

International Day of Cooperatives 2025:

“Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Solutions for a Better World.”

UNHQ 8th July 2025.

10:00 – 12:00 Conference Room 11 [TBD]

In marking the thirtieth anniversary of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, United Nations Secretary General António Guterres remarked: [“Together, we can build a better world for all humanity.”](#) That was the vision at Copenhagen 30 years ago, and that is the vision of the 2030 agenda. However, today, the climate emergency, economic shocks, conflict and insecurity is deepening inequalities and fueling discontent. In a bid to resolve multiple global crises, United Nations Member States recently adopted the [Pact for The Future](#), a commitment with ambitious and transformative actions to realize the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

Building stronger and more resilient communities are values inherent in the cooperative business model. This year’s International Day of Cooperatives presents an opportunity to position cooperatives as critical actors in advancing sustainable and inclusive development, particularly in the context of the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC2025) and preparations for the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2), which emphasizes poverty eradication, employment and decent work, and social inclusion as key pillars for achieving the 2030 Agenda. The Day will strengthen a broad coalition of social and solidarity economy entities for sustainable development.

Cooperatives operate in diverse sectors covering social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development. To mark the International Day of Cooperatives 2025, the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC); in collaboration with the United Nations Federal Credit Union and the New York City Department of Small Business Services; is holding an event at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to highlight the role of Cooperatives in driving inclusive and sustainable solutions for a better world.

Objectives

- Showcase the role of cooperatives in fostering social and economic inclusion, creating decent work, and sustainable business practices.
- Demonstrate the numerous initiatives led by financial cooperatives supporting sustainable development.
- Align cooperative contributions with the HLPF and WSSD2 agenda to reinforce their significance in achieving social development goals.
- Advocate for stronger recognition of cooperatives in global policies by engaging with governments, UN agencies, and international stakeholders.

Programme

I. Opening Segment – moderator: COPAC Chair (total time 30 minutes)

1. Remarks by Mr. Charles Katoanga, Director, UNDESA Division for Inclusive Social Development (7 mins) **[TBC]**
2. Remarks by H.E. Ankhbayar Nyamdorj, Permanent Representative of Mongolia (7 mins)
3. Remarks by H.E. Ekitela Lokaale, Permanent Representative of Kenya (7 mins) **[TBC]**
4. Remarks by Ms Dynishal Gross, Commissioner, New York City Department of Small Business Services (7 mins). **[TBC]**

II. Panel One: Insights from the United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) Yma Gordon, - moderator: First Vice President, Global Impact and Inclusion, and Executive Director, UNFCU Foundation (total time 30 minutes)

UNFCU works across the global credit union industry to advance sustainability through the United in Sustainability (UIS) Network. Speakers from the UIS Network, a recognized platform of 200 credit unions, associations, and industry partners, established by UNFCU in 2018, will provide examples of their commitment to realizing economic growth and opportunities, as well as financial wellness, inclusion, and resiliency in the communities they serve.

1. David McAuley, CEO, Donore Credit Union, Dublin, Ireland; and the Treasurer of the Irish Credit Union League
2. Andrea Harris, Vice President, Impact Strategy, Vancity, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
3. Thomas Belekevich, Director of Member Services, World Council of Credit Unions, Costa Rica

III. Stakeholders engagement (total time 30 minutes)

Panel discussion led by the [New York City Small Business Services](#) titled: Cooperatives for a Sustainable Future – Lessons from New York City’s Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative, on how municipalities and local governments internationally can support cooperative development.

IV. Conclusion by COPAC chair (10 minutes)