ It is undeniable the value and amount of contributions that cooperatives make to the SDGs. However:
- ▶ There isn't enough research or set of indicators that can provide a clear picture, particularly at a global level.
- ▶ Action of cooperatives towards the SDGs is, many times, accidental or indirect.
- ▶ Visibility, participation and recognition of cooperatives is still low.



## ▶ 4. Conclusions and recommendations

- ▶ Cooperatives should incorporate the SDGs into their commercial and social strategies;
- ▶ A set of indicators should be developed that fits the nature of cooperatives and can be applied worldwide
- ▶ More research is needed.

## ▶ 4. Conclusions and recommendations (cont.)

- ▶ Communications should be adapted to better reflect the contributions of cooperatives to the SDGs;
- ▶ Cooperatives should engage more in coalitions with other like-minded organizations (e.g. social economy);
- ▶ Dialogue with policymakers and should be increased.