

Concept note

Observance of the International Day of Cooperatives
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Background

In September 2015, the UN Member States adopted a 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, containing a set of seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In paragraphs 41 and 67 of the outcome document, cooperatives are acknowledged within the private sector as important actors in implementing the Agenda¹. Cooperatives are similarly mentioned in paragraphs 13, 35 and 39 of the Financing for Development outcome document adopted in August 2015².

Given this unprecedented recognition of cooperatives in UN development policy, COPAC would like to support the engagement of cooperatives in the implementation of the SDGs. Part of this support can come from a coordinated effort to raise awareness about the role of cooperatives, through the 2016 International Day of Cooperatives (IDC).

For 2016, COPAC has selected the following IDC slogan: ‘Cooperatives: The power to act for a sustainable future’. This slogan emphasizes the role of cooperatives to implement the 2030 Agenda, reinforces the language in the aforementioned UN documents, and echoes the slogan of the 2016 International Summit of Cooperatives, which will take place in October 2016 and address cooperative engagement in SDG achievement.

The IDC is celebrated annually on the first Saturday of July, as detailed in the 1992 resolution 47/90³ of the United Nations. The goals of the International Day include increasing awareness about cooperatives, highlighting the complementary goals and objectives of the United Nations and the international cooperative movement, underscoring the contribution of cooperatives to the resolution of the major problems addressed by the United Nations and strengthening and extending partnerships between the international cooperative movement and other actors, including governments, at local, national and international levels.

The 2016 IDC will take place on 11 July 2016.

Objective

To raise awareness among policymakers about the capacities and role of cooperatives as partners to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals.

Description of activities

To achieve the above objective, COPAC will host an event at UN headquarters in New York on 11 July 2016, during the ministerial segment of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

² http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/CONF.227/20

³ http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/47/90

Development.

The event will frame cooperative achievements in sustainable development in the context of the 2030 Agenda for the SDGs with a particular focus on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Invitees:

The event will be open to UN Member States, UN Secretariat Departments, Agencies, Funds and Programmes, development partners, cooperatives and civil society.

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