



# XXVII CONGRESS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE

## COOPERATION OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN THE YEAR 2000

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**XXVII** Congress  
International Cooperative Alliance

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OF THE SOCIALIST  
COUNTRIES  
IN THE YEAR 2000**

Joint Document  
of Central Cooperative Unions  
and Societies of Bulgaria, Hungary,  
GDR, Poland, Czechoslovakia and  
the Soviet Union

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# 1. Cooperation — Integral Part of the Political and Economic System of Socialist Society

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I. 1. Inherent in the development of all socialist countries are general **law-bound regularities**, manifested in different forms, which answer the historical conditions and specific national features of the individual countries.

The intensive development of productive forces and the continuous improvement of production relations in each country, the building of a developed socialist society in the Soviet Union and the entry of the majority of socialist states into this high developmental stage is a natural result of the political and economic development of socialism.

One of the basic laws in the development of the socialist countries is the application of **cooperative forms of management, ownership and democracy** at all stages in the building of socialism and communism.

I. 2. Being self-governed associations, the cooperatives are built on voluntary, individual membership, on their members' material contribution to the property foundation of the organization in the form of members' fees or socialization of the means of production, which, for example, are contributed when joining an agricultural production cooperative, and also on participation in running the affairs of these organizations, either directly or through elected bodies.

The Constitutions of the socialist countries contain legal norms, important theoretical and practical conclusions, defining the status of public organizations, cooperatives included. For instance, the Constitution of the USSR clearly formulates the place and role of these organizations in the political and economic systems of society, in the implementation of the basic rights, freedoms and duties of citizens. The Constitution protects and helps to develop cooperative ownership on the part of the state, grants cooperative organizations the right to legislative initiative, to the nomination of candidates for deputies to state bodies of power, to participation in the solution of political, economic, social and cultural matters.

The Constitution of the Polish People's Republic says: "The Polish People's Republic supports the development of various forms of the cooperative movement in town and countryside, and also gives it all-round assistance in the ful-

filment of its tasks, while ensuring cooperative property, as public property, special support and protection.”

The Constitutions of the socialist countries promulgate the right to the free development of cooperatives, recognizing them as an important constituent part of the political and economic system of socialist society, one of the effective means of building socialism and communism.

A number of socialist countries have enacted laws pertaining to cooperatives, envisaging the protection of their rights and regulating their relationships with state and other organizations.

The economic system of the socialist countries is based on socialist ownership of the means of production in the form of state (public) and cooperative property. Having the same social-economic character, these two forms of property differ in the level of socialization of the means of production and exchange, in their specific ways of forming key and circulating assets and in methods of management. As the socialist countries advance towards communism, the development of cooperative property will steadily approach higher levels of socialization, and approach state forms of property. This, however, is a lasting process and in the long-term context one must proceed from the premise that cooperative organizations will continue their vigorous development.

I. 3. As a result of the preceding, qualitatively new relationships have shaped out between the cooperatives and the state in the socialist countries. Underlying these relations is the fact that the two prevailing forms of property — state and cooperative — are actually of the same type, and the community of interests and tasks of the state and the cooperatives in tackling concrete problems of the society's economic and social life. They are friendly, are characterized by socialist mutual assistance and collaboration, and open unlimited opportunities for the development of the productive forces and ensure the attainment of the common goal of the socialist state and the cooperative movement — the best possible satisfaction of the material and spiritual needs of the people, including members of cooperatives.

As part and parcel of the national economy, having common goals with the entire socialist society, the cooperatives are also developing under the impact of socialism's inherent economic laws, including the law of planned, proportional development. A characteristic feature of this law is proportionality, the achievement of a balance between individual spheres and branches of the economy. As applied to the cooperatives, this means that they agree and coordinate their economic activities through the single national economic plan with the entire life of their respective countries.

At the present stage an increasing role goes to comprehensive long-term purpose-oriented programmes for tackling the most important economic and social problems, for the solution of which the cooperatives are also working. Considerable practical experience has already been gained in long-term planning of coopera-

tive activities. It is on these principles that a draft plan for the development of the cooperative movement is being elaborated in the socialist countries for the period till the year 2000.

The spheres and branches of cooperative activities in the socialist countries extend to agricultural supply, sale and services, the manufacture of consumer goods, trade and public catering, the purveyance and processing of agricultural products and raw materials, housing construction, minor credits, fishing, tourism, etc.

I. 4. Cooperatives in the socialist countries are developing dynamically, their membership is growing, just as their key assets are, and the physical volume of economic activities is increasing.

In the People's Republic of Bulgaria, for example, the cooperatives account for about 33 per cent of the country's retail goods turnover and 36 per cent of the turnover in public catering. It conducts broad purchasing activities, annually purchasing more than 1,500,000 tons of various agricultural products. Industrial enterprises of consumer cooperatives manufacture 98 per cent of non-alcoholic beverages, some 70 per cent of confectionary and 56 per cent of bread and other baked goods produced in the country. Agricultural production cooperatives in the agro-industrial complex of the country, occupy 70 per cent of all the cultivated land. Production cooperation extends not only to agriculture, but also to the processing of agricultural raw materials. Production cooperatives contribute to communal services and produce many consumer goods. Cooperatives set up for partially incapacitated persons play an important social role. Cooperatives also develop the output of building materials, souvenirs, they organize clothes-making, carpentry and other workshops for better meeting the everyday needs of their members.

In the Hungarian People's Republic the cooperatives contribute about 20 per cent of the national income. Agricultural production cooperatives occupy more than 70 per cent of all lands. More than 34 per cent of the country's retail goods turnover falls to the share of consumer cooperatives, while cooperative department stores account for nearly 43 per cent of the total turnover of all department stores. The share of consumer cooperatives in the purveyance of potatoes, vegetables and fruits exceeds 62 per cent, including: potatoes and fruit — 85 per cent. Handicrafts, housing and credit cooperation is vigorously developing.

In the German Democratic Republic cooperative property in agriculture comes to 80 per cent of the total. Agricultural production cooperatives yield the bulk of agricultural produce in the country. Cooperative retail enterprises of local and central subordination account for 34 per cent of the country's goods turnover. Cooperative enterprises produce 28 per cent of bread and other baked products produced in the country, 30 per cent of meat and sausages. A broad network of cooperative trade and public catering enterprises has been unfolded in Berlin, the capital of the GDR. The consumer cooperative of the city of Berlin fulfils an im-

portant function in providing services to the building workers of the capital.

In the Mongolian People's Republic agricultural production cooperatives own 92 per cent of the lands. They are dominant in the gross production of all staple agricultural products and raw materials.

In the Polish People's Republic the "Społem" Union of Consumer Cooperatives supplies all the urban population with food and manufactured goods in daily demand, and manages on the whole, all public catering enterprises in the towns and cities. "Peasant Self-Aid" cooperatives carry on trade in the countryside in industrial goods and foodstuffs as well as farm machinery, purchase agricultural products and raw materials and manage cooperative banks. The cooperatives account for up to 60 per cent of the retail trade turnover in the country. About 65 per cent of urban housing construction is carried out in the towns and cities by cooperatives. Small producers cooperatives manufacture many consumer goods. The various types of cooperatives in Poland have a membership of 12 million — a third of the country's population.

In the Socialist Republic of Romania agricultural production cooperatives occupy 54 per cent of the lands. Consumer cooperatives have a membership of 7,700,000 — more than a third of the total population, while they cater for 62 per cent of the Republic's population. There is a widely developed network of cooperative production enterprises and servicing establishments.

In the USSR agricultural production cooperatives — collective farms are an inalienable part of the Soviet socialist society.

At present the USSR has 26,500 collective farms with 15 million people of the countryside involved in their social production. The collective farms produce some 40 per cent of the total gross output of agriculture, and account for more than half of the grain produced in the country, three quarters of raw cotton and sunflower, more than 90 per cent of the gross harvest of sugar beet.

The consumer cooperatives catering for one half of the population in the USSR, have a membership of 59 million and their share in the retail turnover of the country comes to around 30 per cent. Consumer cooperatives conduct the purveyance of nearly 60 types of agricultural products and raw materials and develop the production of foodstuffs and other commodities. Its retail turnover increased 2.5 times between 1965 and 1979 alone.

In the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic agricultural cooperatives cultivate more than 70 per cent of the country's arable lands. Widespread in the Republic is the activity of consumer, producer, industrial and housing cooperatives, which have a membership of about 3,500,000. The retail turnover of consumer cooperatives increased by 80 per cent in the last decade. The cooperatives' share of the retail turnover exceeds 25 per cent, in the turnover of public catering — 30 per cent. The share of production cooperatives in the output of manufactured goods has reached 40 per cent and in housing repairs — 56 per cent. Cooperatives account for about 30 per cent of housing construction and nearly every seventh citizen of

Czechoslovakia lives in a cooperative flat.

## 2. The Long-Term Perspective

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2. 1. High, dynamic growth rates are characteristic of the cooperative organizations in the socialist countries in all the basic spheres of activity. The future opens up new prospects to them. This is ensured by the development of cooperatives in a system of planned economy, devoid of market fluctuations, competition, economic crises, inflation and unemployment, on the basis of forecasting and long-term planning, carried out on a scale of the whole society. An example of a profoundly scientific foresight is the Comprehensive Programme of scientific and technological progress and its social and economic consequences till the year 2000, drawn up in the USSR. It contains important recommendations for speeding up scientific and technological progress, for introducing the achievements of science into practice, for improving the structure of production. These recommendations are being realized in the course of elaborating and implementing long-term national-economic plans.

Taking part in drawing up the Comprehensive Programme in the USSR were more than 500 scientific-research, design and development organizations. Underlying the work were hundreds of technico-scientific forecasts, scientific and economic estimates drawn up by research organizations, teams of scientists and experts. These forecasts and estimates were systematized and generalized, corrected and finalized by specially established technico-scientific commissions, which resulted in their comprehensive character. Taken into account here were both the expected results of scientific and technological progress, and the general tendencies and tasks of the country's social and economic development.

The elaboration in the USSR and also in other socialist countries of such comprehensive programmes allows to define on a scientific basis those concrete conditions in which cooperative activities are to unfold at the turn of the centuries, in the year 2000.

Of great importance is the elaboration and consistent implementation of the "Comprehensive Programme for Further Deepening and Improving Cooperation and Developing Socialist Economic Integration by CMEA Member Countries", and also the long-term special cooperation programmes (LSCP) which concretize



and develop it further, particularly to meet the economically substantiated needs of the fraternal countries in basic kinds of energy, fuel and raw materials; further improve these countries' collaboration in the field of agriculture and the food industry for the maximum satisfaction of the population's food need; meet the rational needs in manufactured consumer goods; and develop transport links.

A statement by the CMEA session on the thirtieth anniversary of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (1979) underlines that the "comprehensive programme is being successfully fulfilled. Cooperation by CMEA member countries has been put on a qualitatively new level and has been given a more clear-cut orientation towards technical progress, production specialization and cooperation, the joint development of national resources for the common good of the peoples of the socialist countries". The cooperative organizations of the socialist countries are developing multilateral collaboration under this programme.

2. 2. *Leaning on scientifically relevant programmes of economic development and scientific and technological progress and its social consequences, cooperative organizations of the socialist countries confidently determine the prospects of their development over the next 20 years, a period regarded in all socialist countries as that of dynamic and stable development of the cooperative movement.*

Long-term plans for the development of cooperative organizations in socialist countries include an overall assessment of the expected level of basic indices (volumes of production, trade turnover, etc.), the basic directions in the development of the material and technical base, the calculated needs in labour resources. Taken into account here are the consequences of scientific and technological progress that will be operating directly in the cooperative sphere, for example the mechanization and automation of production and trade operations, changes in the structure of consumption, etc.

Over the long range a qualitatively higher level of the **people's well-being** must be achieved. The task set in the sphere of individual consumption is to ensure by the year 2000 the satisfaction of the population's requirements according to scientifically substantiated norms at the level of a rational consumer budget. The solution of this task will mean ensuring material well-being for all members of society. Yet, the attainment of material well-being is regarded here not as a goal in itself, but as an objective foundation creating broad realistic opportunities for the further all-round development of the individual, along with the ever fuller satisfaction of the intellectual and social needs of members of the socialist society.

The cooperative movement contributes to the attainment of these goals by its own specific means, particularly by increasing the production of agricultural and industrial manufacture of consumer goods, raising the trade turnover, extending the system of various services, and also through wide-spread cultural and educational activities.

One of the important tasks to be solved in the long range context is the **pro-**

**tection of health.** The long-term goals along these lines are aimed at the prevention of diseases, improvement of the ecological environment, overcoming those consequences of technical progress and urbanization that are detrimental to man. Cooperatives participate in the solution of this task by improving working conditions at their enterprises, perfecting safety measures, by expanding the network of medical-prevention establishments, sanatoria, holiday centres, children's summer camps, by expanding facilities available to shareholders and cooperators for mass physical training and sports. Along with the state public health system, cooperative organizations set up medical rooms and other medical facilities at the places of employment of their personnel and carry out their regular dispensarisation.

Determined in the long-range context are major tasks in the sphere of the further **development of the education system.** This presupposes the tackling of two basic tasks: firstly, the satisfaction of the population's growing intellectual requests, and further raising educational standards; secondly, the training of high-skilled workers in accordance with the demands of the national economy and contemporary development rates of scientific and technological progress. The cooperatives vigorously contribute to the solution of these tasks.

For example, the consumer cooperatives of the USSR have built their own well-developed educational system having 7 higher educational establishments, 127 technical schools, 160 vocational technical training schools, over 2,000 enterprise schools which provide training in 60 trades and professions.

It should be stressed that in the socialist countries public health services and education are provided free of charge.

Socialist states guarantee their citizens the right to work. There is no unemployment in the socialist countries. Of special social importance is the substantial improvement of **working conditions.** Two mutually complementing aspects are singled out in the solution of this problem: providing the rational employment of population and converting socially useful work into man's prime necessity. Great attention is given to the elimination of arduous manual low-skilled jobs and working conditions hazardous to health. Measures towards improving working conditions at cooperative enterprises are defined as an important component of the economic and social development plans. They envisage the consistent implementation of measures to introduce modern means of mechanization and automation, rational technologies of production and trade processes to make work easier.

A cardinal solution of the **housing problem** presupposes the accumulation of available housing to allow every family really enjoy a separate flat with a number of rooms adequate for the full-blooded life activity of its adult members and children alike.

The practical solution of this task is facilitated by the development of housing cooperatives and vigorous concern for improving the housing conditions of workers and employees on the part of other cooperative organizations and enterprises. Agricultural production and consumer cooperatives and their associations already

today channel a considerable portion of the social and cultural funds for the building of modern dwellings for their workers. In the future spending for these purposes will keep increasing.

**Improving conditions for women** is one of the major problems tackled under the long-term social programme. The complex of measures towards its solution envisages an expansion of the sphere of consumer services, developing the network and improving the performance of pre-school children's institutions, increasing various benefits for women. Special legislation on mother-and-child care is enacted in the socialist countries. More and more attention is being devoted to these questions.

A broad range of measures to raise the social activity of women cooperative members and workers are carried out in the framework of the cooperative movement in the socialist countries while at the same time considerably improving their working and living conditions. Along with state organizations in the socialist countries, cooperatives also establish a network of pre-school children's institutions for which they allocate considerable social funds. An important role is played and will go on being played in the future by centres set up in a number of socialist countries to provide special services for women in the sphere of household chores. Such centres, as, for example, "Practical Woman" and "Modern Housewife" in Poland enjoy exceptional patronage on the part of women cooperators and are very popular.

Cooperatives take an active part in the **education of the youth**. These purposes are served by a broad system of cooperative education, a broad network of cultural, educational, sport and health-building establishments. Councils of young specialists and youth commissions are being set up, experienced workers and cooperative members extend patronage to young people. Much is being done to draw young people into the cooperative movement.

2. 3. Speaking of the cooperatives' important role in resolving long-term socio-economic tasks, it must be emphasized that in the socialist countries all cooperative development is closely and unbreakably linked with the development of the social system. Marxism-Leninism teaches that in conditions of capitalism cooperation alone cannot change the social system, and rejects the doctrine claiming that cooperation is exceptional and independent from the existing social set up.

"To convert social production into one and harmonious system of free and co-operative labour", Marx pointed out, "general social changes are wanted, changes of the general conditions of society, never to be realized save by the transfer of the organized forces of society, viz., the state power, from capitalists and landlords to the producers themselves." (K. Marx and F. Engels, *Selected Works in Three Volumes*, Progress Publishers, Moscow, 1969, Vol. 2, pp. 81-82).

Precisely such conditions have been created in the countries of socialism. In these conditions cooperation becomes socialist in its social and economic nature and is one of the organizational forms in the building of communism.

### 3. Development of Particular Types of Cooperation

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3. 1. The countries of socialism are exerting tremendous efforts to secure a steady growth of agricultural production and improve living conditions in the countryside.

**Agricultural production cooperatives** will continue to play a great role in solving this task also in the future. The reconstruction of the countryside on the basis of Lenin's cooperative plan — the plan of socialist transformation of agriculture through cooperation proved the only correct way to accelerate the growth of the productive forces of this branch of the economy of the socialist countries. The experience of the Soviet Union in the collectivization of agriculture has gained broad international recognition as a major contribution to the theory and practice of communist construction.

In the process of developing agricultural cooperation in the socialist countries there took shape four basic types of production cooperatives, differing according to the degree of socialisation of the means of production and of labour.

The first type, the association of peasants for the **joint cultivation of land** which they owned was the simplest form of cooperation. The second type was characterized by socialization of only **a part** of the basic means of production with the exception of land, which although was used jointly, as before remains the private property of the members. In the third type, pooled in the cooperative in the process of voluntary association along with the basic means of production was the **land**, productive cattle and other means of production.

In all three types of cooperatives the income is distributed among the members according to work done (the share of this distributed income increases from minute in the first type to predominant in the third type), and also depending on the quantity and quality of the land contributed to the cooperative (this share of unearned income, that is land rent, correspondingly decreases).

In the fourth type of production agricultural cooperatives (complex form) there is complete socialization of **land**, **all** basic means of production and **labour**, as a result of which income distribution is done only according to quantity and

quality of work, and an end is put to the realization of private ownership of land in the form of extracting a land rent.

Different transitional forms and varieties of cooperatives, utilizing in different combinations the individual features of these main types, have been and are still practiced in socialist countries. The fourth type of agricultural cooperation — production cooperatives with income distribution according to work done only, has asserted itself in the majority of them. One can confidently predict that in the period up to the year 2000 agricultural production cooperatives will vigorously develop in all the socialist countries.

The new that will take place in agricultural cooperation in the next 20 years is more intensive development of specialization and concentration of agricultural production on the basis of inter-farm collaboration and agro-industrial integration. Whereas in the cooperation of peasants they pooled together their small individual farms with their primitive implements of production, the process of concentration taking place at the present stage is characterized by the pooling of efforts by a number of cooperatives and their enterprises with the purpose of creating large industrial-type enterprises for highly marketable output, by deepening specialization of husbandry by inter-economic cooperation of state and cooperative enterprises, and also their agro-industrial integration. The formation of major specialized agro-industrial associations is a qualitatively new stride in the evolution of production cooperation in agriculture, as confirmed by the experience of Bulgaria, the GDR, Romania, the USSR, Czechoslovakia and other socialist countries.

Specialization and concentration of agricultural production on the basis of broad cooperation is a new stage in the practical implementation of the ideas of Lenin's cooperative plan under conditions of developed socialism.

Inter-farm cooperation and agro-industrial integration will facilitate the further expansion of the scope and capacities of agricultural production in the socialist countries, enhancing the level of its socialization, and the improvement of social relations in the countryside.

3. 2. **Consumer cooperatives** are an important component of the unified national-economic complex of the countries of socialism. It is to play a big part in developing socialist trade, raising the people's material well-being, in expanding economic ties and liquidating substantial differences between town and countryside.

In the long-range context the concrete goal of developing consumer cooperatives consists in creating an efficient system for providing trade services to the population, ensuring the fullest possible satisfaction of the people's needs in commodities and in public catering in accordance with their growing incomes and the structure of demand. Purveying and production activities of consumer cooperatives will be further developed.

The attainment of this purpose presupposes the consolidation and qualitative improvement of the cooperative enterprises' material and technical base, the im-

provement of organization and technological equipment of commercial and production processes based on the ever broader utilization of the achievements of scientific and technical progress, the creation, on the one hand, of major trade complexes, department and specialized stores to concentrate the sale of assorted goods in them, and, on the other – to bring the prime necessities to the consumer as close as possible and with these aims in view, develop an extensive network of shops for the sale of daily goods, mail order and parcel delivery.

3. 3. In a number of socialist countries (Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia) **production cooperation** has been developed in the concrete conditions of these countries. It substantially supplements the work of large state-run industrial enterprises. The activity of production cooperatives is aimed at the manufacture of goods for household use and for providing services to the population. Production cooperatives include also handicraft co-ops, as, for example, "Czepelia" association of folk art handicrafts in the Polish People's Republic. This association markets the produce of its members not only at home but through specialized shops in a number of cities in other countries around the world.

The activities of production cooperatives fully coincide with the interests of socialist society and, that is why they will go on operating and strengthening in the future. Of great social importance is **the organization of cooperatives providing work for partially invalided people.**

3. 4. The socialist countries encourage the development of **housing cooperatives**. Their function is to contribute to the fuller and better satisfaction of the people's needs in modern housing; in repairs of flats, and also to conduct cultural and educational work at the cooperative members' places of residence.

3. 5. **Credit cooperation** has been developing in a number of socialist countries, particularly, in Hungary, Poland and Romania. Such cooperatives create favourable conditions for the safe keeping of savings and granting credits to their members – shareholders. Operating in Poland is a state-cooperative bank which enhances the role of the cooperative sector in the country's economy.

## 4. Consolidation of Democratic Principles in Cooperative Activities; Cooperative Education

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4. 1. The further unfolding of social democracy is the basic direction in the development of the political system of society in the socialist countries. One of the ways for the all-round unfolding of socialist democracy is raising the activity of public organizations. **Inner-cooperative democracy is a constituent element of socialist democracy; its further expansion and deepening are consonant with the vital interests of the socialist system.**

How efficient is the work of the cooperatives depends on a number of features, among which size is of importance. Characteristic of cooperative in socialist countries is a tendency towards their enlargement, the consistent implementation of the principle of concentration with continued participation by co-op members in management and control. Given this principle, the size of future cooperatives will be determined by taking into account economic and other factors, and the concrete conditions prevailing in individual countries and within them — in individual districts.

Irrespective of a cooperative's size the democratic rights of the membership are exercised in full. The highest organs controlling cooperatives will be, just as before, **general meetings of the membership**. It is envisaged that such meetings, in order to function efficiently, should be held in the individual districts. The role of such district meetings, in the case of enlarged cooperatives, increases. An important role is to be played by **the institution of delegates**, who are to be elected at general (or district) meetings of shareholders and on their behalf would directly participate in deciding on matters pertaining to the running of the co-op's affairs. From among the delegates standing groups and commissions shall be created.

Increasing along with the rising role of the cooperatives will be the importance of their superior echelons — associations of cooperatives at different levels. A number of functions in these superior cooperative echelons are centralized, such, for example, as the organization of capital construction, wholesale commodity purchases, the establishment of a system of cooperative education, etc. A future task is to rationally combine the further expansion of functions directly fulfilled

by the cooperatives, on the one hand, and their superior echelons, on the other.

An important guarantee of cooperative members' rights and a concrete form of their representation is the establishment in the cooperative organizations of socialist countries of a broad network of **cooperative inspection bodies**. For example, constantly active in the consumer cooperatives of the USSR are more than 350,000 cooperative inspection commissions, serving on which are more than 1.4 million co-op members.

One of the important tasks of cooperative bodies is the constant education of co-op members in the spirit of live interest in cooperative activities, in the full utilization of their democratic rights. It is necessary to work not only for the exercise by cooperative members of their rights under the Rules, but for the expansion of their duties as well, for a higher sense of responsibility regarding participation in management and control.

4. 2. Cooperative organizations in socialist countries carry out large-scale work towards the training of young people, the education and retraining of personnel. A harmonious system of cooperative education has been created which is to be further developed. Current education plans, curricula and teaching methods take into account cooperative principles, and problems stemming from the scientific and technical revolution and from the democratic development of the cooperative movement. This system will go on developing and improving.

Essential for raising the quality of cooperative education is an orientation towards a model specialist whose standards of professional knowledge and personal qualities correspond to the demands set to cooperative functionaries. Here, individuals receiving a cooperative education must not only master professional skills and knowledge but also embrace a progressive ideology, a noble brand of thought and show a moral example befitting a builder of a communist society.

Among the different types of cooperative education in the socialist countries we can single out vocational training of the higher and secondary qualifications; vocational training for mass professions; a system of retraining and advanced training, and broad cultural and educational work among cooperative members and employees, and also among the population.

For example, only within the system of consumer cooperatives of the USSR more than 7,000 specialists of higher and 50,000 specialists of secondary qualification are trained every year, as well as 170,000 workers of mass professions — salesmen, cooks, waiters, bakers, confectioners, purveyors, etc. Training in Czechoslovakia are more than 22,000 workers of mass professions, which comes to 7 per cent of the total number of cooperative workers.

The scope of training and raising personnel qualifications in all socialist countries are to be expanded. The role of cooperative science is to increase and opportunities for scientific and technical collaboration among research teams of cooperatives in different countries in the elaboration of urgent developmental problems is to expand. Cooperative science will lean in its investigations and



elaborations on the achievements of scientific and technical progress in social and natural sciences.

The main task of cooperative education is to ensure the unity of vocational, ideological, political and moral education. Educational work must be further promoted in order to inculcate among the workers a correct understanding of the tasks facing the cooperatives, the ability to work efficiently. An important means of education is socialist emulation and its supreme form – the movement for a communist attitude to work based on the high consciousness of the masses, mutual assistance, creative initiative of working people.

Proceeding from the interests of socialist and communist construction in the respective countries, the cooperatives, together with other public organizations, will expand their work towards the all-round cultural development of co-op members with account of their increased spiritual standards, vigorously assisting every co-op member in becoming a truly cultured person, a conscious participant in the process of shaping and improving the socialist way of life.

## 5. Global Problems of Our Time and Cooperation

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5. 1. Regarded as global are those contemporary problems which concern in greater measure the destinies of all mankind. Some of them have been brought to life by the deepening contradiction between man's creative and transforming activities, and nature's potential, while others emerged in connection with mankind's growing numbers and the exacerbated tasks of providing the population with energy, food and other resources; still others are the result of the appearance of modern mass annihilation weapons and the menace of a terrible destructive war threatening the very existence of civilization. Global problems are rendering an ever more tangible influence on the life of every nation, on the whole system of international relations.

Continuously developing the world of socialism is demonstrating by concrete deeds the way for resolving global problems.

5. 2. Cooperation in the socialist countries is active in solving global problems.

In particular, cooperation plays a substantial role in solving the **food problem**. Agricultural cooperatives most immediately participate in the effort to create plenty of foodstuffs, in the implementation of the long-term special cooperation programme in agriculture adopted by the CMEA member-countries. The activities of consumer cooperatives, which vigorously develop purchases of agricultural products and materials and conduct broad activities in the production of foodstuffs and also in unfolding food trade, are contributing to the solution of the food problem. Fishermen's, producers' and other cooperatives are helping in the solution of this problem.

Cooperatives in the socialist countries take part also in resolving the **problem of the environment**. Closely involved with these questions are research institutions and specialists of cooperative organizations in a number of socialist countries. For example, in the USSR the Scientific-Research Institute of Hunting and Fur Farming under the Centrosoyuz, elaborates scientific recommendations for the rational utilization of the plant and animal kingdom, for ensuring the renewal of natural riches. Cooperators vigorously popularize measures directed at improving man's

environment.

Cooperative organizations have vital stake in the solution of the problem of **international detente, in reducing the arms race, in averting the threat of nuclear war.** The tasks of the cooperative movement, both in individual countries and on an international scale, consist of utilizing the full strength of public intercourse in the struggle against the forces which are pushing the world towards a new, nuclear war. The cooperative organizations in the socialist countries are stepping up their actions every year in the defence of peace and security of peoples.

The solution of global problems requires efforts on a global scale. The best conditions for this will be created, of course, when socialism triumphs throughout the world. Yet the socialist countries are convinced that even under conditions when two opposite social systems do exist in the world, there are realistic possibilities for serious advance towards the solution of global problems.

Cooperators of the socialist countries wholeheartedly join this realistic position and the concrete policy aimed at practical efforts to resolve the pressing problems of our time in the name of man and his future.

## 6. Cooperation in the Struggle of the Peoples for Peace, Security, Collaboration and Social Progress

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6. 1. The congress of the International Cooperative Alliance is taking place at a responsible period in world development. Imperialism, whose general crisis is now deepening, continues to oppress many peoples and remains a source of constant threat to peace and social progress. State-monopoly regulation, implemented in forms and on a scale answering the interests of monopoly capital and aimed at perpetuating its domination, is unable to curb the spontaneous forces of the capitalist market.

The scientific and technical revolution opens to mankind unprecedented opportunities for the transformation of nature, for creating tremendous material riches, for redoubling man's creative capacities. While these opportunities should have served to benefit all, capitalist monopolies are utilizing the scientific and technical revolution for increasing profits and stepping up the exploitation of working people. Even in the most advanced capitalist countries millions of people suffer from unemployment and want, from the grave consequences of inflation and uncertainty in the morrow. The plight of the small peasantry continues to worsen and the conditions of a considerable part of the middle classes are deteriorating.

The course of social development indicates that imperialism is coming into conflict with the vital interests of people belonging to different social strata, nations, countries. Ever broader masses of working people, social movements and entire nations are rising against imperialism.

Cooperatives of the socialist countries believe that cooperatives in all the world's countries ought to take a vigorous part in the struggle of the working class and all the anti-imperialist forces to rid mankind of imperialism, in the struggle for peace, democracy and social progress.

6. 2. The basic element of united actions by broad public forces is the struggle for world peace, against the war danger, against the menace of a world thermo-nuclear holocaust which is still threatening the peoples with mass extermination, in the struggle for world peace, for peaceful coexistence among states with dif-

ferent social systems.

Detente has become the objective result of a new correlation of forces on the world arena. At the same time it became possible thanks to the energetic and consistent efforts of the socialist countries. The active peace-loving policy of the socialist countries to a certain degree stabilised the situation in Europe, helped to solve many acute problems, which dampened relations between countries on the continent.

The Conference on European Security and Cooperation was a very important event in shaping European and in actual terms, the whole international situation. The peoples well know, how much was done by the socialist countries to implement this idea into practice.

The Declaration of the member-states of the Warsaw Treaty Organization adopted at their meeting in Warsaw on May 14-15, 1980 says: "The radical changes in the correlation of forces in the world, the strengthening of the positions and the influence of socialism in the world, the successes of the anti-imperialist revolutionary struggle of peoples and the national liberation forces have created the necessary conditions so that the consistent policy of the socialist states, the unity of action of the peace-loving states and peoples would lead to important positive shifts in the whole system of inter-state relations, the consolidation of peace and international security". The Warsaw Treaty countries have come out with new initiatives directed at further developing detente and strengthening peace.

At the same time, universal peace has by no means yet been guaranteed, detente has not yet become strong, and serious obstacles still exist in the path of full security and collaboration.

To come vigorously for ending the race in all weapons, nuclear first of all, for implementing effective measures towards universal and complete disarmament, for the elimination of foreign military bases and the withdrawal of foreign troops and armaments from alien territories, for the systematic reduction of military budgets — is a duty of all the cooperators of the world.

6. 3. Cooperative organizations of the socialist countries look optimistically at the prospects for the further development of collaboration and the international cooperative movement. Socialist economic integration predetermines particularly favourable conditions for promoting friendship among the cooperative associations and councils of socialist countries. The course of socialist states towards peaceful coexistence and international detente, the increasing reciprocally beneficial collaboration with capitalist countries create conditons essential for the development of friendly international cooperation between the cooperatives of socialist countries and those of capitalist countries. There are broad opportunities for collaboration with the cooperatives of the developing countries.

Guided by the principles of internationalism the cooperative organizations of the socialist countries fully support the developing countries' struggle for in-

dependent development, for reshaping international economic relations, for progressive socio-economic transformations, and voice readiness to give every kind of assistance to cooperatives in those countries.

Collaboration by the cooperative movement at the international level will develop through mutually beneficial trade between the cooperative organizations of different countries, systematic exchange of experience in running cooperative affairs, enhancing contacts in the fields of education and upbringing of the youth, science, information, by joint actions to promote and expand collaboration between states in accordance with the principles and accords of the Helsinki Conference's Final Act, for solidarity with and more vigorous support to the struggle against the policies of multinational corporations, for eradicating fascism, in defence of democracy and national independence, for deepening the detente process, ending the arms race, for disarmament, peace, for security and progress throughout the world.

The tradition of annually observing International Cooperation Day must be continued.

The cooperative movement through its national cooperative organizations and International Cooperative Alliance will vigorously collaborate with the UNO and its specialized agencies, with international organizations of peace champions, with progressive international women's, youth and other organizations.

It would be advisable to work out by joint effort a common long-term programme of international collaboration by cooperatives aimed at stepping up the struggle for peace, social progress and a better future for mankind.

Just as all people on the earth, cooperators of the socialist countries know very well that their life, work and hopes for a better future depend above all on the solution of the crucial task of world-wide significance — the strengthening and consolidation of peace. Together with the peoples of their countries they will consistently struggle to resolve this great task so that mankind may step into the 21st century under conditions of a lasting peace and broad international cooperation.

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