

## Soft-Launch Event for the 2025 UN International Year of Cooperatives

Tuesday, July 9th; 10:00 am – 1:00 pm (EST)

Conference Room 11, United Nations Headquarters, New York

### Concept Note

#### Background

In November 2023, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution [A/RES/78/175](#) on cooperatives in social development, **proclaiming 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC)**. On 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution [A/78/L.71](#), giving the modalities for the launch of IYC, to be celebrated under the theme **"Cooperatives Build a Better World."**

The resolution recommends ways to celebrate IYC and encourages all UN Member States, the United Nations System, and relevant stakeholders to leverage this year to promote cooperatives' contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and broader social and economic development.

To kick off the celebrations, the UN Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC), in collaboration with the Permanent Missions of Mongolia and Kenya to the United Nations, will host a soft-launch event for the IYC2025 at the **UN Headquarters in New York on July 9, 2024, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm (EST)**.

This event will take place during the [UN High-Level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#)<sup>1</sup> and is intended to inform representatives of the UN Member States attending the HLPF about the International Year and actions that the Member States can take to support cooperatives and ensure success of the Year. It will coincide with the 2024 UN International Day of Cooperatives (IDC), celebrated under the theme *"Cooperatives Build a Better Future for All."*

#### Objectives

This hybrid event will be livestreamed through UN WebTV (<https://webtv.un.org/en>) and will be conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation in Spanish and French. It aims to set the stage for the IYC2025, which will be **officially launched** during the **ICA Global Cooperative Conference and General Assembly, scheduled for November 25-30, 2024, in New Delhi, India.**

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<sup>1</sup> The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) will be held from Monday, 8 July, to Wednesday, 17 July 2024, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The New York event will serve as a platform to deepen the theme of IYC2025, unveil the media package and discuss the UN resolutions outlining the modalities for the IYC launch. It is also intended to encourage countries and institutions to form national and regional committees that will take the lead in organising events and activities for commemorating and celebrating the international year. These committees, whose membership will include governments and representatives of cooperatives, will take the lead in bringing the cooperative identity to the wider public and ensuring that at the end of the year 2025, cooperatives are better known, have a more conducive environment for their operations, and are better placed to support Member States in their efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals.

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## Programme:

*Time (EST) | Activity*

**09:45-10:00 | Guests Arrival: Conference Room 11**

**10:00 – 10:30 | Opening Session**

**Moderated by:** Ms. Simel Esim, Program Manager, ILO Cooperative Unit

***Opening Addresses by:***

- Mr. John Wilmoth, UNDESA Director
- Dr. Ariel Guarco, ICA President
- H.E. Mr. Enkhbold Vorshilov, Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the UN.
- H.E. Ms. Njambi Kinyungu, Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN

**10:30 – 10:50 | Keynote Speech**

- H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, UN General Assembly President (tbc)
- H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez Ojeda, President of ECOSOC (tbc)
- Mr. Gilbert Hougbo, Director General, ILO (video message)

**10:50 – 11:20 | 2025 International Year of Cooperatives**

**Moderated by International Trade Centre**

- Presentation of the UN resolution outlining the modality for the launch of 2025 IYC – Mongolia
  - Ms. Ulziibayar Vangansuren, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the United Nations
- IYC communication materials

- Mr. Amine Lamrabet, Information Officer, UNDESA
- Deepening on IYC theme and roadmap of events
  - Mr. Joseph Njuguna, Director of Policy, ICA
- ICA Global Conference in India to Launch IYC2025
  - Mr. Jeroen Douglas, ICA Director-General
  - Mr. Dileep Sanghani, President of IFFCO

**11:20 – 12:20 | Interactive Discussion and National Plans for Commemorating the Year**

**Moderated by DESA:** Mr. Matthieu Cognac, Inter-regional Advisor, UNDESA

- Permanent Representative of India to the UN (TBC)
- Other Permanent Representatives and government officials
- Representatives of Cooperatives:
  - Dra. Graciela Fernández, President Cooperativas de las Américas
  - Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, President for ICA Asia & Pacific
  - Mr. Doug O'Brien, President and CEO of NCBA CLUSA
  - Ms. Fabiola Motta, Organisation of Brazilian Cooperatives
  - Ms. Rose Marley, CEO Coops UK
  - Ms. Eburn Christiana Akin-Falaiye, Executive Secretary, Cooperative Federation of Nigeria (tbc)
  - Other representatives

**12:20 – 12:30 | Call to Action and Next Steps**

- Ms. Wenyan Yang, COPAC Chair

**12:30 – 13:00 | Tea/Coffee & Snacks**

- Networking