

Message of the International Cooperative Alliance 97th ICA International Cooperative Day 25th UN International Day of Cooperatives

6th July 2019

"Cooperatives for decent work"

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On this year's International Day of Cooperatives (CoopsDay) to be celebrated on 6th July, we as cooperatives are championing our commitment to decent work.

Given today's widening inequality, increased job insecurity, and high unemployment levels – particularly among young people – the **2019 Coopsday theme "Cooperatives 4 decent work"** wishes to support Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 "Inclusive development and decent work."

To do this we're joining forces with the International Labour Organisation – the ILO – an organisation we've worked with hand in hand since its inception and who this year are celebrating their centenary with a special focus on the future of work.

We have recently reaffirmed our century-long friendship by signing a [new Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#) to foster collaboration and the promotion of cooperatives as a sustainable business model to advance inclusive and sustainable development.

With the ICA having committed itself to "respect, promote, and act diligently to support the fundamental tenets of decent work" through its [Declaration on Decent Work and Against Harassment](#), we also welcomed the [ILO Centenary Declaration adopted on 21st June](#) which commits "to a world free of violence and harassment" and gives recognition to cooperatives and the social and solidarity economy.

As cooperatives we are responsible for [providing jobs or work opportunities to 10% of the world's employed population](#). Beyond these numbers, different studies have confirmed that – in comparison with employment in other sectors – cooperative jobs...

- tend to be more sustainable over time
- have a smaller gap between the lowest and highest earners, and
- are more evenly distributed between rural and urban areas.

The second [International Cooperative Principle](#), "Democratic member control," enables communities to own and govern cooperatives jointly through democratic control, bringing brings about inclusive and sustainable growth, and leaving no one behind. As people-centred enterprises and key development actors,

cooperatives have an important role to play in the creation of decent jobs and the social and economic empowerment of local communities.

International Day of Cooperatives is our day to give recognition to the whole international community for the role we're all playing in creating a better world.

As a movement of men and women we're building a fairer economy - by putting people and their needs and aspirations, first. We're building a society based on our principles and values to create decent work.

Join us on 6th July 2019 as we celebrate a future in which human development and social justice are priorities.

We are building the future of work, today!

With decent, inclusive, and sustainable work for all.

Happy International Day of Cooperatives

More information at www.coopsday.coop