

**Dates of Meeting:**

20-07-1954 – 25-07-1954

**Type of Meeting:**

First National Congress of Chinese Cooperatives

**Place of Meeting:**

Beijing

**Attendance:****Major Agenda Items:****Speeches/Reports:**

Deng Zihui [speech](#) 20-07-1954

**Other Decisions and/or Actions:**

At this congress, delegates formally resolved to rename the All-China Federation of Cooperatives (中华全国合作社联合总社) as the All-China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (中华全国供销合作总社).

The key decisions and themes articulated during the congress included:

1. **Organizational Renaming and Repositioning**  
The congress ratified the renaming of the national cooperative federation to explicitly reflect its role in supply and marketing. This change aligned the federation's identity more closely with its practical economic functions and its role as an intermediary between state production and rural distribution networks.
2. **Strategic Planning for the New Period**  
Comprehensive plans were formulated for the cooperative system's development in the context of China's transition to a planned economy. The congress defined concrete goals and directions for future expansion, coordination, and alignment with state industrialization efforts.
3. **Emphasis on Strengthening Cooperative Functionality**  
The delegates stressed the necessity of consolidating the cooperative sector's commercial presence in rural areas and enhancing its role in supporting agricultural production and servicing the needs of the peasantry. The cooperatives were to become key instruments for linking rural producers to national markets and stabilizing commodity flows.
4. **Elevation of Public and Political Awareness**  
The congress called for greater public recognition of the cooperative system's importance. It emphasized the cooperatives' contribution to the socialist transformation of the countryside and their strategic function in the broader project of socialist construction.
5. **The center fiscal and finance committee stipulated that under leadership of the Ministry of Commerce, China's commerce was divided into two parts. State-owned commerce was responsible for the shares held by public and private sectors, price making and the transformation of the private sector in urban areas. The SMC was responsible for rural commerce such as the leadership of rural market, the shares held by public and private sectors, the purchase of agricultural and sideline products and pricing, and the transformation of the private sector.**

**Remarks:**