

Concept Note

Voluntary National Review (VNR) Lab

2025 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

SDGs Implementation: Are Cooperatives Fit for Purpose?

IYC2025 and the Road to Doha — An Actor-Based Approach to Advancing Agenda 2030

Date & Time: 15 July 2025, 13:00–14:00 EST

Venue: UN Headquarters, New York, Meeting room: **S-1522/23 (15th Floor)**

Online Participation: Zoom registration link:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iZABDrm2Q1q5mYZ6kK6LSg

Background

The 2025 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) coincides with two key milestones: the second United Nations International Year of Cooperatives (IYC2025) and the second World Social Summit (WSS) in November 2025.

The IYC2025 theme is: “*Cooperatives Build a Better World*”, a vital opportunity to recognize and scale the contributions of cooperatives toward inclusive, sustainable development. The VNR Lab is a key platform for countries to highlight cooperative engagement in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially those under review at this year’s HLPF, which are: **SDG 3:** Good Health and Well-being; **SDG 5:** Gender Equality; **SDG 8:** Decent Work and Economic Growth; **SDG 14:** Life Below Water; and **SDG 17:** Partnerships for the Goals.

The Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC)¹ and in partnership with Mongolia, Japan, and other countries that have recognized cooperatives in the VNRs, will be exploring how cooperatives, as enterprises built on democratic ownership, participation, and inclusion, are contributing to SDG implementation. COPAC has been working on a series of IYC2025 SDG Briefs, emphasizing the contributions of cooperatives to these priority goals under review, which can be found here: <https://2025.coop/2025/04/28/copac-sdgbriefs/>.

¹ COPAC Members are the International Cooperative Alliance, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, International Labour Organization, International Trade Centre, and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

Drawing on regional case studies, government engagement, and multi-stakeholder partnerships, the VNR Lab will also identify ways to integrate cooperatives more systematically into national SDG plans, VNR consultations, and WSS preparations.

Draft Programme (60 minutes)

Time	Segment	Description
13:00– 13:05	Opening & Welcome	Mr. Andrew Allimadi, Chair of COPAC
13:05– 13:15	Keynote Address	<p><i>Cooperatives and the SDGs: Fit-for-Purpose Actors in the Final Sprint to 2030?</i></p> <p>Ms. Ulziibayar Vangansuren, Deputy Permanent Representative, Mission of Mongolia to the UN</p>
13:15– 13:35	Policy Dialogue: Member State Best Practices	<p><i>Reflections on cooperative inclusion in VNRs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Japan (TBC) - Mr. Andrés Diaz, Permanent Mission of Chile - Mr. Helmer Herrera, INACOP, Guatemala - Lesotho (TBC)
13:35– 13:55	Panel Discussion: SDG Solutions in Action	<p><i>Contributions of cooperatives to the SDGs under review:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SDG 3: Dr. Carlos Zarco, IHCO, Spain - SDG 5: Dr. Mallika Kumar, India & Ms. Pauline Effa, Cameroon - SDG 8: Mr. Esteban Kelly, Federation of Worker Cooperatives, USA - SDG 14: Mr. Gabriele Verginelli, Legacoop, Italy - SDG 17: Dr. Rose Karimi, ICA Africa & Mr. Danilo Salerno, ICA Americas
13:55 - 1400	Closing Remarks	COPAC

Moderator – Mr. Joseph Njuguna, Director of Policy, ICA.