

## **Worker Cooperative Campaign Concept Note**

**SEM Assembly, 4-5 December 2014**

The key proposal of the Worker Cooperative Alternative Campaign is to focus at public policy demands for a national Worker Cooperative Act, build the campaign from below, link the worker cooperative campaign and food sovereignty campaign and mobilise resources to support solidarity economy cooperative fund mechanisms. COPAC has developed a host of materials to support such demands and can be used to build activist capacity around such demands. Such demands can be targeted at national, provincial and local government.

### **Worker Cooperative Alternative Campaign - Create Work Through Worker Cooperatives!**

#### **1. National Worker cooperative committee for public policy submission for a worker cooperative act**

- a. Formulation of demands and law supporting worker cooperatives
- b. Organisations to make submissions to committee
- c. Case studies and research

#### **2. Movements and SE Community to Take Forward the Campaign**

All movements, community organisations and support organisations to take forward the various support tools developed in the SE schools to build local worker cooperatives and advance the campaign locally. In particular the worker cooperative activist guide has to be used extensively on the ground. In addition, other tools can also be pulled from the COPAC webpage:

- a. Ground work training tools
- b. Aftercare training tools
- c. Self management and governance tools
- d. Movement networking and building tools

#### **3. Link the Worker Cooperative Campaign with Food Sovereignty Campaign**

At all times SEM activists and forces need to link these two campaigns on the ground.

#### **4. Resourcing and fund raising**

- a. Develop methodology for Solidarity Economy Fund.
- b. Submission of proposals to various state grant funding agencies to support and stream funding to the national solidarity economy movement fund
- c. Issue a call to unions and other progressive organisations to support the campaign and provide funds to the national solidarity economy fund
- d. Worker cooperatives need to contribute to the national fund in how they use loan finance from the fund National fund budget and finance mechanism be developed.
- e. Implementation strategy for financing pilot worker cooperatives nationally
- f. Use SEM-COPAC webpage to raise donor funds