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CoopsDay highlights how cooperatives drive inclusive and sustainable solutions for a better world

Tomorrow (5 July) the global cooperative movement will be celebrating the International Day of Cooperatives (CoopsDay) by highlighting what can be achieved through the power of cooperation. Themed **"Driving inclusive and sustainable solutions for a better world"**, CoopsDay is an opportunity to raise awareness about cooperatives' role in delivering evidence-based, people-centred solutions. This year's CoopsDay is a special celebration due to 2025 being the second United Nations International Year of Cooperatives.

Cooperatives are active in every sector of the economy, including agriculture, finance, retail, housing, healthcare, education, energy, industry and services. They employ 10% of the world's population, providing decent employment and **advancing social justice, economic democracy, and ecological sustainability.**

Their track record of promoting the economic and social development of all people, including marginalised groups, was recognised in the 2023 UN Secretary-General Report on Cooperatives in Social Development. In his message at the occasion of the International Year of Cooperatives 2025 launch, the Secretary-General António Guterres highlighted how "cooperatives are driving development across communities large and small, fighting poverty and social inclusion, strengthening food security, helping local entrepreneurs across international markets. Your united efforts are essential as our world confronts complex challenges and strives to achieve the sustainable development goals".

ICA President Ariel Guarco says the day is one of the most important moments since the global movement began celebrating the International Day of Cooperatives over a century ago.

"Now is the time to strengthen that impact and expand the reach of our actions—actions rooted in the principles and values that unite us and guide our daily work toward the common good. Thanks to this identity, we remain strong around the world. And at the same time, we're able to express cooperative principles in every region, culture, and country, adapting our values to each community's development strategy. In this way, we offer local solutions to global challenges—and we can truly live out our motto: that cooperatives build a better world," he added.

The day also falls during the Festival of Co-operatives, which is currently being held in Manchester and Rochdale, UK, to celebrate the United Nations International Year of Cooperatives and the 130th anniversary of the ICA. The event, which includes the ICA General Assembly and the UK's national Co-op Congress, features a range of activities, including visits to FC United of Manchester, Hulme Community Garden Centre, Unicorn Grocery cooperative and the Rochdale Pioneers Museum, in the birthplace of the modern-day cooperative movement. The festival is hosted by The Co-operative Group and Co-operatives UK.

Cooperatives and ICA partners are encouraged to:

- Visit the updated CoopsDay website: https://www.coopsday.coop
- Download the updated CoopsDay 2025 logo and media kit: https://trello.com/b/BbuhjOge/international-day-of-cooperatives-2025
- Submit or view events on the IYC events platform: https://iyc.2025.coop

- Share their cooperative story: https://stories.coop/
- Join the #CoopsDay celebration on social media by using the hashtags #CoopsDay and #coops4sdgs

For further queries and interview requests, please contact Leire Luengo: luengo@ICA.coop

About CoopsDay

Officially recognised by the United Nations since 1995, CoopsDay is also an opportunity for cooperatives to engage with national government and the international community and emphasise the role of cooperatives as partners that can contribute to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) has been celebrating CoopsDay on the first Saturday of July since 1923. In 1995 the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the first Saturday of July as the International Day of Cooperatives to highlight the contributions of cooperatives to social and economic development.

About the UN International Year of Cooperatives 2025

On 19 June 2024, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives. The text recommends ways to celebrate and encourages all Member States, the United Nations, and relevant stakeholders to leverage this event to promote cooperatives' contribution to social and economic development. Among others, Member States are also invited to consider establishing national committees to coordinate and prepare for all IYC2025 activities.

About the International Cooperative Alliance

The International Cooperative Alliance unites, represents, and serves cooperatives worldwide. Founded in 1895, it is one of the oldest non-governmental organisations and one of the largest ones measured by the number of people represented: 1 billion cooperative members on the planet. It is the apex body representing cooperatives, which are estimated to be around 3 million worldwide, providing a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and co-ordinated action for and about cooperatives.