

## CONCEPT NOTE

Online Side-event at the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the CSW

organized by

the Ministry of Family and Social Services

and



the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Türkiye to the United Nations

*Date: 17.03.2022*

*10:30 am - 11:45 am (New York Time)*

*5:30 pm - 6:45 pm (GMT+3 Istanbul Time)*

### ***Empowering Women through Cooperatives***

Twenty years have passed since 1995's World Beijing Conference on Women placed a focus on closing the gender gap; however, inequalities have continued beyond the 2015 target. Women are under-represented in political and economic decision-making processes; suffer from lack of access to decent, fair-waged, safe employment; and are more likely to work informal and unpaid labour. Given this reality, United Nations Member States have agreed to prioritise women's empowerment by creating a standalone Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for the issue.

Cooperatives contribute to the SDG by increasing women's access to resources and economic opportunities. Female members are playing an important role in increasing production levels. The inclusion of female farmers can fill supply gaps caused by a variety of factors, such as a rise in demand for food, higher rates of migration, and decreasing interest in agriculture among younger generations. Cooperatives need to recognize the potential of female farmers to be reliable and successful suppliers of agricultural products. Additionally, women are early adopters of new technologies. According to several research, female members are in general more likely than male members to apply what they learn in trainings and adopt new farming techniques. Participation of both men and women in the cooperative results in having a diversity of perspectives that strengthens the business overall.

Women's co-operatives were first established in Türkiye in 1999. Since then, small cooperatives - most have less than 25 members - have been created by women for women to empower each other to set-up their own businesses. Today, they are making a real difference. They have been developing rapidly since the 2000's. These are mostly established as enterprises, small handicrafts, agricultural development and consumption cooperatives.

### ***Empowering Women through Cooperatives (WOMENCOOP)***

Ministry of Family and Social Services of Türkiye is carrying out the "Operation for the Empowerment of Women through Cooperatives" in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry with the aim of strengthening women's cooperatives, ensuring their sustainability, developing their institutional capacities, increasing their visibility and expanding them.

The purpose of the Operation is to increase women's employment and to empower women through promoting and supporting women's cooperatives. The operation consists of only the service component and will last for 30 months. Activities to be carried out within the scope of the operation:

- Training and services for women potential with the potential to establish cooperatives/become cooperative partners, women who are cooperative partners and men who are cooperative partners,
- Strengthening the institutional capacity of beneficiary and co-beneficiary institutions and relevant actors,
- Awareness raising activities,
- Scientific and technical studies on cooperatives,
- Activities to ensure cooperation and coordination.

Through these activities, 6000 women and 3000 men will benefit from trainings and services; institutional capacity building activities will be carried out for 585 people; 1200 people will be reached through awareness activities; 5 scientific and technical study reports will be prepared; 5 events will be organized to ensure cooperation and coordination.

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In this context, the virtual **Side Event of Türkiye** seeks to further analyze the impact of the cooperatives on the empowerment of women and to highlight the important role of national authorities and international organizations in this regard. Furthermore, it aims to;

- Share the best practices among stakeholders on cooperatives for the economic empowerment of rural women and girls and identify what is needed to better value the role of women in rural areas.
- Identify new ways to accelerate the economic empowerment of rural women and girls in the post-pandemic era in light of the lessons learned.
- To emphasize the importance of sectorial cooperation for empowerment of women in rural areas.
- To address the impact of climate change and natural disaster on women as food and care providers.
- Review and highlight the role of SDG's and identify the challenges to achieve them.
- To discuss policy recommendations that could be a tool for implementation in different countries based upon international dynamics.

### **Side Event Schedule**

**Date and Time:** 17 March 2022, 10:30 am - 11:45 am (GMT-5 New York Time)

**Language:** English / *Turkish (tbc)*

**Link for viewers:** [youtube.com/ailevesosyal](https://youtube.com/ailevesosyal)

### **Opening Remarks:**

**H.E. Derya Yanık** - *TÜRKİYE*, Minister of Family and Social Services

### **Keynote Speaker:**

**H.E Bekir Pakdemirli** - *TÜRKİYE*, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

### **Moderator:**

**Alia El Yassir** – *UN WOMEN*, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia

### **Speakers:**

**H.E I Gusti Ayu Bintang Darmawati**, *INDONESIA*, Minister for Women Empowerment and Child Protection (to be confirmed)

**H.E Elena Bonetti**, *ITALY*, Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family

**Simel Eşim**, *ILO*, Programme Manager at the Enterprises Department

**Ismahane Elouafi**, *FAO*, Chief Scientist

**Diana Dovgan**, Secretary General of CECOP Europe (European Confederation of Industrial and Service Cooperatives)

**Nurten Öztürk**, Chair of Women Entrepreneurs Board, The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey