



**WEBINAR ON PROMOTING MSME FORMALIZATION THROUGH THE
COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISE MODEL 11TH MARCH 2021.**

CLOSING REMARKS

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Authority**

First is to thank every participant who has made this day a great success. I start with the Government of the Republic of Kenya represented by Mr. Rithaa, UNDESA, ILO participants, consultants working with UNDESA (Dr. Sifu and Mr. Ongeti), other speakers: Director-General Rwanda Cooperative Agency, Mr. Marangu from Cooperative Bank, Mr. Ototo from KUSCCO, Mr. Jeremy from Equity Bank Group, Reema from SEWA and other participants just to name a few.

We appreciate your time; indeed we are grateful that you have been patient enough since we started this Webinar. We also appreciate your contributions.

I think at this point I will be right to say that we now understand the great role that MSEs play in Kenya, Africa and world at large. This opportunity has given us all a platform to share experiences on how we can formalize MSMEs through co-operative enterprise model. Indeed it has been a very fruitful engagement and particularly just to highlight a few areas that we have learnt; we all agree that co-operative is the way to go in terms of enhancing access to financial resources for MSMEs, co-operative enterprise model is the way to go in enhancing access to markets for MSMEs, co-operative model is the way to go in helping MSMEs to digitalize their processes, training and capacity building is also an avenue where we can take advantage of the co-operative model. Co-operative model is the way to increase lobbying or ability of MSMEs to lobby for their services.

We also agree that there are a number of policy issues that also need to be looked at, at all levels; aspects of regulations, aspect of warehousing, aspect of business development, research and development, ICT, policy, publicity and advocacy, especially around this time that the Kenyan economy is recovering from effects of Covid-19. We cannot forget the aspect of financing, which is critical for growth of MSMEs.

Given the number of people that MSMEs support, it is important that we consider taking this discussion a notch higher in terms of seeing how we implement some of these recommendations. I believe we have met our objectives; first was to bring stakeholders together to discuss aspects of co-operative enterprise movement model and two, was to make appropriate recommendations geared towards ensuring MSMEs are made successful in Kenya and the world at large.

At this point, let me again appreciate you all for your contributions. I want to request that as we close this Webinar the conversation continues beyond this platform. I want to encourage each one of us to carry on with this discussion, let us engage further on the topic because as we have all seen, co-operative enterprise model is the way to go for the MSMEs in Kenya.

Finally, I once more want to thank UNDESA and all participants that have made this day a success. From MSEA, I want to say thank you so much for giving us this opportunity to co-host this event and I am looking forward to having more engagements in future.

Thank you so much.