

**INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON ERADICATION OF POVERTY
NEW YORK, UNDESA
15-16 NOVEMBER 2006**

"Working together, building partnerships" was the theme under which Stefania Marcone, Director of International Relations of Legacoop (Italy) and Chair of the ICA Gender Equality Committee highlighted the work of co-operatives fighting poverty.

Ms Marcone made a presentation to the International Forum on the Eradication of Poverty held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 15-16 November. She introduced the ICA, the Global Campaign Against Poverty as well as work of Legacoop (Italy). Addressing more than 300 participants, Ms Marcone highlighted the work of Legacoop in promoting Fair Trade and supporting co-operative development for peace-building, fighting against HIV/AIDS and supporting women's economic empowerment through co-operative development.

Ms Marcone was joined by Ladis Columban Komba, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Development of Tanzania in advocating the contribution of co-operatives. Mr. Komba noted "the development of co-operative societies that are based on group empowerment of its members should be encouraged as a means of enhancing dialogue, source of credit facilities in rural areas (SACCOS) and a way of assuring the availability of important agricultural inputs and access to markets".

The International Labour Office (ILO) also reiterated its support for co-operative development during the session, "Mainstreaming Decent Work into poverty reduction strategies".

Information on and presentations to the meeting are found at:
www.un.org/esa/socdev/poverty/PovertyForum/docs.html