

# Cooperatives and labour rights

## Closing remarks

Andrea Dávila – International Labour Organization (ILO)

## ▶ Cooperatives in supply chains

- **10%** of global employment provided by cooperatives or within the scope of their operations (ICA 2017).
- Cooperatives are present in all tiers of the supply chain chains.
- Cooperatives are instrumental in:
  - generating income;
  - creating employment;
  - advancing formalization of the informal economy;
  - promoting decent work.

## ▶ Cooperatives and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW)

### Child labour

- 152 million children in child labour, 70.9% in Agriculture (ILO 2017)
- Cooperatives action:
  - Improving working conditions of parents;
  - Educating on the risks of CL;
  - Providing access to education to children.

### Forced labour

- 25 million people in forced labour (ILO 2017)
- Cooperatives action:
  - Facilitating transition from the informal to the formal economy;
  - Providing services for survivors of forced labour through social cooperatives;
  - Building alliances with anti-slavery and anti-trafficking organizations/networks.

# Cooperatives and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

## Discrimination

- Discrimination based on gender, race, and disabilities remains widespread.
  - Gender pay gap => 23 % globally;
  - Indigenous peoples (5% of the world's population) => 15% of the world's poor;
  - People with disabilities (15% of the world's population) => 80% are of working age;
- Cooperatives action:
  - Women's cooperatives create employment and allow socio-economic integration;
  - Social cooperatives create employment and provide services vulnerable populations;
  - Cooperatives for indigenous peoples allow access to markets, finances and income sources while preserving cultural heritage.

## Freedom of association and collective bargaining

- 40 per cent of the world's population lives in countries that have ratified neither of the freedom of association and collective bargaining Conventions
- Cooperatives action
  - Cooperatives can engage in social dialogue.
  - Cooperation between trade unions and cooperatives, mainly in the informal sector;
  - Worker buy-outs and collective bargaining agreements have proven cooperation between cooperatives and trade unions.

## ▶ ILO's work on cooperatives and labour rights in supply chains

### Development cooperation projects

- FPRW: Burkina Faso (cotton), Mali (cotton);
- Child Labour: Madagascar (vanilla), Côte d'Ivoire (cocoa), Uganda (tea & coffee), Burkina Faso (cotton), Egypt (mining), Nigeria (mining and cotton);
- Occupational safety and health (OSH): Myanmar (ginger).

### Awareness raising tools

- The role of cooperatives in eliminating child labour;
- A practical OSH tool for agricultural cooperatives.

# Thank you!

Visit us: [www.ilo.org/coop](http://www.ilo.org/coop)

Contact us: [coop@ilo.org](mailto:coop@ilo.org)