



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
20 November 2013

Original: English

Commission for Social Development

Fifty-second session

11-21 February 2014

**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and
the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:**

**priority theme: promoting empowerment of people in
achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full
employment and decent work for all**

Statement submitted by Institute of International Social Development, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.



Statement

In the International Year of Cooperatives 2012, our Institute of International Social Development promoted a multi-State cooperative with initial membership of 2,500 members from the Indian States of West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand. The registration was done by the Ministry of Agriculture of India for both credit and consumer activities. The Institute of International Social Development facilitated the rationing activity by way of contacting suppliers of products and essential goods to hand over products to each member at below the local distributor rate. The members of the cooperative have each opened cooperative shops to sell these products at a lesser rate than the available retail rate to families with less than Rs. 10,000 per month.

The movement is gradually picking up and is creating multiple employment and saving money options for people who are stakeholders as actors and beneficiaries of the system. We have issued skill-based credits to rural people, which has created magic in areas like Nandigram in West Bengal. Sewing machines were provided to skilled tailors as a loan and now their performance has increased threefold and an increase in the average income to Rs. 12,000 per month from Rs. 3,000 per month have been reported within a span of just two months. Housewives have taken loan to support their small-scale ambitions and have thus benefited immensely through our credit system.

Although we have just floated the cooperative system, it serves as a very respectable financial support system with collective fiduciary responsibility of debtors and collective accountability of stakeholders of the consumer activities under a structured, well-defined, measurable system.

It is foreseen that structured cooperative units in various fields would not only open opportunities to people who need it to attain self-reliance and a situation of welfare but would also help in social integration through cooperation and participation in one another's time of need. It is a better option to create an environment of decent and righteous way of financial support than subject skilled and able people to donations and lower their self-esteem.

The Institute of International Social Development recommends the formation of consumer and credit cooperatives to provide an empowering poverty alleviation opportunity for communities and enhance social integration.
