

International Day of Cooperatives 2025:

“Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Solutions for a Better World”

8 July 2025, 10:00 – 12:00 EST

United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 12

With less than five years to go to the 2030 deadline for reaching the sustainable development goals, the world is facing many challenges including persistent poverty, the climate emergency, economic shocks, conflict and growing insecurity. Progress towards achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) is severely off-track. In a bid to resolve multiple global crises, United Nations Member States recently adopted the [Pact for The Future](#), a commitment with ambitious and transformative actions to accelerate progress towards achieving the goals.

Building stronger and more resilient communities are values inherent in the cooperative business model. In a message to cooperatives during the launch of the United Nations International Year of Cooperatives 2025, Secretary General António Guterres stated that Cooperatives “[demonstrate the importance of standing together to forge solutions to global challenges](#).”

This year’s International Day of Cooperatives is an opportunity to position cooperatives as critical actors in advancing sustainable and inclusive development, particularly during preparations for the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2), which emphasizes poverty eradication, employment and decent work, and social inclusion as key pillars for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Cooperatives operate in diverse sectors covering social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development. To mark the International Day of Cooperatives 2025, the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC); in collaboration with the United Nations Federal Credit Union and the New York City Department of Small Business Services; is holding an event at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to highlight the role of Cooperatives.

Objectives

- Showcase the role of cooperatives in fostering social and economic inclusion, creating decent work, and sustainable business practices.
- Demonstrate the numerous initiatives led by financial cooperatives supporting sustainable development.
- Align cooperative contributions with the HLPF and WSSD2 agenda to reinforce their significance in achieving social development goals.
- Advocate for stronger recognition of cooperatives in global policies by engaging with governments, UN agencies, and international stakeholders.

Programme

I. Opening Segment – Moderator: COPAC Chair

1. Remarks by Mr. Charles Katoanga, Director, UN DESA Division for Inclusive Social Development
2. Remarks by H.E. Ankhbayar Nyamdorj, Permanent Representative of Mongolia
3. Remarks by H.E. Ekitela Lokaale, Permanent Representative of Kenya [TBC]
4. Remarks by Ms Dynishal Gross, Commissioner, New York City Department of Small Business Services

II. Panel One: Insights from the United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) Ms. Yma Gordon, First Vice President, Global Impact and Inclusion, and Executive Director, UNFCU Foundation, moderating on UNFCU's work across the global credit union industry to advance sustainability through the United in Sustainability (UIS) Network. Speakers from the UIS Network, a recognized platform of 200 credit unions, associations, and industry partners, established by UNFCU in 2018, will provide examples of their commitment to realizing economic growth and opportunities, as well as financial wellness, inclusion, and resiliency in the communities they serve.

1. David McAuley, CEO, Donore Credit Union, Dublin, Ireland; and the Treasurer of the Irish Credit Union League
2. Alison Coates, Director of Climate Strategy & Performance, Vancity, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
3. Thomas Belekevich, Director of Member Services, World Council of Credit Unions, Costa Rica

III. Panel Two: Stakeholders engagement moderated by Mr. Coby Kalter, Executive Director, NYC Department of Small Business Services

Panel discussion led by the [New York City Small Business Services](#) titled: Cooperatives for a Sustainable Future – Lessons from New York City's Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative, on how municipalities and local governments internationally can support cooperative development.

1. Anh-Thu Nguyen, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Democracy at Work Institute
2. Christine Curella, Former Senior Policy Advisor & Director, Inclusive Economic Development and Business Innovation - NYC Deputy Mayor's Office of Special Initiatives and Founder of Venture for Workers
3. Martha Montufar, Martha Montufar, Director of Workforce Development at Cooperative Home Care Associates

IV. Conclusion by COPAC Chair