

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

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.

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

Los objetivos específicos de este evento paralelo son:

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

PRELIMINARY AGENDA 75 MINUTES

Time	Segment	Description
13:10-13:15	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph Njuguna - Director of Policy, International Cooperative Alliance
13:15 - 13:30	Opening and Institutional remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassador Paula Narváez Ojeda - Representative, Permanent Mission of Chile to the UN; Co-chair, Regional Committee of the Allied Parties for the International Year of Cooperatives in the Americas • Embajador Norberto Moretti - Deputy Representative, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN • Ariel Guarco - President, International Cooperative Alliance (<i>video</i>)
13:30 - 13:45	Decent work and care economy (SDG#3, SDG#5 y SDG#8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fabiola Silva Nader Motta - General manager, Sistema OCB (Brazil) • Dr. Dardo González - President, Sanatorio Americano cooperative (Uruguay) <p><i>Moderator: Andrés Alejandro Borlone Díaz - First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Chile to the UN</i></p>
13:45 - 14:00	Human Development and Social Justice (SDG#5 y SDG#17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr.a Ana Beatriz Riquelme Estigarribia- President, Cooperative Confederation of Paraguay – CONPACCOOP (Paraguay) • Cornelius Blending- President, Federation of Southern Cooperatives - NCBA CLUSA (US) <p><i>Moderator: Andrew Allimadi - Coordinator of cooperative affairs, UNDESA; Coordinador COPAC, Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of cooperative</i></p>
14:00 - 14:15	Economic Democracy (SDG#17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSc. Pedro Morales M. - General Manager Riobamba Cooperative Credit Union (Ecuador) <p><i>Moderator: Danilo Salerno - Regional Director, Cooperatives of the Americas, Region of the International Cooperative Alliance</i></p>
14:15 - 14:30	Closing remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. José Alves de Souza Neto - President, Cooperatives of the Americas, Region of the International Cooperative Alliance