

International Day of Cooperatives:
Sustainable societies through cooperation
A high-level event for Ambassadors

5 July 2018
10.00-12.00
Conference Room 11
UN Headquarters
New York

EVENT DESCRIPTION

Cooperatives have two centuries' experience building sustainable and resilient societies. Agricultural cooperatives work to maintain the longevity of the land where they grow crops through sustainable farming practices. Consumer cooperatives support sustainable sourcing for their products and educate consumers about responsible consumption. Housing cooperatives help ensure safe dwellings. Utility cooperatives are engaged in the transition to clean energy and rural access to energy and water. Worker and social cooperatives aim to provide goods and services in an efficient, planet-friendly way, while creating long-term, sustainable jobs. **But they can do more to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, with the support of the United Nations and national governments.**

The theme of the 2018 International Day of Cooperatives, which will take place on 7 July 2018, is sustainable consumption and production. Cooperatives have sustainability in their DNA, with “concern for community” as the seventh of their guiding principles.

During this celebration of the 2018 International Day of Cooperatives, the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) and the Permanent Mission of Argentina invite UN Ambassadors and government representatives to explore how cooperative enterprises contribute to SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17 – and in innovative and inclusive ways. In advance of the High-level Political Forum, which will aptly focus on “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”, this will be an exclusive opportunity to discuss the ways in which to strengthen the impact of cooperatives' contributions to the 2030 Agenda and to promote their success stories as development actors.

In this invitation-only event, guests will engage in an interactive discussion with fellow ambassadors, representatives of COPAC member organizations and cooperators from the field. COPAC will also share *Transforming our world: A cooperative 2030*, a series of briefs that highlight case studies of cooperatives' work to achieve the SDGs.

The members of COPAC:



International
Labour
Organization



UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International
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PROGRAMME

Welcome: Celebrating the 2018 International Day of Cooperatives

His Excellency Mr. Alejandro Verdier, Deputy Permanent Representative of Argentina to the UN

Mr. Vinicius Carvalho Pinheiro, Special Representative to the United Nations and Director, International Labour Organization Office for the United Nations (as Chair of COPAC)

Ms. Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Real progress towards the SDGs: How cooperatives make change

Chiara Faenza, Coop Italia

Gabriela Buffa, Youth Committee Representative, Cooperar, Argentina

Georgia Papoutsis, Policy Coordinator, International Co-operative Alliance

Carla Mucavi, Director, FAO Liaison Office in New York

Q&A

From the ambassadors: How we can better support cooperatives as key contributors to sustainable development

His Excellency Mr. Sukhbold Sukhee, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the UN

Her Excellency Mrs. Valentine Rugwabiza, Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the UN (tbc)

Her Excellency Mrs. Nguyen Phuong Nga, Permanent Representative of Vietnam to the UN (tbc)

Open discussion moderated by His Excellency Mr. Alejandro Verdier

Final words

Ariel Guarco, President, International Co-operative Alliance

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