

CONCEPT NOTE

Side Event at the 64th Commission for Social Development (CSocD64)

Advancing Social Development and Social Justice Through Cooperative and Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) Solutions: From the World Social Summit to Implementation

6 February 2026 (10:00 – 11:15 New York time)

UNHQ Conference Room 11 and *live on UN WebTV*

Background and Rationale

The 64th Commission for Social Development (CSocD64) is taking place from 2-10 February 2026 under the priority theme: *“Advancing Social Development and Social Justice through Coordinated, Equitable, and Inclusive Policies.”* The Commission is the first major United Nations meeting following the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2) and the International Year of Cooperatives 2025 (IYC2025). Both processes recognized the role of **cooperatives and the broader Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)** as key enablers of social justice, inclusion, and equitable social and economic development. The [Doha Political Declaration](#) further acknowledges the role of cooperatives and SSE entities in expanding access to decent work, inclusive finance, social protection systems, sustainable value chains, and community empowerment.

In addition, several recent global and regional policy frameworks, such as the United Nations General Assembly resolutions on Cooperatives in Social Development and on Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development; the fourth United Nations Conference on Financing for Development; the African Union 10-Year Social and Solidarity Economy Strategy (2024-2034); the European Union Social Economy Action Plan; Framework Partnership Agreement between the European Commission and the International Cooperative Alliance; highlight the growing support for Cooperatives and the SSE.

As the world is currently facing multiple intersecting global crises, the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC)¹ is organizing a side event during the Commission for Social Development to highlight the role of cooperatives and the SSE in supporting countries' efforts to attain the Sustainable Development Goals and implement the outcomes of the World Social Summit.

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

Objective of the Side Event

This side event aims to showcase **how cooperatives and SSE actors can help Member States and the UN system translate the Doha commitments and IYC2025 legacy into concrete policies and programmes that advance social justice, reduce inequalities, and strengthen the social dimension of sustainable development.**

More specifically, the event will:

1. Highlight practical mechanisms through which cooperatives contribute to social justice, equitable access to opportunity, decent work, social protection, advance gender equality, education, access to healthcare, and community resilience.
2. Examine how **coordinated, inclusive policy frameworks** at the national and multilateral levels can accelerate the contribution of cooperatives and SSE entities.
3. Explore the role of the **CM50 (Cooperatives and Mutuals Leadership Circle) initiative** in strengthening public–private partnerships and scaling at-scale solutions across finance, leadership development, digital transformation, sustainable value chains, and crisis resilience.
4. Identify actionable recommendations for UN Member States and UN agencies to integrate cooperatives into the implementation of the WSS Doha commitments, the SDGs, and social development priorities.

Key Themes of the event include:

- **Reducing Inequality within and between countries:** Cooperative solutions for vulnerable groups, workers in informal economies, rural–urban disparities, youth, migrants, and persons with disabilities
- **Coordinated and Inclusive Policy Frameworks:** What Member States need to implement UN General Assembly resolutions on cooperatives and the SSE
- **Financing a Fair and Inclusive Future:** Cooperative capital instruments, shared platforms, and blended finance to scale up impact
- **Sustainable and Ethical Value Chains:** Cooperative models for fair trade, food systems, and climate-resilient economies
- Role of women in agrifood systems in light of the **2026 International Year of the Woman Farmer**

Proposed Programme (75 minutes)

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks - Moderated by Mr. Mattieu Cognac, DESA

- Mr. Jeroen Douglas, Director General, International Cooperative Alliance
- Mr. Charles, Katoanga, Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA

2. Keynote: From Doha to Implementation – Coordinated, Equitable and Inclusive Policies

Minister of Labour – Colombia (tbc)

3. Panel Discussion – Moderated by Mr. Doug O'Brien, President and CEO, NCBA Clusa

Cooperative and SSE Solutions for Social Justice

Speakers:

- Mongolia - H.E. Ankhbayar Nyamdorj, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mongolia to the United Nations (TBC)
- Côte d'Ivoire – Deputy PR (tbc)
- EU - Ms. Agata WOZNIAK, Counsellor, EU Delegation to the UN
- Mr Jun He, Policy Officer and Team Leader of the Rural Institutions and Territorial Development Team
- Ms. Fabiola Motta, Organization of Brazilian Cooperatives (OCB)
- Ms. Simel Esim, Head, ILO COOP/SSE and Chair, UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the SSE (UNTFSSE)

4. Spotlight Segment: The CM50 Initiative

Showcase of large-scale commitments, tools, and public–private partnership opportunities (e.g., digital ecosystem, sustainable value chains, cooperative exchange)

- Dr. Jayen Mehta, CEO, Amul – Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, India

5. Interactive Q&A

Participants from Member States and civil society

6. Closing Reflections and Recommendations

Summary of actionable policy directions for CSocD64