



ICA 7th Regional Assembly for AFRICA
Gender Workshop
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**" The ICA G.E.C. Gender Integration Strategies
and Activities: Results and Future Perspectives"**

Stefania Marcone
Chairperson ICA G.E.C.



What is going on?



- ✿ Fourth World Conference on Women (1995)
Beijing Platform for Action;
- ✿ Beijing + 5 (2000);
- ✿ Millennium development goals
- ✿ Policy commitment at different levels

*Gender inequality remain all over
the world a pressing issue*



Main obstacles...



- ✿ Different types of constraints place lower value on the contributions, work, ideas and lives of women and girls;
- ✿ Women and gender equality are poorly represented in decision-making and policy-making.
- ✿ The benefits and negative impacts of trade liberalization, globalization and privatization are contradictory and uneven, with disproportionate numbers of women being negatively affected;
- ✿ Sex-disaggregated data is often not available.
- ✿ Violence against women and girls continues to grow.
- ✿ Too much rhetoric instead of concrete policies and actions that will achieve lasting change



Women: facts and figures



- ✿ Globally 500 million women live in extreme poverty
- ✿ Representing 1/3 of work force;
- ✿ Produce 60 - 80% of food;
- ✿ Earn only 1/3 of world income;
- ✿ Own less than 1% of rural ownership;

It is a huge social problem, involving women's rights and emancipation, it's a problem of equality and equity, but also a relevant economic issue.



Different perspectives for a global common problem: gender equality

The European Union: a Road Map (2006/2010)

- ✿ Achieving equal economic independence for women and men
- ✿ Gender perspective in social protection and poverty eradication policies
- ✿ Reconciliation of work, family and private life;
- ✿ Gender equality in decision making;
- ✿ Fighting gender based violence and trafficking
- ✿ Eliminating gender stereotypes in society
- ✿ Promoting gender equality outside E.U.



Some Key issues



- ❖ Self help, mutual help and self consciousness;
- ❖ Access to education and training;
- ❖ Access to property, membership and key productive factors;
- ❖ Gender mainstreaming in all policies and programmes, included development programmes, PRSP;
- ❖ Greater responsibility and accountability

Women are actors of change and development not only beneficiaries



ICA Gender Equality Committee

- ✿ Founded in 1965 (ICA Women's Committee);
- ✿ Forum of discussion and promotion of equality between women and men and gender integration in the cooperative movement and society;

A gender integrated movement and a society where women's and men's values, skills and contribution are valued equally and can be utilised on an equal basis, thus sharing rights and responsibility



ICA GENDER STRATEGY

(April 2000)



PILLARS:

- ✿ Statement and Commitment from top leadership and visibility of women and men leaders;
- ✿ Capacity Building;
- ✿ Gender Balance of Elected Official and Staff;
- ✿ Accountability and monitoring;
- ✿ Human and Financial Resources;

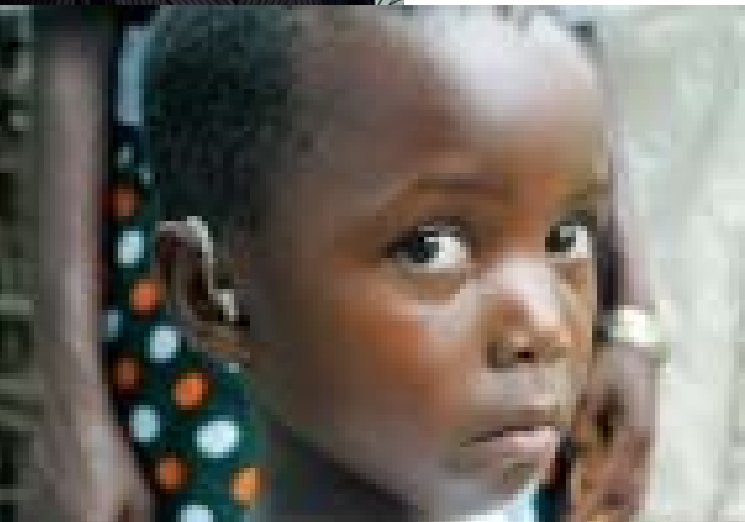


Results so far...

- ❁ A Global Gender Equality Committee;
- ❁ 2 Regional Gender / Women Committees (Americas, Asia,); networks in Africa and Europe;
- ❁ 4 Women Co-operators ICA Board Members and more women in the Regional governing bodies
- ❁ Gender mainstreaming (policies, programmes, projects);
- ❁ Over the last years joint activity with Regions, Specialized Organisations and Committees;



Despite the manifold positive results attained everywhere, there is still much to do...





Working Chapters - 1



- ❁ Lobby and advocacy;
- ❁ Promote an enabling environment for legislation programmes and policies increasing women's integration and gender equality;
- ❁ Establishing platforms of action at regional level and promoting cross-regional exchanges.



Working Chapters - 2



- ✿ Activity of gender awareness devoted to members, employees, managers of cooperatives (women and men);
- ✿ Develop projects targeted to women's need and requirements;
- ✿ Promoting women's entrepreneurship and decent work;
- ✿ Strengthening relations with women's local and international organisations;



Working Chapters - 3



- ✿ Enhance gender mainstreaming at any level;
- ✿ Collect gender disaggregated statistics and best practices;
- ✿ Strengthen increase alliances and partnerships within ICA family and with different stakeholders (NGO's, civil society organisations, institutions, etc);
- ✿ Promote relations and networking among cooperatives and women co-operators at regional and global level



Some proposals to share...

- ✿ Make a call to cooperative movements all over the world to put gender issues on their development agenda and programmes;
- ✿ Concentrate on fund raising issues for self-sustainable *co-operative* gender oriented projects;
- ✿ Contribute to set-up a cooperative platform of actions more and more gender equality oriented;
- ✿ Working with African colleagues, women and men, to support women co-operators in their path.



“African women’s fundamental contributions to development are increasingly acknowledged within Africa and by the international community. This is due to your own efforts to organize yourselves and make your voice heard...”

Africa Recovery-United Nations

Thank you

s.marcone@legacoop.coop