

# Background document on ICA participation in G20 discussions

Cooperatives have been participating in the [previous editions of B20](#) with taskforce representatives ensuring they are recognized as key contributors to solving the world's challenges. Their participation and advocacy have resulted in several references to and recognition of cooperatives in the final B20 policy papers submitted to the G20 leaders.

These cooperative representatives achieved a key milestone by increasing awareness about cooperatives with business leaders, resulting in a broader understanding of the role and importance of cooperatives as a fundamental actor in enhancing sustainable development. Some examples include:

- **Turkish G20 Presidency in 2016:** Cooperatives' influence increased, and brought to the table the main concerns of cooperative enterprises related to the key topics identified by the G20. Recommendations presented to the G20 stressed the need to "provide guidance on best practices for creation of cooperatives and raise awareness among Small and Medium Enterprise (SMEs) about how cooperative engagement has been effective in overcoming problems SMEs often face (e.g., lack of expertise, lack of market power, lack of economies of scale)".
- **German G20 Presidency in 2017:** Several cooperative representatives participated in various B20 taskforces resulting in several B20 policy papers providing cooperative-referenced recommendations, for instance:
  - o The SMEs Task Forces recommended that SMEs help each other by combining their market power in a jointly owned and jointly managed structure, such as a cooperative. Commonly owned structures like cooperatives might allow SMEs to maintain their independence and identity.
  - o The Health Task Force recommended that G20 members should continue and expand sharing good practices on how to improve access to health, including schemes such as health cooperatives that are estimated to provide health care access to nearly 100 million households around the world.
  - o The Employment and Education Task Force recommended that G20 governments should promote entrepreneurship as a way to boost self-employment by reducing administrative burdens related to the creation of business, and by promoting a diversity of business models, including cooperatives and other social economy enterprises.
- **Japan G20 Presidency in 2019:** The cooperative movement participated for the first time in the C20 taskforce. As a result, the C20 Policy Pack and Tokyo Declaration mentioned cooperatives in their recommendations and several task forces policy papers. For example, the International Financial Architecture included a directive for G20 countries to agree on "standards that promote a more diverse banking system in all countries" for the banking system to address "gender barriers and gaps in women's financial inclusion, and ensure finance to rural economy, small and medium enterprises, non-formal sector and poor and marginalised people at large."