

Soft-Launch Event for the 2025 UN International Year of Cooperatives

Tuesday, July 9th; 10:00 am – 13:00 pm (EST)

Conference Room 11, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Concept Note

Background

In November 2023, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution [A/RES/78/175](#) on cooperatives in social development, **proclaiming 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC)**. This resolution encourages all Member States, the United Nations, and other relevant stakeholders to leverage the International Year of Cooperatives to promote cooperatives and highlight their contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and broader social and economic development.

To kick off the celebrations, the UN Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC), in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the United Nations, will host a pre-launch event for the 2025 IYC at the UNHQ. This event will take place during the UN High-Level Political Forum at the **UN Headquarters in New York on July 9, 2024, from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm (EST)**. It is intended to inform Ambassadors and senior officials attending the HLPF about the International Year and actions that Member States can take to support cooperatives and ensure success of the Year. It will coincide with the 2024 UN International Day of Cooperatives (IDC), celebrated under the theme *"Cooperatives Build a Better Future for All."*

Objectives

This hybrid event aims to set the stage for the 2025 IYC, which will be **officially launched** during the **ICA Global Cooperative Conference, scheduled for November 25-29, 2024, in New Delhi, India**. The New York event will serve as a platform to deepen the theme of IYC2025, unveil the media package, discuss the UN resolutions outlining the modalities for the IYC launch.

The event is also intended to encourage countries and institutions to form national and regional committees that will take the lead in organising events and activities for commemorating and celebrating the international year. These committees, whose membership will include governments, cooperatives, UN agencies and other stakeholders will take the lead in bringing the cooperative identity to the wider public and ensuring that at the end of the year 2025, cooperatives are better known, have a more conducive environment for their operations, and are better placed to support Member States in their efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Draft Program:

Time (EST) | Activity

09:45-10:00 | Guests Arrival: Conference Room 11

10:00 – 10:30 | Opening Session

Moderated by: Simel Esim, Program Manager, ILO Cooperative Unit (tbc)

Opening Addresses by:

- Mr. John Wilmoth, UNDESA Director
- Dr. Ariel Guarco, ICA President
- H.E. Mr. Enkhbold Vorshilov, Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the UN.
- H.E. Ms. Njambi Kinyungu, Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN (tbc)

10:30 – 10:50 | Keynote Speech

- H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, UN GA President (tbc)
- H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez, President ECOSOC (tbc)

10:50 – 11:20 | 2025 International Year of Cooperatives

- Presentation of the UN resolution outlining the modality for the launch of 2025 IYC - Mongolia
- Deepening on IYC theme and roadmap of events (ICA)
- IYC communication materials (UNDESA)
- ICA Global Conference in India to Launch IYC2025 (ICA-DG)

11:20 – 11:40 | National/Regional Plans for Commemorating the Year

- Representative of Americas Cooperatives
- Representative of Asia-Pacific Cooperatives
- Representative of African Cooperatives
- Representative of European Cooperatives

11:40 – 12:20 | Interactive Discussion

- Permanent Representative of India
- Other Permanent Representatives
- Representatives of Cooperatives

12:20 – 12:30 | Call to Action and Next Steps

- Ms. Wenyan Yang, COPAC Chair

12:30 – 13:00 | Tea/Coffee & Snacks

- Networking