

PRESS RELEASE – Coops Day 2019

5 July 2019

The International Day of cooperatives will be celebrating tomorrow a human-centred work agenda

10% of the world's employed population secure their livelihoods in cooperatives

The Cooperative movement will celebrate its big day tomorrow, 6 July, by giving the cooperative enterprise model an opportunity to showcase its difference in doing business which puts people before profit! Taking account of the rising inequalities and uncertainties in jobs overall, topped with high unemployment levels, this year's theme of the International Day of Cooperatives (CoopsDay) is "Cooperatives for Decent Work" associated with SDG8.¹

In his 2019 #CoopsDay [video message](#), the President of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) Ariel Guarco said "we are a tool that strengthens human development and social justice through work. This is why we're joining the centenary celebrations of the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) - an organisation we've worked with hand in hand since its beginnings".

Guy Ryder, Director General of the ILO highlighted the importance of the cooperative business model towards decent work stating in this [video message](#), released in support of CoopsDay, that "cooperatives are taking concrete action towards social justice, equality and non-discrimination and are putting systems in place to track their contribution to decent work".

To deepen its commitment on the future of work agenda, the ICA renewed recently its partnership with the ILO [signing a new Memorandum of Understanding](#), strengthening their century-long collaboration and friendship. It is noteworthy to mention that the ILO also recognized cooperatives and the social solidarity economy as important drivers for "decent Work, productive employment and improved living standards for all" in [its Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work](#), reinforcing the strong role that cooperatives continue to play in a challenging world of work.

Why is it so important to mark the date?

Cooperatives are responsible for providing jobs or work opportunities to 10% of the world's employed population. Beyond these numbers, various 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 ([CICOPA](#)).

In the [CoopsDay interactive map](#) developed in collaboration with DotCoop points to more than a hundred events marking the International Day that will be organised by cooperatives around the world. These are in the form of workshops, festivals, fundraising events and get-togethers. Cooperators from all corners of the world will showcase their cooperative difference!

Among them, the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) is organising a conference at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, on 8 July, where UN Ambassadors, government representatives and cooperative leaders will engage in a discussion on the role of cooperatives and how to

¹ Sustainable Development Goals n°8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth

further enhance their developmental impact. On 3 July, the President Ariel Guarco took part in the celebration of Coopsday in Sunchales, considered the capital of cooperatives in Argentina.

The 2019 edition will be the 97th ICA International Day of Cooperatives and the 25th United Nations International Day of Cooperatives. The UN in 1992 adopted Resolution 47/90 of 16 December 1992 to proclaim the first Saturday of July as Coopsday every year. Click here to see information about the #CoopsDay [in previous years](#).

More information on <https://coopsday.coop>

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR

About the International Cooperative Alliance

The International Cooperative Alliance is a non-profit international association established in 1895 to advance the cooperative social enterprise model. The International Cooperative Alliance is the voice for cooperatives worldwide, representing more than 310 cooperative federations and organisations across 109 countries.

12 % of the humanity are cooperators. Through its membership, the International Cooperative Alliance represents 1 billion people from any of the 3 million cooperatives worldwide. The largest 300 cooperatives in the world have combined annual revenues of 2.16 trillion USD (2015) and 280 million people around the world (10% of the employed population) secure their livelihoods in cooperatives, either through direct employment or by organizing through a cooperative.

The International Cooperative Alliance works with global and regional governments and organisations to create the legislative environments that allow cooperatives to form and grow. Towards media and public, the International Cooperative Alliance promotes the importance of people-centred cooperatives' values-based business model.

Operating from a global office in Brussels, Belgium, the International Cooperative Alliance is organised with four Regional Offices (Europe, Africa, Americas, and Asia-Pacific), and eight Sectoral Organisations (Banking, Agriculture, Fisheries, Insurance, Health, Housing, Consumer Cooperatives, and service and industry cooperatives).