

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE THEME:
**"Promotion of health cooperatives in Africa as a strategy for achieving the third
goal of Africa's sustainable development agenda"**
SOMATEL Hotel, Montée Aurore, Yaoundé, on 30 and 31 May 2016

THE 2016 YAOUNDÉ DECLARATION

On 30 and 31 May 2016 in Yaoundé in the Republic of Cameroon, was held for the first time on African soil an international seminar that brought together participants from ten countries of Africa, America and Europe, under the aegis of the Pan-African Cooperative Conference (PCC) in partnership with the International Summit of Cooperatives in Quebec and the International Centre for Research, Teaching and Treatment (CIRES). The theme of the seminar was formulated as follows: "Promotion of health cooperatives in Africa as a strategy for achieving the third objective of the sustainable development agenda for Africa.

The central issue that justified the organization of this seminar was that, despite the willingness and commitment of African governments to achieve access for all population strata to quality health care, we have no choice but to note that the gap between the manifest willingness of the governments and the realities on the ground is wide and increasingly widening. In such a background, how can the cooperative model help fill this gap in the supply of quality healthcare and social protection services especially to the vulnerable groups of the population in urban and rural areas of Africa, against a backdrop of unemployment and underemployment of young graduates from medical and paramedical training schools and universities?"

To properly analyse this issues, the seminar participants listened to the experiences of leading experts who provided high quality information on the experiences of some African, European and American countries on cooperative and mutual insurance models in the field of health.

Within a context of population growth and rapid urbanization in Africa, the challenges of universal health coverage are extremely urgent and all officials in charge of health in African countries must realise the need to define new approaches to promoting access to quality health care.

The seminar participants, building on:

1. the many innovative cases reported in the Studies entitled *BetterHealth and Social Care: How are Co-ops & Mutuels Boosting Innovation & Access Worldwide and Global mapping of the provision of care through cooperatives*;
2. Benin's experience in connection with cooperative models and Rwanda's experience in relation to mutual insurance models;
3. Fruitful North-South collaborations such as the intervention of the American organization, Health Partner, in supporting the development of health cooperatives in Uganda or the action of International Health Collaboration of Canada in providing medical equipment and medication,

Unanimously upheld that the presented cooperative and mutual insurance models can make a significant contribution to the improvement of health indicators in all our countries, particularly universal health coverage as planned by the international community within the sustainable development agenda,

Consequently:

- They invite all officials at various levels of public health systems in our countries to support the development of cooperative models including cooperative health clinics and mutual insurance models to significantly increase the supply and use of quality healthcare services to all strata of the population of their countries;
- They appeal to the World Health Organization to support the preparation and implementation of a pan-African programme for the promotion of health cooperatives, one of whose priorities shall be the conduct of a situational analysis in all African countries to understand specific realities to be taken into account in the rest of the programme. Such a programme may be designed and implemented in partnership with the Pan-African Cooperative Conference (PCC), which is a pan-African institution covering twenty countries and charged with the promotion of cooperatives;
- They appeal for the support of the International Summit of Cooperatives in the advocacy for the development of cooperative and mutual insurance models in Africa;
- The seminar participants finally invite all partners concerned about universal health coverage in Africa to combine their efforts with those of States and cooperators for the consistent development of health cooperatives in Africa.

Done in Yaoundé, on 31 May 2016

The participants