



Cooperatives: Developing people-focused strategies to end poverty
56th Commission for Social Development

1st February 2018
13.00 - 14.30 (1:00pm - 2:30pm)
Private Dining Room 1-3, Delegates Dining Room
United Nations
New York, NY

EVENT DESCRIPTION

Ending poverty is a cross-cutting objective of sustainable development. Poverty affects every country of the world and threatens the livelihoods, health and futures of millions of people. As nations work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, it is important to evaluate what strategies are most effective at eradicating poverty and how they can be improved.

Cooperative enterprises have proven themselves as successful partners in ending poverty. Cooperatives are places where people living in poverty can create their own economic opportunities. Cooperatives are inclusive spaces of all people, regardless of socioeconomic background, religion, gender or ethnicity. Cooperatives exist to meet people's needs, rather than create profit for a few.

Despite the effectiveness of cooperative enterprises to help eradicate poverty, they are still an under-utilized tool in the SDG toolbox. During this interactive and high-level lunch, representatives of the UN system and government will hear from the cooperators themselves about their innovative approaches to ending poverty and what can be done to support their crucial work. Participants will also exchange with the members of COPAC about the global-level initiatives in place to promote and advance the cooperative movement.

Key questions to be discussed include:

- How are cooperatives helping to eradicate poverty around the world? What makes their strategies so effective?
- How can cooperatives increase their roles as partners in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals?
- What are multi-stakeholder partnerships like COPAC doing to promote and advance cooperative enterprises?
- How can member states better support cooperatives nationally and internationally to increase the impact of their poverty-fighting potential?

COPAC is a multi-stakeholder partnership of global public and private institutions that promotes and advances people-centred, self-sustaining cooperative enterprises, guided by the principles of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – in all aspects of its work. The Committee's current members are the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Co-operative Alliance and the World Farmers' Organisation.

Organised by the members of COPAC:



International
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UN DESA



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PROGRAMME

- 13.00 **Welcoming remarks**
His Excellency Sukhbold Sukhee, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the UN
Mr. Vinicius Carvalho Pinheiro, Special Representative to the United Nations and Director, International Labour Organization Office for the United Nations (as Chair of COPAC)
Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
- 13.25 **Video: “Cooperatives ensure no one is left behind”**
- 13.30 **Here’s how you end poverty: Strategies from cooperators**
Ariel Guarco, President, International Co-operative Alliance
Nandini Azad, President, Indian Cooperative Network for Women (ICNW), India
Lamont Spence, Director of Workforce Development and Iris Negron, Director of Human Resources, Cooperative Home Care Associates (CHCA), New York
John Mulangeni Nkosi, Malawi Federation of Cooperatives, Malawi
- 14.05 **Interactive discussion: How can we better support cooperatives?**
Moderated by His Excellency Sukhbold Sukhee
- 14.25 **Conclusions**
Carla Mucavi, Director, FAO Liaison Office with the United Nations

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