

Concept note

Observance of the International Day of Cooperatives
July 2016

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 2nd 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 do the following:

- **Host a photography exhibition on cooperatives at UN headquarters in New York City from 4th July to 20th July, during the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development.** COPAC will collect high-resolution photos from cooperatives, partners and member projects and curate a collection of 8-10 photos

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

representing cooperative contributions to the SDGs. Photos will be accompanied by informational placards, COPAC contact information and agendas for the UN official observance (first week only). DESA has secured exhibition space for COPAC in B Neck of the Vienna Café at UN Headquarters. Organizing the exhibition will entail:

- Disseminating a call for photo submissions via members’ websites, social media and networks with guidelines
 - Reviewing members’ own photo archives for any appropriate images that could be included in the exhibition
 - Preparing accompanying text for photos selected by COPAC Board
 - Producing and installing exhibition infrastructure
 - Collecting feedback from visitors
- **Produce a short book based on the exhibition for distribution to members and to key contacts.** This will be a high-quality publication that will be made available online at the opening of the exhibition and produced in print in a limited run to be sent to key contacts, such as potential members (IFAD, World Bank, OECD, International Trade Center, etc.) and UN Member State contacts. The book will include the exhibition photos, expanded accompanying text, presentation of COPAC, invitations to the IDC event at the UN, and general information about cooperatives and the IDC.
 - **Host an official observance of the IDC at UN Headquarters as a side event of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.** Speakers will come from the COPAC membership, Member State governments and the cooperative movement. Invited guests will include UN Member State representatives, UN Secretariat Departments, Agencies, Funds and Programmes, development partners, civil society and cooperatives. The event will accommodate a maximum of 60 guests and will be streamed live on UN Web TV.
 - Potential event themes: focus on one SDG (e.g. climate change), innovative approaches to implementation, public-private partnerships for implementation

Provisional budget

Description	Amount
Production of exhibition	5,000 USD
Production of exhibition book (layout + printing + postage)	5,000 USD
TOTAL	10,000 USD