



**Co-operative Party**

## **International Development & Co-operation Consultation Questions**

### **Policy Process 2026**

#### **Introduction**

Our policy platform sets the agenda for our party and its representatives at every level of government. Reflecting co-operative values and principles, our policy process is member-led and this is your opportunity to have your say on our future policy objectives.

This year, the policy consultation will seek to update our policy offering on international development and expand our existing work on 'peace and co-operation'. Since its inception, the co-operative movement has been a force for good across the world. Starting from Toad Lane in Rochdale, the co-operative movement has become a global movement of over 1 billion members. Co-operatives and mutuals have a presence in almost every country, and the combined co-operative economy is equivalent to the eighth largest economy on earth.

The Co-operative Party strongly believe in the power of the co-operative movement to make a positive impact in times of global conflict and insecurity. Ongoing conflicts across the world present a challenge for all of us. Co-operatives have proven to be a way of building bridges between communities and uniting people post-conflict. Whether it's the women's coffee co-operatives in Rwanda or Wahat Al Salam Neve Shalom, the Israeli-Palestinian peace village, the co-operative model has become a way of bringing people together.

Co-operative leadership will be vital in a changing world of international development and aid. The last few years have seen a significant shift in international development policy and aid, driven by increasing defence spending to meet rising insecurity and conflict. Reduced international development budgets across many G20 countries has made it much more difficult for many developing nations which are reliant on international aid spending. It is vital policies are in place to maximise international development spending impact in times of ongoing budget reductions and global insecurity.

We want to hear from our members, branches and networks on how the UK can support the growth of the global co-operative movement and establish an effective international development strategy in these times of global uncertainty.

Members are invited to share their views and ideas through our consultation, running until **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July**.

#### **How to get involved**



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There are a number of ways to get involved – you could attend your Party Council meeting to discuss the topics and share your collective views or submit your individual answers to us, both via the online portal.

We will also be holding special policy consultation sessions at our regional and devolved nations conferences in the summer. These workshops will allow participants to contribute their views directly to Party staff as part of the policy development process.

Your contributions will be collected and considered by the NEC's policy sub-committee, who use your ideas and feedback to shape policy proposals. These will be brought to the Co-operative Party Annual Conference in the Autumn for delegates to debate and vote on.

These consultation questions are a guide for members. We do encourage local parties and members to share anything they believe is relevant to the debate and should not feel obliged to answer every single question either.

### International Development

- How can Britain ensure that its international development work still has significant impact in a time of global uncertainty & reduced budgets across all G7 countries?
- What areas of international development should the UK and FCDO focus over the next decade?
- How can the UK Government work more effectively with NGOs (charities, international organisations, think tanks, etc.) to achieve positive impact in aid in low-income countries?
- How can the UK work multi-laterally with global partners and international organisations (UN, EU, etc.) to increase its aid impact in low income countries?
- How can the UK's international development work promote equality and the rights of women and minority groups globally?
- How can the British co-operative sector support the FCDO's work on international development?

### Conflict Resolution

- How can the co-operative sector help to rebuild local economies post-conflict?
- How can co-ops help to build bridges between different communities emerging from conflict?



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- How can co-operatives help to embed democratic values in societies post-conflict?
- How can co-operatives help to preserve cultural heritage?

### Co-operatives & Economic Development

- How can co-ops help to deliver basic services – electricity, health clinics, financial services, etc., in low income countries?
- How can community-owned energy help to create a just energy transition in low-income countries?
- What is needed to support the development of co-operatives in low & middle-income countries?
- How can co-operatives serve to build economic resilience in low income economies at a time of repeated economic shocks? What's needed to help their fulfil this role?
- How can co-ops help to formalise employment in developing economies?
- How can the co-operative sector work towards the UN SDGs?

### Poverty Alleviation

- How can co-ops help to reduce the impact of declining international aid budgets globally?
- How can the co-operative model be encouraged more as a tool of poverty alleviation & inequality reduction?
- How can the co-operative movement and model play a greater role in education and childcare provision in low income countries?

### Fair Trade & Agriculture

- How can co-operatives help to develop agricultural communities across low income countries?
- How can fair trade agreements and co-operative development ensure fair conditions and pay for low-income producers?
- What is needed to ensure the UK's trade deals promote equitable, ethical trade arrangements with low income countries?

### Co-operation between International Co-op Movements

- What is required to help co-ops share best practice across countries?



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- What is needed to create greater co-operation across international co-operative movements – particularly between co-operative sectors in advanced and low-income countries?
- How can well-established co-operatives be encouraged to expand and develop operations and membership in new countries?
- How can the global co-operative movement raise awareness of the benefits of the model to sustainable development & inclusive growth building on the success of last year's UN International Year of Co-operatives?

### Promoting Equalities

- How can co-operative models improve outcomes and inclusion of different minority groups in low income or post-conflict countries?