

Cooperatives- an Innovative System to Achieve the G20 Goals and Mission

Hema Yadav¹ and Mahesh Kadam²

¹Director, Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM), Pune, (M. S.)

²Associate Professor, Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM), Pune, (M. S.)

SUMMARY

Cooperatives with their ability to bring people together from the bottom-up and through their socio-economic-environmental emphasis have an important role to play. Cooperative ecosystem plays an important role in mobilizing resources and channelizing them in an equitable way to the credit needy countries and in socio-economic improvement. They are sustainable enterprises that are owned and run by their membership, and are built on values that encourage cooperation, empowerment and solidarity, rather than just profits. The ongoing G20 moves with Indian Presidency has proposed three priorities for the G20 (Development Working Group Meeting) DWG – first is Accelerating Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals; second is Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE); and, third is Data for Development. The article emphasis that Cooperatives are the building and bridging blocks to achieve the three fold mission (Sustainability, Environment, Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) and Technology/Data for development). G20 countries Cooperative ecosystem if work together with the above G20 vision under India presidency will embark the route of Hope, Harmony, Peace and Stability all around the globe.

INTRODUCTION

Hope, Harmony, Peace and Stability – these are defining ideas that will frame India's presidency of the G20 grouping of the world's most advanced and emerging economies. G20 provides India, the world's fifth largest economy, a great opportunity to shape the global agenda at a time of increasing polarisation and escalation of geopolitical tensions, to advance peace, stability and shared prosperity in a fragmented world. The main avenues of G20 are Sustainability, Environment and Technology focused by India G20 presidency, which can be achieved by Cooperatives and Cooperative development. The G20 was founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a forum for the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to discuss global economic and financial issues. The G20 was upgraded to the level of Heads of State/Government in the wake of the global economic and financial crisis of 2007, and, in 2009, was designated the "premier forum for international economic cooperation". The G20 Summit is held annually, under the leadership of a rotating Presidency. The G20 initially focused largely on broad macroeconomic issues, but it has since expanded its agenda to inter-alia include trade, climate change, sustainable development, health, agriculture, energy, environment, climate change, and anti-corruption. The G20 is made up of 19 countries and the European Union along with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The Group of Twenty (G20) comprises 19 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States and the European Union. The G20 members represent around 2/3 rd of cooperative ecosystem, 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population. The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. It plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues.

India holds the Presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023.

PM Modi emphasized that India's G20 Presidency will be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive and would be shaped in consultation with our fellow travellers in the global South, thereby cementing India's position as the voice of the global South. India's G20 Presidency would focus on healing our "One Earth", creating harmony within our "One Family", and giving hope for our "One Future". The G20 Indonesian Presidency was based on the theme, "Recover Together - Recover Stronger". The Indonesian Presidency said that the world is in need of more collective action and inclusive collaboration amongst the major developed countries

and emerging economies. The priority issues for the Indonesian Presidency were Global Health Architecture, Digital Transformation and Sustainable Energy Transition.

The Indian Presidency has proposed three priorities for the G20 (Development Working Group Meeting) DWG –

- (i) Accelerating Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (ii) Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE); and,
- (iii) Data for Development.

The outcomes of DWG will be contributed to the envisaged deliverables at the Leaders' level Summit called the 'Green Development Pact', to provide impetus to global efforts towards fostering growth and development while pursuing strong climate ambitions through five pillars-

- 1) LiFE – Lifestyle for Environment;
- 2) Circular Economy;
- 3) Financing for Climate Agenda;
- 4) Accelerating Progress on SDGs; and,
- 5) Energy transition, Energy Security and Emerging trends.

Cooperatives are recognized as important partners to achieve the SDGs, because they promote democracy, enhance income, foster social inclusion, and care for the environment, all while having a significant economic impact on the world economy. The future SDGs will have three dimensions, i.e. economic, social and environmental. But these three dimensions are not neatly separated but rather interrelated, often complementary and sometimes conflicting. Health (goal 3), for example, is considered “social”, but the provision of health care is a vital economic factor and an important creator of jobs. Economic growth, seen as indispensable for poverty reduction and many other SDGs, may have a negative impact on the environment. And the provision of energy to all (goal 7) has economic, social and environmental aspects. In other words: the economic dimension of the SDGs cannot and should not be examined in isolation.

By their very nature cooperatives play a triple role: as economic actors they create opportunities for jobs, livelihoods and income; as social organizations built on a common goal and a common bond they extend protection and security, and contribute to equality and social justice; and as democratically controlled associations of individuals they play a constructive role in communities and nations, in society and politics. These three roles cannot be dissociated one from another because they are inherent to the very nature of cooperatives. In many respects cooperatives constitute just the tip of an iceberg formed by the less visible but more widespread social and solidarity economy (SSE). The SSE consists of a wide variety of organizations, associations and institutions that, despite the lack of a common definition, observe universal principles of cooperation. Not all SSE organizations are cooperatives, but all of them provide a platform for cooperation, mutuality, solidarity and reciprocity. Clearly the SSE has much to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and their targets.

Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)

'Lifestyle for Environment' is a need for all of us to come together and take Lifestyle for Environment forward as a campaign. This can become a mass movement towards an environmentally conscious lifestyle. Mission LiFE seeks to translate the vision of LiFE into measurable impact. It is designed with the objective to mobilise at least one billion Indians and other global citizens to take individual and collective action for protecting and conserving the environment in the period 2022–28. Within India, at least 80 percent of all villages and urban local bodies are aimed to become environment-friendly by 2028. The Mission LiFE will be easily achieved in greater moves if channelized through cooperatives. Cooperatives have the strength through their principles to make the Life style for environment more easily under stable and reachable to grass root level stakeholder which are present in form of cooperatives in every village of the country in India and around globe. As India suggested that, Mission LiFE will be progressed through the Cooperative Federalism.

Cooperative Federalism

Cooperative Federalism in India reflects an ideology of a stable relationship between the centre and other units. It guides all the governing bodies to come forward and cooperate to resolve common social, political, economic and civic problems. The Cooperative Federalism can be simplified to stakeholders through the principles of cooperation and involve the higher to lower entity in better manner for proper reach of the vision and values of the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE).

Technology/Data for development/Social development will be enriched and achieved by institutionalizing the cooperatives through technology tool. The steps taken by the Government of India for Separate Ministry for Cooperation and handholding the existing and new cooperatives through technology for its efficacy and achievement of dogmas of social development falls in the same lines of the third need of priorities for the G20 (Development Working Group Meeting) DWG. It can be achieved through cooperatives like institutions and its outreach in India and globe too. Cooperatives are the building and bridging blocks to achieve the three fold mission (Sustainability, Environment, Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) and Technology/Data for development). G20 countries Cooperative ecosystem if work together with the above G20 vision under India presidency will embark the route of Hope, Harmony, Peace and Stability all around the globe.

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