



**International Co-operative
Alliance – Africa**
A Region of the International
Co-operative Alliance

MIDTERM REVIEW OF THE 13th AFRICA MINISTERIAL COOPERATIVE CONFERENCE (AMCCO)

Venue: MASERU LESOTHO

19-22nd May, 2024

THEME: Leveraging Cooperatives for transitioning African Economies: A holistic approach to climate change mitigation & adaptation, peace & security and economic stability

Context and Background

Africa is currently undergoing substantial transformations in its development, necessitating sustainable strategies for a shift towards resilient economies. However, progress has often been impeded by the challenges of climate change, economic instability, and conflicts. The IMF blog of 2023 highlights the severe threats posed by climate change, particularly affecting fragile states in Africa with floods, droughts, storms, and other climate-related shocks¹. These crises hinder the continent's growth and demand a holistic approach for sustainable development across multiple dimensions.

The World Bank² reported that in 2023, approximately 462 million people in the region were still living in extreme poverty, and high levels of debt have become a major challenge. The recent poly-crisis, encompassing climate-related issues, economic inequality, conflicts, and political polarization, has exacerbated the debt surge. Despite an expected slight acceleration in economic growth to around 3.5% according to the UN World Economic Situation and Prospects report (WESP) 2024³, concerns about debt sustainability, fiscal pressures, and climate change remain significant

¹ <https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs/Articles/2023/08/30/africas-fragile-states-are-greatest-climate-change-casualties>;

² <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/afr/overview>

³ https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/WESP_2024_Web.pdf

uncertainties requiring urgent solutions. The recent COP 28 in Dubai, concluding the first global stock take under the Paris Agreement, revealed slow progress in all areas of climate action. This slow pace includes reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening resilience to climate change, providing financial and technological support to fragile nations, and fostering inclusive economic development globally.

The African Development Bank emphasizes its role in lifting transition countries out of fragility. The private sector not only contributes to economic benefits such as growth, higher incomes, and employment but also offers hope through increased economic opportunities. Amid challenging environments, the private sector can act as a stabilizer and a catalyst for exiting fragile conditions. Cooperatives are private sector organisations who are member owned and controlled coming together to meet a common need. This can be either economic, social, cultural, environmental or all the above. Cooperatives operate in every sector of the economy, and they are in both urban and rural settings making them equal and significant players in economic development.

It is against this backdrop, this conference aims to continue discussions on how cooperatives can be leveraged to facilitate the transition of African economies, specifically in the realms of climate change mitigation, adaptation, peace & security, and economic stability. As people-centred organizations, cooperatives present a unique opportunity to build a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive future for the continent.

General Objective

The overarching objective of this conference is to convene government ministers & officials, cooperative leaders, and other stakeholders to deliberate on the optimal leveraging of cooperatives in the transitional efforts of African economies. This forum seeks to establish a platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and innovative solutions to address Africa's socio-economic and environmental challenges through the cooperative movement.

Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of this conference include:

- Identifying ways in which cooperatives can be leveraged for transitioning African economies, specifically in the areas of climate change mitigation, adaptation, peace & security, and economic stability.
- Discussing and recommending innovative and inclusive cooperative practices/best cases relevant to the transitioning of African economies.
- Fostering partnerships and collaborations between cooperatives, governments, civil society organizations, and international development agencies to address the pertinent transitioning issues of climate change, peace & security, and economic stability.

Expected Outcomes

The conference is anticipated to yield the following main outcomes:

- Identification of ways in which cooperatives can be leveraged for transitioning African economies, specifically in the areas of climate change mitigation, adaptation, peace & security, and economic stability.
- Sharing and recommending innovative and inclusive cooperative practices/best cases relevant to the transitioning of African economies.
- Development of partnerships and collaborations to support cooperatives in addressing transitioning issues, including climate change mitigation & adaptation, peace & security, and economic stability.

DRAFT AGENDA

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITIES FACILITATOR	VENUE	
19 th May 2024	9:00-14:00HRS	Regional Statutory Meetings (ICA-Africa Board Meeting)		
		Sectoral Meetings		
20 th May 2024	9:00-10:30HRS	<u>Session 1: Opening Ceremony</u> Master of Ceremony- TBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address- Commissioner for Coop Dev- Lesotho • Remarks by the Regional Director, ICA-Africa: Dr. Chiyoge B. Sifa • Remarks by the ICA-Africa President - High Chief Ayeola Oriyomi • Remarks by the Chair of the AMCCO- Egypt Minister • Remarks by Ministers for Cooperatives- Lesotho • Welcoming Address by the Guest of Honor: TBC- Lesotho 		
		10:30-11:00HRS	GROUP PHOTO AND TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
	11:00-11:20HRS	<u>Session Two: Conference:</u> Background Paper: <i>Leveraging Cooperatives for transitioning African Economies: A holistic approach to climate change mitigation & adaptation, peace & security and economic stability</i>		
	11:20-13:00HRS	High Level Panel: Overview of Transitioning African Economies- (Ministers) Indicative panel questions from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges and opportunities for transitioning African economies • Impact of climate change, economic instability, and conflicts on African economies • Any best practices in transitioning economies 		
	LUNCH BREAK			
	14:00-15:40HRS	Paper Presentation on the Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leveraging Cooperatives for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation • Leveraging Cooperatives for Peace and Security 		
	15:40-16:20HRS	Tea and Coffee break		
	16:20-17:00HRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leveraging Cooperatives for Economic Stability 		
	19:00HRS	Welcoming Dinner		
	21 st May 2024	09:00-10:00HRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing of Innovative Cooperative Practices and Case Studies 	
10:00-11:00HRS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel discussion on fostering partnerships between cooperatives, governments, and development agencies 		
11.00-11.30HRS		Tea and Coffee break		

	11.30-13.00HRS	<p align="center"><u>Session Three: TCAMCCO</u></p> <p>Brief Country Reports based on Cairo Declaration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. East 2. West 	
	13.00-14.00HRS	LUNCH BREAK	
	14.00-15.00HRS	<p>Brief Country Reports based on Cairo Declaration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Central 2. South 3. North 	
	15:00-16.30HRS	<p align="center"><u>Session Four: Launch of Cooperative Projects-</u></p> <p>Moderator: Chair of AMCCO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coop Desk at the Africa Union (AU) • Regional Cooperative Programme- Norges Vel • EU Project • Brief on Africa Cooperative Model Law 	
	16:30-17.00HRS	Tea and Coffee break	
22 nd May 2024	09:00-12:00hrs	<p><u>Session Five: Agenda and Venue of the next AMCCO</u></p> <p>Moderator: Chair of the AMCCO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the Two Days Conference Summary Recommendations and Conclusions • Presentation and Adoption of the Agenda of the next AMCCO • Venue of the 2025 AMCCO announced <p><u>Closing Ceremony</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarks by the Regional Director, ICA-Africa: Dr. Chiyoge B. Sifa • Remarks by the ICA-Africa President - High Chief Ayeola Oriyomi • Remarks by the Chair of the AMCCO- Egypt Minister • Remarks by the Minister for Coops Lesotho • Closing Address by the Guest of Honor: TBC-Lesotho 	
	12.00-13:30HRS	LUNCH	
	13.30- 18.00HRS	Excursions	