



COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York

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United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



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UNITED NATIONS
MONGOLIA

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Committee for
the promotion
and advancement
of cooperatives

Corporations, Cooperatives and the 2030 Agenda

Side event at the Commission for Social Development

organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the United Nations and the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC)

Wednesday 8th February, 13:15 – 14:30pm

Conference Room 5, UN Headquarters, New York



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes “the role of the diverse private sector, ranging from micro-enterprises to *cooperatives* to multinational corporations” in its implementation.

Corporations are the most powerful engines for economic growth and job creation. Many of them are interested in going beyond Corporate Social Responsibility in supporting sustainable development. In this regard, the United Nations Global Compact has established *Ten Principles*, which many corporations have signed up to as a guide to integrating the sustainable development goals in their operations.

Cooperatives are private sector enterprises that have the distinction of being commercially successful while integrating social responsibility in every aspect of their operations. Cooperatives and their networks are present in all corners of the world, from the smallest villages to the largest cities, weaving a global tapestry whose membership includes about 12 per cent of humanity. One of the most famous examples of cooperative principles in action can be found in the Mondragon Corporation in Spain, comprising around 100 cooperatives with over 80,000 employees. Their double bottom line – care for community and care for success as business enterprises – make them powerful vehicles for the delivery of sustainable development goals.

There is clear global demand from people, civil society, and governments for the private sector to contribute to a transformative recovery from COVID-19 and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is now evermore essential for the private sector to embed principles of sustainability in their ways of working, set ambitious targets, and act with partners to deliver the 2030 Agenda. Only through collective action can society build back better from the global pandemic and become more resilient on a trajectory to achieve the SDGs.

The side event will bring cooperatives and corporations together for mutual exchange and peer learning to promote accelerated actions for progress Sustainable Development. The side-event will launch a series of events throughout the year that will seek to promote multi-stakeholder collaboration for Sustainable Development.

Organization and guiding questions

This will be a hybrid event to enable the largest number of participants to attend. All Permanent Missions at the United Nations will be invited and encouraged to attend at the highest level. High-level participation from cooperatives and corporations from all corners of the world will also be invited.

Format:

The moderator of each session will make brief introductory remarks and then invite the speakers to make their remarks. The speakers can address and issue pertaining to the event and may wish to also comment on any of the guiding questions. During the general debate, participants will pose questions to any of the speakers. Online participants will be able to pose their questions in writing.

Guiding questions:

1. What are the costs and benefits for the private sector from going beyond corporate social responsibility?
2. Is a global agreement at the United Nations needed to encourage more businesses to adopt sustainable practices?
3. What opportunities exist for building bridges between Cooperatives and Corporations?
4. What lessons on sustainability can Cooperatives impart to private corporations?

Agenda:

Introduction (10 Minutes)

Moderator: *DESA*

1. Introduction by Daniela Bas, director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (5 minutes)
2. Introduction by **H.E.Mr. Enkhbold Vorshilov**, the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations (5 minutes)

Panel Discussion (30 Minutes)

Moderator: *UNCTAD*

1. Mr Alzimiro Thomé, President, CRESOL Credit Union (TBC) (7 minutes)
2. Mr Aldo Uva, CEO, CSM Ingredients (7 Minutes)
3. Mr. Bruno Roelants, Director General, International Cooperative Alliance and Chair of COPAC (7 minutes)
4. Ms Lina Klebanov, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, Tata Consultancy Services (7 minutes)

General Debate (30 Minutes)

Moderator: FAO (tbc)

Participants may pose questions to any of the panelists and make brief remarks

Conclusion (5 Minutes):

Moderator: DESA

Concluding remarks: Ms Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA

Concluding remarks: Ambassador **H.E.Mr. Enkhbold Vorshilov, Permanent Representative** of Mongolia to the United Nations.