



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

Call for Papers

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

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

**Maseru, Lesotho
20th – 21st May, 2024**

ICA-Africa and Lesotho's Ministry of Trade, Industry, Business Development are hosting the Midterm Review of the 13th Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference which will be held from the 19th – 22nd May, 2024 in Maseru, Lesotho. There will be a technical conference on the 20th – 21st during this gathering and the theme is: ***Leveraging Cooperatives for transitioning African Economies: A holistic approach to climate change mitigation & adaptation, peace & security and economic stability.***

The technical Conference on Cooperatives aims to bring together Government ministers & officials, cooperative leaders, key stakeholders, experts, practitioners, and policymakers from across Africa to explore the significant role of cooperatives in promoting sustainable development on the continent. This forum seeks to create a platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and innovative solutions to address Africa's socio-economic and environmental challenges through the cooperative movement.

This call for papers pertains to the thematic focus of "***Leveraging Cooperatives for transitioning African Economies***" that underscore the pivotal role cooperatives play to facilitate the transition of African economies, specifically in the realms of climate change mitigation, adaptation, peace & security, and economic stability. As people-centered organizations, cooperatives present a unique opportunity to build a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive future for the continent of Africa.

One of the primary subthemes of this call is **the exploration of how cooperatives in Africa can and are actively contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation**. This encompasses an investigation into the multifaceted ways in which cooperatives, as collective and community-driven enterprises, engage in climate-related sectors and what more can be done. Cooperatives operate in diverse sectors, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, renewable energy etc. and cooperatives are implementing sustainable practices like carbon-credit initiatives, climate-resilient livelihoods, rural electrification, community resilience building etc. These interventions not only help address the challenges posed by climate change but also contribute to the overall sustainable development of the continent

This subtheme calls for rigorous examination of specific case studies and empirical research that elucidate the diverse mechanisms through which cooperatives can be key players in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Another crucial facet of the call is centered around **the role of cooperatives in fostering social cohesion and conflict resolution, contributing to the broader goals of peace & security on the continent**. This subtheme prompts researchers to delve into the strategies and creative approaches employed by cooperatives that contribute to the overall peace and stability of nations, sub-regions, and the region as a whole.

The inherent cooperative principles and values make the cooperative model a powerful tool for conflict mitigation and peace development. Cooperatives contribute significantly in fostering social cohesion and conflict resolution by addressing root causes and promoting inclusivity, economic empowerment, and shared-decision making. The cooperative movement approach to solving problems through collective actions and social solidarity is linked to promotion of peace through equality and empathy, inclusion and opportunity for decent work, entrepreneurship, and development

Furthermore, the call highlights **the importance of cooperatives in the continent's aspiration for economic stability**. Cooperatives in Africa contribute significantly to economic stability by creating employment, addressing poverty, fostering inclusive economic development and promoting sustainable

practices. Their collective and community-oriented approach aligns with the continent's aspirations for sustainable and resilient economies.

This subtheme underscores the significance of cooperatives as a key stakeholder in economic activities, and the need for their inclusion in collaborative national and regional efforts. Authors are encouraged to investigate how cooperatives can be leveraged to build robust and stable economies at both local and continental levels, especially during turbulent times.

Possible subtopics under the three subthemes are given below:

- **Leveraging Cooperatives for Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation:**

These subtopics below provide avenues for authors to delve deeper into the potential of cooperative engagement and its impact on climate change mitigation & adaptation within the African context:

- Role of cooperatives in addressing climate change challenges in Africa
- Opportunities and challenges in the implementation of climate mitigation & adaptation strategies
- Policy framework and enabling environment for cooperative engagement in climate change mitigation & adaptation
- Knowledge-sharing on climate resilient practices among cooperatives; experience and success stories

- **Leveraging Cooperatives for Peace & Security**

These subtopics below provide authors with opportunities to delve into the strategies and creative approaches employed by cooperatives novel approaches and strategies that cooperatives employ to promote peace and security in the African context:

- Role of cooperatives in fostering social cohesion and conflict resolution
- Opportunities and challenges in peace building & conflict resolution
- Policy & legal framework for cooperative engagements in promoting stable and peaceful societies
- Community engagement and Social integration
- Best case studies

- **Leveraging Cooperatives for Economic Stability in Africa**

These subtopics below provide authors with opportunities to delve into the dynamics of cooperative engagement with various stakeholders and their collective impact on sustainable development outcomes:

- Cooperative contribution to the stability of economies and reducing poverty
- Transforming socioeconomic development and enhancing financial literacy and access through cooperatives
- Role of cooperatives in consolidating economic integration and socio-economic development among African economies
- Cooperative partnership & collaborations for economic initiatives and access to
- Best case studies

Submission Guidelines:

Interested authors should submit their abstracts by **4th March, 2024** at erickobongo@icaafrica.coop or melvin@icaafrica.coop; kindly cc info@icaafrica.coop; mentioning as the email’s subject “ICA-Africa Regional Conference Abstract Submission.”

Authors of abstracts of papers addressing the theme of the conference will be selected and requested to submit full papers to be considered for presentation. Priority will be given to policy-and-solution oriented papers. Young researchers, academia and practitioners are encouraged to submit their abstracts. One key objective of the conference being to share knowledge that enables Cooperatives and other stakeholders in Africa to engage effectively in national, regional and international cooperation. **Key dates for the conference are as follows:**

Annotation	Deadline
Deadline for submission of abstracts	4th March 2024
Notification of acceptance of abstracts	11th March 2024
Deadline for paper submissions	15th April 2024
Notification of acceptance of papers	19th April 2024
Last day for the submission of presentations & attendance confirmation for presenters	3rd May 2024
Conference	20th May 2024

Review Process:

Papers received will be peer reviewed through a blind review process by the co-organizing institutions. The papers will be subjected to plagiarism check, and those which meet accepted standards will be accepted for presentation.

Sponsorship:

Authors are **expected to cover their travel, accommodation and daily subsistence costs**. Presenters will be **exempted** from paying the conference fee. It is expected that where a paper is jointly written by a team of authors, only one author will attend the Conference to make a presentation on behalf of the other authors.

Abstract guidelines

The following should be included in the abstract: Title, name and affiliation of the author(s); contact of corresponding author; a brief background/context and problem; objectives; theoretical anchorage/conceptual framework; methodology; results; conclusions; and recommendations. Flexibility will be excised to provide for abstracts for papers from different approaches and disciplines. The abstract, which should have a maximum of 300 words, should be submitted in English, in New Times Roman, italicized, single spacing with 3-5 keywords in bold at the bottom of the abstract.

For further information, please read Concept Note here: <https://bit.ly/3S00Vk4>

Or contact

Conference organizing committee

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