



**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs

**International Day of Cooperatives 2019**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Conference Room 12 | United Nations Headquarters New York**



The 2019 International Day of Cooperatives will be celebrated at the United Nations on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 (the actual day falls on the first Saturday of July, and this year it is on 6 July).

The theme for this year's celebration is **COOPS 4 DECENT WORK**.

Given today's high and rising inequality, increased job insecurity and high unemployment levels, particularly among youth, the 2019 #Coopsday theme was chosen to support Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8, "**Inclusive development and decent work.**"

As people-centred enterprises and key development actors, cooperatives have an important role to play in the creation of decent jobs and the social and economic empowerment of local communities. The second International Cooperative Principle, "Democratic member control," enables communities to own and govern cooperatives jointly through democratic control that brings about inclusive and sustainable growth, leaving no one behind.

The celebration will feature the screening of a short documentary about the *Bhabishya Nirman Sana Kishan* cooperative, who are bringing decent work and expanding opportunities in the Dakshinkali municipality in Nepal.

There will also be two presentations on cooperative work for decent jobs and sustainable development, from **ATD Fourth World** about an initiative in Guatemala; and **Sure We Can** about an initiative in Brooklyn, New York. The presentations will be followed by an interactive discussion on expanding the impact of cooperative worldwide.

## About the International Day of Cooperatives

On 16 December 1992, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution proclaiming the first Saturday of July as the International Day of Cooperatives.

The aim of this celebration is to increase international awareness of cooperatives and create an enabling environment for their growth and prosperity. The event underscores the contributions of the cooperative movement to resolving the major problems addressed by the United Nations and to strengthening and extending the partnerships between the international cooperative movement and other actors.

Since 1995, the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) has been setting the theme of the celebration. COPAC members are the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the International Labour Office (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Farmers' Organization (WFO).



## DRAFT PROGRAMME

### Opening Segment:

#### Chair: UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

- 10:00          Remarks by Daniela Bas, Director, DESA Division for Inclusive Social Development
- 10:05          Remarks by His Excellency Amrit Bahadur Rai, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations

### Cooperatives in Action

#### Chair:            Georgia Papoutsis, Policy Coordinator, International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)

- 10:12          Remarks by International Cooperative Alliance and introduction of film makers
- 10:17          Remarks by documentary makers introducing the documentary
- 10:22          Screening of documentary  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDotozbAFw8&feature=youtu.be>

- 10:40 Remarks by Alvaro Iniesta Perez, Deputy Director-General, International Movement ATD Fourth World on cooperative actions in Guatemala
- 10:47 Remarks by Ana Martinez de Luco, co-founder, Sure We Can on cooperative actions in Brooklyn, New York

### **Interactive Discussion**

**Chair:** **Vinicius Pinheiro, Special Representative to the United Nations, International Labour Organization (ILO) (TBD)**

- 10:55 Opening remarks by ILO
- 11:00 Interactive discussion
- 11:55 Closing remarks

