
COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Inclusive Social Development



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WEBSITE: socialun.org/csocd

63rd Session of the Commission for Social Development

Multi-stakeholder Forum

on

Promoting Solidarity and Social Cohesion through Cooperatives, the Social and Solidarity Economy as a path for achieving the SDGs

Thursday 13 February, 15.00–16.30, Conference room 4, UNHQ

Concept Note



1. Background

The social and solidarity economy encompasses a broad range of entities united by common principles of voluntary cooperation, mutual aid, democratic and/or participatory governance, autonomy and independence and the primacy of people and social purpose over capital in the distribution and use of surpluses and/or profits. Cooperatives are the largest entities within the social and solidarity economy.

In many countries, cooperatives make significant contributions to the national economy by addressing market failures, empowering marginalized people, creating employment opportunities and supporting sustainable development. Globally, there are about 3 million cooperatives, and 10 per cent of workers worldwide are either employed by a cooperative or are worker-owners within a cooperative. The 300 largest cooperatives in the world generate over \$2.1 trillion in revenue, while providing many essential goods and services. As such, cooperatives can contribute to an ambitious, action oriented, forward-looking output at the Second World Summit for Social Development.

The General Assembly proclaimed 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives. The resolution invites all Member States to consider establishing national mechanisms to prepare for, observe and follow up on the International Year, in particular for the purpose of planning, stimulating and harmonizing activities of governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations concerned with the preparations for and observance of the International Year. The General Assembly resolution on the social and solidarity economy encourages all Member States to implement strategies, policies and programmes for supporting and enhancing the social and

solidarity economy as a possible model for sustainable economic and social development, taking into account national circumstances.

The Commission for Social Development will convene its sixty-third session from 10 to 14 February 2025. On 13 February 2025, a multistakeholder forum will be held from 15.00 to 16.30 to focus on “Promoting Solidarity and Social Cohesion through Cooperatives, the Social and Solidarity Economy as a path for achieving the SDGs”.

2. Objective and structure

The Forum will discuss country experiences in developing the social and solidarity economy and observing the International Year of Cooperatives by addressing questions such as: How important is having specific legal frameworks for the growth of the social and solidarity economy? What actions have been taken to develop comprehensive, internationally comparable statistics on the social and solidarity economy? How are the social and solidarity economy acknowledged in education curricula, capacity-building and research initiatives? How are social and solidarity economy actors involved in national policymaking processes? How can the Second World Summit for Social Development promote the role of the social and solidarity economy?

Panellists are invited to structure their 8-minute presentations around solutions and strategies for addressing gaps in the implementation of the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and its Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda, with a view towards shaping a new consensus for the Second World Summit for Social Development to safeguard progress in the long run. The outcome of the discussion will be reflected in the Chair’s summary as part of the inputs from the Commission for Social Development to ECOSOC’s high-level segment, the 2025 High-Level Political Forum and the Second World Summit for Social Development.

Proposed time allocation for the panel discussion

Speaker	Suggested speaking time
Chair: Opening remarks	3 minutes
Moderator	3 minutes
Panellists: Interventions	8 minutes per panellist
Q & A: From the floor	20 minutes
Panellists: Concluding remarks	2 minutes per panellist
Moderator: Summary and conclusion	4 minutes