

CONCLUSION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ONLINE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS
“TOPICAL ISSUES OF LEGAL REGULATION OF COOPERATIVES’
ACTIVITIES IN RUSSIA AND OTHER CIS COUNTRIES”

(Russian Federation, Belgorod,
Belgorod University of Cooperation, Economics and Law,
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,
June 23, 2022)

We, the participants of the international online conference “Topical issues of legal regulation of cooperatives’ activities of in Russia and other CIS countries”:

recognizing the role of the cooperative sector in ensuring food security, improving living conditions and combating poverty, sustainable transformation of agri-food systems and achieving SDG 2;

noting that the current state of legislation on cooperatives in Russia and other CIS countries is a common legacy of a shared historical past, maintaining a sectoral approach to the development of laws on various types of cooperation;

emphasizing that not all CIS countries have adopted a unified national law on cooperatives (cooperation), which establishes a unified legal status for all types of cooperatives, common principles and rules for the creation, registration, conditions of membership, formation of property, operation and management, distribution of income and responsibility;

recognizing the important role of international experience in the legal regulation of cooperatives for the further development and improvement of the national cooperative legislation of the CIS countries;

appreciating the importance of reflecting the ILO Recommendation No. 193, cooperative values and principles of the ICA in the legislation of the CIS countries for the international harmonization of legal provisions on cooperative identity;

considering that the absence of a national state policy in relation to cooperatives does not allow them to fully realize their potential, increase their contribution to solving socio-economic problems of the CIS countries;

acknowledging the existence of gaps in the cooperative legislation of the CIS countries, which do not allow to increase the efficiency of the functioning of cooperatives, to intensify participation in the implementation of national state programs focused on the implementation of the Agenda in the field of sustainable development for the period up to 2030,

stressed the need for:

- 1) development of a draft model law on cooperation, containing provisions both on the social role and place of cooperation in national economies (securing cooperative and ethical values, the principles of the International Cooperative Alliance), and on the legal status of a cooperative as a special organizational and legal form;
- 2) fixing in the national legislations of the CIS countries the principles of the unity of the status of cooperatives and the unity of the system of cooperation, the social purpose of cooperatives and other principles that characterize the cooperative identity;
- 3) introducing a unified cooperative terminology into the legislative practice of the CIS countries, including a single concept of a cooperative, reflecting its main characteristics (features) established by the ICA Declaration on Cooperative Identity, the specifics of the role of cooperatives and cooperation in general in the socio-economic development of states;
- 4) inclusion in the texts of the national laws of the CIS countries on cooperatives (cooperation) of the provisions of the ILO Recommendation No. 193 on methods for implementing cooperative policy, taking into account the national practice of the functioning of agricultural and consumer cooperatives, creating favorable legal conditions on the part of states for the development of cooperatives;
- 5) strengthening the emphasis on issues of gender equality, including in the cooperative legislation norms proclaiming the principle of the widest involvement of women in participation in the management and control bodies of a cooperative and introduction of temporary special measures;
- 6) attitude to the cooperative as a unique economic entity that contributes to food security, fight against poverty in accordance with the principles of the FAO, securing the special status of the cooperative in cooperative legislation;

7) continuing work on studying effective international practices of cooperative lawmaking in order to develop specific recommendations for improving the cooperative legislation of the CIS countries and popularizing the cooperative movement to achieve national goals;

8) sending the Conclusion to all participants of the international online conference “Topical issues of legal regulation of cooperatives’ activities of in Russia and other CIS countries”, to inform about the national features of the current cooperative legislation and develop a coordinated approach to its improvement.

9) sending the Conclusion to the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Department of Agro-Industrial Policy of the Eurasian Economic Commission for taking into account the recommendations made by the conference “Topical issues of legal regulation of cooperatives’ activities of in Russia and other CIS countries” in the development of strategic and regulatory documents related to the development of cooperation

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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