

ICA intervention on the importance of UN Resolution on SSE: (3 mins)

Presented by Joseph Njuguna

I am speaking on behalf of the International Cooperative Alliance which represents millions of cooperatives in all economic sectors. It has also established a **Coalition** with other global SSE representative organisations, ICMIF and AIM for mutuals, SSE International Forum and GSEF.

“A UN resolution on SSE would provide the opportunity for a focused exchange and learning by members States, guiding UN agencies on priority areas of work on SSE and documenting of its contributions to sustainable development. The resolution would therefore contribute to improved policy making and implementation, particularly in countries and societies farthest behind, leading to accelerate the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and realizing the SDGs.”

However, efforts need to be stepped up to accelerate the pace towards implementation if we want to achieve the targets of the SDGs by 2030. There is need to identify the approaches that work and to increase support for them. SSE Enterprises and Organizations including cooperatives which are a key constituent of the SSE play a substantive role in achieving the SDGs, especially considering their different roles in the economy. Due to time constraint, I will only pick one SDG to show the relevance of SSE in the economy, ie. SDG 8.

The **SSE represents a key opportunity for a human-centred future of decent work**: SDG8 has a direct impact on other SDGs, leading to an improvement of the living standards of the surrounding communities.

- First, **SSE employment is massive**: cooperative employment alone is estimated to be around 280 million people, which makes up around 10% of global employment. In addition, tens of millions of people receive credit through financial cooperatives to start or strengthen their economic activity. The wider SSE accounts for an even bigger share of global employment.
- Secondly, due to its specific characteristics, **the SSE strongly contributes to sustainable and inclusive employment**, including for underprivileged and marginalized groups, women, youth, people with disabilities migrants, first nations etc., and shows resilience in times of crisis like again now with COVID. A global study a few years ago showed that cooperative employment tended to be more stable than the average, and to create and maintain employment including in rural and remote areas.
- Third, **SSE helps to formalise the informal economy**. SSE businesses are normally registered entities, even when the microenterprises run by their members are first in the informal economy, before they gradually transit to the formal one.
- Lastly, **SSE businesses**, especially cooperatives which are active in all economic sectors, and being autonomous in management and independent from public authorities, **contribute tangibly to overall economic growth**.

In conclusion, a UN resolution on SSE will strengthen and promote the work done by SSE enterprises and organization and will enhance their recognition on their contribution towards achieving the SDGs.

Thank you!