

PRESS RELEASE
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UN resolution calls for a second International Year of Cooperatives in 2025

The United Nations General Assembly has adopted a new [resolution on cooperatives in social development](#) calling for the proclamation of **2025 as an International Year of Cooperatives**.

The text encourages all member states, as well as the United Nations and all other relevant stakeholders, to take advantage of the International Year of Cooperatives as a way of promoting cooperatives and raising awareness of their contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and to overall social and economic development. The resolution was presented by the Government of Mongolia and adopted on 3 November during the 47th plenary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly.

The initiative comes after the success of the first International Year of Cooperatives in 2012, which highly contributed to raise awareness of the important role of cooperatives in promoting sustainable development.

The resolution further draws governments' attention to the recommendations of the 2023 [UN Secretary General report on cooperatives in social development](#), to focus support on cooperatives as sustainable and successful business enterprises by **strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem for cooperatives** enabling them to further contribute directly to:

- decent employment generation,
- poverty and hunger eradication,
- education,
- social protection - including universal health coverage - ,
- financial inclusion and
- the creation of affordable housing options across a variety of economic sectors in urban and rural areas.

The text also recommends **reviewing existing legislation and regulations** to make the national legal and regulatory environment more conducive to the creation and growth of cooperatives by improving existing laws and regulations and/or by establishing new ones, especially in the areas of access to capital, autonomy, competitiveness and fair taxation.

In addition, the resolution calls member states to consult cooperatives in the preparations for the [voluntary national reviews for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#). It also invites governments, relevant international organisations, the specialised agencies and local, national and international cooperative organisations to **continue to observe the International Day of Cooperatives annually**, on the first Saturday of July, as proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in its resolution 47/90.

The ICA celebrates the adoption of this resolution, welcomes its recommendations, and encourages all stakeholders involved in the promotion and advancement of cooperatives to implement them.

The President of ICA, Ariel Guarco, welcomes the adoption of a new UN resolution on cooperatives and adds *"the proclamation of a new International Year of Cooperatives 13 years after the first one proves the strong recognition by the UN and national governments of the capacity of cooperatives to push forward the Agenda 2030 and build a fairer and more prosperous world for everyone."*

The 2025 International Year of Cooperatives will coincide with the 130th anniversary of the ICA, which [was founded in 1895](#).

The recommendations in this new UN resolution are well aligned with ICA's requests to the governments and development partners as stated in its recent position paper [ICA policy paper "Cooperatives: Key partners in realising the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development"](#).

The final version of this resolution is expected to be published in December as adopted by the UN General Assembly on 3 November.

You can find the recording of the 47th plenary meeting of the General Assembly in [this link](#) – to watch the adoption of this resolution from minute 25 to 35.

ENDS

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR

About the International Cooperative Alliance

The International Cooperative Alliance is a non-profit international association established in 1895 to advance the cooperative social enterprise model. The International Cooperative Alliance is a voice for cooperatives worldwide, representing more than 310 cooperative federations and organisations across 110 countries.

12 % of humanity are cooperators. Through its membership, the International Cooperative Alliance represents more than 1 billion people from 3 million cooperatives worldwide. The largest 300 cooperatives in the world

have combined annual revenues of 2.16 trillion USD (2015) and 280 million people around the world (10% of the employed population) secure their livelihoods in cooperatives, either through direct employment or by organising themselves through a cooperative.

The International Cooperative Alliance works with global and regional governments and organisations to create legislative environments that allow cooperatives to form and grow. The International Cooperative Alliance also promotes the importance of a people-centred, co-operative, value-based business model to the media and the public.

Operating from a global office in Brussels, Belgium, the International Cooperative Alliance is organised into four Regional Offices (Europe, Africa, Americas, and Asia-Pacific), and eight Sectoral Organisations (Banking, Agriculture, Fisheries, Insurance, Health, Housing, Consumer Cooperatives, and Service and Industry