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The Cooperative Movement Takes Action Against Climate Change for International Day of Cooperatives

Brussels, Belgium -- The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) invites the global community to celebrate the **International Day of Cooperatives** tomorrow, 4 July, by taking action against climate change.

The 2020 International Day of Cooperatives theme – ***Cooperatives for Climate Action*** was chosen to support Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 on Climate Action. This event will focus on the contribution of cooperatives to combating climate change, one of the most severe challenges facing our planet during the 21st century. Climate change severely impacts people’s livelihoods around the world, especially the most disadvantaged groups such as small-scale farmers, women, youth, indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, who have to cope with extreme natural disasters and degradation of natural resources.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has proven to us that those who have less are the ones who suffer the most,” said Bruno Roelants, ICA director general. “Climate change continues to affect the most vulnerable population on our planet, and we must continue to take action to change this. Cooperatives as a global reality have a fundamental role to play in this endeavour. This year for the International Day of Cooperatives, we seek to highlight the importance of taking action against climate change, and to encourage others to also make a difference – no matter how small.”

“One of the things this pandemic has done is to remind us just how closely the world of work is connected to climate change and therefore the central role it must play in combating it”, said [ILO](#) Director General Guy Ryder. “It’s precisely because the cooperative model aligns short term actions with long-term vision that it can give us precious insight into how to confront global crises, be it pandemic or climate change.”

To continue the conversation around climate change and engaging communities to take action, this year the ICA launched a campaign to encourage cooperative movement to share their #Coops4ClimateAction stories. Campaign elements include an interactive map developed in collaboration with DotCoop that visually displays cooperatives around the world who are taking action; a short video that includes inspirational messages from cooperative movement, and a video message from ICA president Ariel Guarco.



An inaugural photo competition was also launched this year, inviting cooperatives to submit photos that best illustrate #Coops4ClimateAction. The two winning photos were submitted from Centroyuz Cooperative in Russia, and Middlebury Natural Foods Cooperative from Vermont, USA. To view the photos, videos and other information related to this day, please visit <https://www.ica.coop/en/2020-international-day-cooperatives>.

About the International Day of Cooperatives

The United Nations International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated annually on the first Saturday of July to increase awareness on cooperatives and highlight the complementary goals, objectives and contributions of the United Nations and the international cooperative movement.

In 1992, following a concerted lobbying effort by the cooperative members of the ICA and [Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives \(COPAC\)](#) members, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the first Saturday of July 1995 to be International Day of Cooperatives, marking the centenary of the establishment of the Alliance, by resolution [47/90 of 16 December 1992](#). Each year the theme for this event is set through COPAC, a multi-stakeholder partnership of global public and private institutions that champions and supports people-centred and self-sustaining cooperative enterprises as leaders in sustainable development.

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