



“Confronting Climate Change through Cooperative Enterprise”

**Message by Juan Somavia
Director-General of the International Labour Office
on the occasion of the
14th UN International Day of Cooperatives**

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The ILO is pleased to join the international cooperative movement in celebrating the 86th ICA International Co-operative Day, and the 14th UN International Day of Cooperatives. This year we focus on the promise and potential of confronting climate change through cooperatives.

Meeting the challenge of climate change requires a strategy that is environmentally, socially, economically and politically sustainable. As member-driven, value-based, democratically-managed and locally-rooted enterprises, cooperatives have a key role to play in this process.

Taken together, the cooperative movement represents an astounding global network: 100 million jobs and 800 million members reaching all corners of the world and every sector of society.

We can already draw from many examples of cooperatives – from producer cooperatives to consumer and housing cooperatives and beyond – that are taking a leadership role in promoting energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and addressing the climate change challenge in communities throughout the globe.

As we look ahead, we know that climate change will continue to profoundly change production, consumption and employment patterns. All will be affected but within and between countries some will be more vulnerable and less able to make the necessary adjustments. Values that are at the heart of the cooperative movement will be central to easing the transition process and creating green and decent jobs.

These include the importance of dialogue locally, nationally and internationally to help develop viable, effective and balanced solutions; organization to establish sustainable enterprises and shape policies to ensure a just transition; and solidarity to reduce negative impacts on people and communities.

Cooperatives can lead us closer towards a democratic, people-centred economy which cares for the environment, while promoting economic growth, social justice and fair globalization.

On this International Day of Cooperatives, we commend the international cooperative movement for uniting to contribute towards a new sustainable development consensus to take on climate change, generate green and decent jobs and build a cleaner and better world.