




**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Side event


Cooperatives

fostering social justice, decent work and economic democracy.
From the Americas, for a global commitment

 **United Nations Headquarters, NYC.**
Hybrid event

 **Friday, July 18, 2025**
1:15-2:30 PM EST
11:15-12:30 CRC

More information

 You can write to the email
eventaic2025@aciamericas.coop

Register here:

<https://forms.gle/EEryEyy61ohQoEcUA>

LIVE IN

ONU TV



[Registration link](#)



Background and Objectives

In November 2023, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/78/175, proclaiming 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives. On 19 June 2024, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/78/L.71, setting out the modalities for its launch, which is celebrated under the theme "Cooperatives build a better world". The resolution encourages all UN Member States, the UN system and stakeholders to use this year to promote cooperatives' contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The resolution highlights the important role of cooperatives in promoting economic and social development, particularly for people living in vulnerable situations such as women, the elderly, youth, people with disabilities, and indigenous peoples. Cooperatives are crucial to support socially inclusive policies, especially in developing countries.

The resolution designates 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives to raise awareness of their contribution to sustainable development. It also encourages the exchange of best practices, consultation with cooperatives on national development plans, and the improvement of legal and regulatory frameworks to facilitate the growth of cooperatives in all Member States.

This resolution seeks to ensure that, by the end of 2025, cooperatives are better known, have a more conducive environment for their operations and are better able to support Member States in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Additionally, The ILO Resolution on Decent Work and the Care Economy marks the first international tripartite agreement on the fundamental connections between the care economy, gender equality, decent work, sustainable development and social justice. It underlines the urgency of acting to guarantee decent work in the care economy and workers in the sector from the 5R Framework, as well as to promote access to good quality care services for all. The resolution provides a common concept of the care economy, guiding principles and recommendations for investing in a transformative set of care policies that is the way forward in building a better and more gender-equal world of work. It also points out that "governments, private companies, cooperatives and other entities of the social and solidarity economy" play a fundamental role in the provision of quality care, investment in sustainable and modern care infrastructure, and the provision of training and employment opportunities¹ (ILO 2024).

With values of social justice, equity, democracy and decent work for all, cooperatives, and other social and solidarity economy (SSE) entities, have emerged as an innovative solution to the care crisis and important vehicles of the ILO's 5R Framework for Decent Care Work the ILO roadmap to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work and reward and represent paid care work.

Research suggests that these entities offer better working conditions, such as regular hours, formal employment, access to benefits, and bargaining power, especially for women workers (ILO, 2016).

In the Americas, Region, from Canada to the austral Patagonia cooperatives play a critical role in promoting social inclusion, reducing poverty, and strengthening local economies. Cooperatives are organizations and companies present in all economic sectors, they create employment, generate networks of goods and services of community interest and they do so without privatizing the profit. The cooperative production model is also an associative tool that strengthens cluster initiatives and other initiatives of territorial productive articulation, promoting the creation of "business ecosystems" that can contribute to stabilizing economic growth.

This joint Conference between the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations, and the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) Americas Regional Office seeks to increase public awareness of the contribution of cooperatives to sustainable productive development, strengthening exchange and collaboration between cooperatives, the governments of the region and the United Nations System. Likewise, experiences will be shared on the role of cooperatives in promoting the productivity of the territory where they are developed

¹ILO. June 2024. ILC.112/Resolution V. Resolution on decent work and the care economy

Outcomes

This initiative seeks to contribute to the thematic discussions of this year's HLPF, particularly regarding the review of SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, by highlighting the role of cooperatives and the broader social and solidarity economy in fostering inclusive, sustainable, and people-centered development.

The side event aims to serve as a space for dialogue on the transformative potential of cooperatives in advancing decent work and economic democracy. It will also offer an opportunity to reflect on how these efforts align with the broader challenge of renewing the Copenhagen commitments on social development in the lead-up to the upcoming World Social Summit.

This side event is aimed at leaders of cooperative unions, representatives of cooperatives from all productive sectors; authorities of United Nations agencies; government authorities; Parliamentarians; international experts; academics and representatives of international organizations.

The specific objectives of this side event are:

1. Recognize the contribution of cooperatives to sustainable development in the Americas and worldwide, with a produced effect of “equalizers” for development and social justice gaps
2. Facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices among cooperatives: from the region, for a global engagement
3. Foster collaboration between UN system, cooperatives, governments and international organizations.
4. Identify challenges and opportunities to strengthen the contribution of cooperatives in Social Justice, Decent Work and Economic Democracy, with a territorial approach, localizing the UN2030 Agenda

Title:

“Cooperatives fostering Social Justice, Decent Work and Economic Democracy: from the Americas, for a global engagement”

Methodology:

75' side event;

- Opening remarks: **H.E. Paula Narváez Ojeda, Ambassador of Chile to the UN, co-chair of the Regional Committee of the Allied Parties for the IYC in the Americas**
- 3 thematic panels: decent job and care economy; human development and social justice; economic democracy
Each panel composed as follows
 - moderator: setting the scene; introduce panelists; takeaways;
 - 1 coop representative from Americas
 - 1 coop representative from global/global scope
- Closing remarks: **José Alves De Souza Neto - President of the Americas Region, International Cooperative Alliance**