

## Cooperatives in the Context of the United Nations Development Framework

Mallika Kumar<sup>1</sup>

### *Abstract*

*The paper examines the identification of cooperatives as drivers of inclusive growth and evaluates their influence within the larger context of the United Nations framework. It throws light on the initiatives of United Nations( UN) like the International Year and Day of Cooperatives and also highlights the contributions that cooperatives provide to a range of industries and economies thereby advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It addresses the issues related to market changes & the need to bridge the awareness gaps. Given the UN's announcement of 2025 as another International Year of Cooperatives, the paper advocates for increased cooperation, supportive frameworks, and adaptability. Considering their transformative power and significance for the socio-economic well-being of all, the paper emphasizes the imperative for greater recognition of the contribution of cooperatives and enhanced support both at national and international level to connect with the youth and academia. It concludes with the recommendations for a conducive environment for the cooperatives to realize their full potential and ensure a just and sustainable future as envisaged in the UN Agenda 2030.*

**Key words :** Cooperatives, United Nations, Agenda 2030

### **1. Introduction :**

It is clear that living in a globalized society, while regional collaboration and connection have opened up economic prospects, they also present a unique set of challenges and opportunities. The global south and the global north and the global north-south divide continues in the era of globalization, which is characterized by economic interdependence and regional collaboration. Efforts to close these gaps frequently entail international cooperation, development aid, fair trade practices, and legislation aimed at promoting global economic growth, social development and sustainability. Hence international organizations are very important as they serve as mechanisms

---

<sup>1</sup> Vice Chairperson, International Cooperative Alliance-AP Committee for Cooperatives in Educational Institutions & Associate Professor, Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi.

for collective action, collaboration and coordination among nations with diverse interests and levels of development. They strive to create a more balanced, fair and prosperous global community by addressing common challenges and fostering sustainable development worldwide.

To promote cooperation, address shared challenges, and encourage sustainable global development, international organizations especially the United Nations are crucial. The stated goals of the UN, are to uphold world peace and security, foster goodwill among states, accomplish international collaboration, and operate as a hub for coordinating national policies. As of right now, the UN has 193 member states and Cooperatives, aligned with the UN's objectives and sharing common vision have emerged as key players in inclusive growth and social development worldwide. Cooperatives are autonomous associations of individuals united for common economic, social and cultural needs. They have a democratic model that empowers members and significantly contributes to various sectors of the economy.

The importance of cooperatives in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and how the UN has acknowledged them as catalysts for inclusive and sustainable development are examined in this paper. The Division for Inclusive and Social Development and the International Labour Organization actively monitor and promote cooperative initiatives at the national and international levels. The United Nations Department of Economic Affairs (UNDESA) and the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) collaborate to organize Expert Group Meetings and other special events in celebration of the International Day of Cooperatives. Along with discussing UN initiatives like the International Day of Cooperatives and the critical role of the Committee for Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) in promoting awareness, capacity building, and policy advocacy, the paper also explores the significance of the SDGs, detailing their evolution and adoption and highlighting the cooperative contribution to peace, prosperity, and environmental sustainability.

## **2. SDGs, Cooperatives and United Nations :**

### **a. Sustainable Development Goals :**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, agreed by all UN member states in 2015, offers a unifying roadmap for peace and prosperity for people and the planet. Its main constituent is the 17SDGs, which acknowledge the goal of raising living standards through bettering health and education, accelerating economic growth,

and tackling climate change through a range of policy initiatives. SDGs have been in the making for the past three decades by many countries as well as the UN and other associated agencies.

Some of the landmark events that led to the adoption of SDGs:

- **Earth Summit** - Agenda 21, a comprehensive plan to create a worldwide partnership for sustainable development to improve human lives and safeguard the environment, was endorsed by more than 178 governments at the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in June 1992.
- **Millennium Summit** - The Millennium Development Goals were created to end poverty by the year 2015 during the Millennium Summit, which took place in September 2000 in New York.
- **World Summit on Sustainable Development** - South Africa accepted the 'Plan of Implementation' and the 'Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development' in 2002. It reaffirmed the position of Agenda 21 and the Millennium Deceleration by emphasizing multilateral partnership.
- **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)** - In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. The outcome paper "The Future We Want" was ratified by the participating states.
- **Establishment of an Open Working Group to Develop a proposal on SDGs.**
- **UN Sustainable Development Summit** - September 2015 in General Assembly, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was ratified.
- **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (March 2015)**
- **Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (July 2015)**
- **Paris Agreement on Climate Change (December 2015)**
- **UN Sustainable Development Summit- 'Transforming our world': the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 SDGs, was adopted in New York in September 2015.**

**b. Cooperatives :**

“A cooperative is defined in the Statement on the Cooperative Identity as an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise”.[1]

Because of their democratic structure, cooperatives provide their members with access to a wide range of resources, including land, capital, skill training, and other resources essential to their social and economic advancement. Their model emphasizes on collective and people-centric approach that benefits the society at large and is not limited to certain individuals.

“At least 12% of people on earth are cooperators of any of the approximately 3 million cooperatives present; Cooperatives provide jobs or work opportunities to over 10 % of the employed population, and the three hundred largest cooperatives or mutuals generate \$2.2 Trillion in turnover while providing services and infrastructure society needs to thrive”[2].Because they are involved in both primary and tertiary sectors of the economy, including housing, banking, agriculture, and health care, among others, cooperatives have a substantial impact on all areas of the economy.

Because of its democratic values and local autonomy,it is an internationally integrated movement that connects citizens from different backgrounds. Members of a cooperative create associations and businesses to accomplish economic, social, and environmental goals like eradicating poverty, locating gainful work, and fostering social integration. They do this by using self-help and personal accountability

Across the globe, cooperatives are among the major contributors to national GDP and have substantial positions in the economies of many nations. They cannot only be envisioned as small entities working on the grass root level rather it plays an important part in some nation's economies. In Japan, cooperatives play an important role in the country's economy: An insurance cooperative federation, Zenkyoren, has assets of US\$ 539 billion and an annual surplus of US\$ 976 million [3]Considering turnover, the Indian Farmers and Fertilizers Cooperative (IFFCO) is the largest in the world with a turnover of INR 60,324 Crores in the year 2022-23.

In Europe, cooperative models were used in farming to revamp the agriculture sector of post-communist European countries such as Poland, Hungary, Romania etc. As a result, several Finance cooperatives were founded in addition to prosperous Agriculture cooperatives, resolving the primary concern of farmers throughout the reconstruction phase: the availability of credit.

The history of cooperatives in African nations can be split into two periods: the colonial era and the post-1990s global economic liberalization period. When considered as a whole, the cooperative movement is the largest contributor to making strong non-governmental organizations in Africa. Cooperatives have a substantial economic impact on many African nations and have produced a large number of salaried positions as well as opportunities for self-employment. More than 40% of all households in Africa are members of a cooperative society. [4]

**c. Recognition of Cooperatives by the United Nations :**

The UN acknowledges the critical role cooperatives play in inclusive and sustainable development as it aligns with its fundamental principles. Cooperatives, with their democratic decision-making, fair access, and solidarity, act as catalysts for social and economic advancement, strengthening vulnerable populations who are frequently disregarded by profit-driven economic models.

According to the Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030, Member States have recognized the important role of cooperatives, stating that: “we acknowledge the role of the diverse private sector, ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives in the implementation of the new Agenda.”. [5] Additionally, the UN has continuously urged the expansion and promotion of cooperatives as inclusive, socially conscious businesses with enormous growth potential.

**How Cooperatives promote UN Agenda 2030 and contribute to SDGs :**

- Maximum participation in Economic and Social development of local Communities.
- Democratic approach to access to resources.
- Income generation activities and decent work.

- Better income, and improved living conditions
- Adoption of sustainable farming and production practices.
- Sustainable energy sources.
- Gender equality and youth empowerment
- Advocation for the protection of the environment and mitigating effects of climate change.

Resolution A/RES/72/143 (December 2017) titled “Cooperatives in Social Development” is a significant acknowledgement of the role that cooperatives play in development activities. Cooperatives contribute to local economies and social progress by involving a diverse segment of society including women, youth, elders, people with disabilities and indigenous communities. Additionally, it underscores the potential of various cooperative forms in supporting the objectives set during the World Summit for Social Development. By integrating excluded or underrepresented communities, this recognition effectively affirms the significance of cooperatives as agents of inclusive development, enhancing their role in tackling social concerns and creating sustainable growth.

UN realize that cooperatives have far-reaching impacts on society, especially the vulnerable groups of the globe and it recognizes them as the key players in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **3. Initiatives by the UN for Cooperatives**

At the 1995 Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development, it was stated- "Utilize and develop fully the potential and contribution of cooperatives for the attainment of social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment, and the enhancement of social integration". [6]. During the summit, it was acknowledged how crucial cooperatives are to the people-centered approach to development. At the UN, the principal organization in charge of ensuring that agriculture cooperatives are acknowledged and continue to be on the worldwide agenda is the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Empowering agri-cooperatives is one of the lasting ways to decentralize issues with food security, which is one of the main issues faced by the world. By facilitating access to information, resources, and services for small farmers, fishermen, livestock keepers, foresters, and other producers,

cooperatives help ensure food security. This enhances their living standards and contributes to global food security by making it possible for farmers to produce more food, market their products, and generate employment. Along with FAO, other international organizations contribute to the promotion of cooperatives such as DISD, ILO, COPAC etc.

**a. The Division for Inclusive and Social Development (DISD)**

UN DESA's Division for Inclusive Social Development (DISD) acts as a pivotal support system within the United Nations, facilitating intergovernmental processes to establish agreements on resolutions, strategies, and international standards across various forums like the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly, and other specialized gatherings. Additionally, DISD plays a crucial role in assisting developing nations and countries transitioning in their economies. It offers advisory services and initiates field projects, responding to requests from these countries to enhance their capability in planning and managing socio-economic development.

**COPAC Works in the following areas :**

- cooperatives
- Strengthening cooperatives around the world through capacity building
- Participating in policy initiatives that affect cooperatives
- Serving as a resource for cooperative knowledge through information gathering and sharing.

DISD supports Sustainable Development Goals by supporting intergovernmental processes and facilitating agreements on resolution and standards. Additionally, it supports the work of relevant UN bodies including the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and advocates for the rights of indigenous people. This comprehensive approach reflects a commitment to multifaceted development, social justice, and international cooperation, with a focus on empowering various communities and promoting sustainable, inclusive growth. The Division acts as a focal point on cooperatives and works collaboratively with the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) in organizing expert group meetings (EGMs) and special events to mark the International Day of

Cooperatives.

**b. International Labor Organization (ILO) :**

Since 1919, the ILO has brought together governments, employers, and labourers from 187 Member States to establish labour standards, create laws, and create initiatives that support decent employment. ILO Recommendation No. 193 can be considered the first and only instrument of universal applicability on cooperative policy and law adopted by an international organization. It emphasizes the autonomy of cooperatives, advocating for minimal reliance on public support and regulation while recognizing their crucial role in society. The recommendation stresses the need for well-trained members and competent leadership within cooperatives for effective management and competitiveness. Unlike previous recommendations, it highlights the imperative for cooperatives to adhere to international labour standards and act as fair employers. Since its adoption, 117 countries have either revised or have drawn their cooperative policies from Recommendation No 193.

**How Recommendation 193 helped the regional organizations :**

- Initiated the implementation of Regulation No 145/2003 (Statute for a European Cooperative Society) by the Council of the European Union.
- Uniform Act on Cooperatives by 16 member states of the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Laws in Africa (OHADA)
- A Model Framework Act-“Ley Marco para las Cooperativas de América Latina”; adopted in 2008 by the ICA- Americas (now Cooperative of the Americas).

**c. The Committee for Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) :**

The primary goal of COPAC is to establish cooperatives as leaders in sustainable development by promoting and assisting those who value people-centric approaches and work toward self-sufficiency.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Trade Center (ITC), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs



(UNDESA), the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) make up the COPAC Committee.

**d. International Day of Cooperatives (2010 – Present) :**

Every year on the first Saturday in July, the United Nations celebrates the International Day of Cooperatives. By spreading cooperative values and principles and raising awareness, it seeks to advance sustainable development. To support the cooperative movement, it also seeks to establish connections between governments, international organisations, and local, national, and international partners. Each year the theme of International Day of Cooperatives is decided by COPAC.

Identified themes for every given year have a big influence on raising global awareness, promoting cooperative values, improving collaboration, and highlighting a variety of industries in which cooperatives are essential to the global economy, boosting their socioeconomic contributions, and propelling sustainable development initiatives.

Each theme sheds light on specific sectors like agriculture, finance, healthcare, and more, raising awareness among the public, policymakers, and stakeholders about cooperatives' pivotal role across diverse industries. Moreover, these themes reinforce fundamental cooperative values—solidarity, equality, democracy, and community development—both within cooperative organizations and society at large. The emphasis on sustainability, environmental conservation, and community resilience within these themes propels cooperatives toward environmentally friendly practices, fostering their role in building more resilient communities while contributing to broader sustainable development initiatives.

**Themes of the International Day of Cooperatives :**

- 2010 “Cooperative enterprises empower women”
- 2011- “Youth, the future of cooperative enterprises”
- 2012-“Cooperative enterprises build a better World”
- 2013- “Cooperative Enterprises Remains Strong in Times of Crisis”
- 2014- “Cooperatives for Sustainable Development”

2015- “Choose Cooperatives, Choose Equality”

2016 - “Cooperatives: the Power to Act for Sustainable Future”

2017- “Cooperative Ensure no one is left behind”

2018- “Sustainable consumption and production of goods and services”

2019- “Cooperatives for decent work”

2020- “Cooperatives for climate action”

2021- “Rebuild better together”

2022- “Cooperatives Builds a Better World”

2023- “Cooperatives: Partners for Accelerated Sustainable Development”

*Source : ILO & COPAC 2023- “Cooperatives: Partners for Accelerated Sustainable Development”*

**e. International Year of Cooperatives 2012 :**

The UN General Assembly declared 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives during the 64th Session on 18th December 2009 [9] It emphasized the role cooperatives play in socioeconomic development, especially in terms of reducing poverty, creating jobs, and fostering social integration.

The main theme was “Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World” with three main objectives:

- Increasing awareness to the public about cooperatives, their contributions to socio-economic development and the achievement of millennium development goals.
- Promote growth in the formation and working of individuals and institutions to address socio-economic challenges.
- Establish policies by encouraging governments and regulatory bodies for cooperative formation and growth.

In the following years, initiatives were taken by various international, national and regional institutions. This commitment is shown in three areas of intervention including i) awareness-raising, communications

and advocacy, ii) knowledge generation, sharing and dissemination and iii) strategic multistakeholder partnerships at the country level to support the capacities of cooperatives and producer organisations. [10]

**f. International Year of Cooperatives 2025 :**

After the success of 2012, in the 47th 'Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly' on 3rd November 2023, the resolution was presented by the Mongolian Government which resulted in the adoption of a new resolution on cooperatives in social development calling for the proclamation of 2025 as an International Year of Cooperatives.[11]The resolution is aimed at focusing government support on cooperatives to make them sustainable and successful business enterprises.

The President of ICA (International Cooperative Alliance), Ariel Guarco, welcomed the adoption of a new UN resolution on cooperatives and adds "The proclamation of a new International Year of Cooperatives 13 years after the first one proves the strong recognition by the UN and national governments of the capacity of cooperatives to push forward the agenda 2030 and build a fairer and more prosperous world for everyone." [12]

The resolution will help the cooperatives by helping the countries make beneficial policies for the growth and creation of cooperatives. It will assist them in enacting new laws and regulations, amending old ones, and improving the laws that already exist, especially those that address access to capital, autonomy, competitiveness, and fair taxation. The resolution also covers the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, the inclusion of cooperative values, principles, business models and support for cooperatives globally.

**4. The Way Forward :**

The need to use cooperative synergy for global development is more important than ever as we approach 2025, the International Year of Cooperatives. The cooperative sector, international organisations, and governments must work together to implement a practical course of action. UN and other agencies working towards the facilitation and improvement of cooperatives have to address various policy and operational challenges that they face. Cooperatives have existed since long, contributed even during crisis, but an important challenge is the awareness gap particularly amongst the youth and academia.

Cooperative needs young minds as they are a rich human resource with ideas for a better future and they can represent a large percentage of the population. The Cooperative movement requires a conducive environment and a supportive ecosystem to unleash its complete potential for greater impact. This is not possible with educational system of an economy not having cooperatives in its curriculum and the youth not being educated about the potential of the cooperative business model in their education system from the beginning and with specialization later. A supportive ecosystem requires advocacy and representation by different national and international organizations in policies and frameworks that promote cooperatives from local to global scale. This includes legislation, regulations, and policies that promote cooperative development and overall social well-being. Governments across the world need to make an enabling environment for cooperatives, a supportive framework that protects their democratic structure, ensures fair governance, and encourages member participation. Cooperatives should integrate into the national development plans and must be seen as its essential component.

International platforms are a great resource for collaborating, networking and exploring commercial potential with other cooperatives. Through these networks, cooperatives may access specialized resources, funding opportunities, training programs, or markets they wouldn't have on their own. International connections broaden their horizons and expose them to a wider range of possibilities.

Cooperative societies must evolve with the evolving business practices. A flexible approach is needed in the day-to-day operations of these societies and it must be structured in a way that can accommodate such changes. It can be done with the help of training and external expertise with the active participation of government and international agencies. The cooperative sector is a powerful force for good, contributing to the UN's goal of a more equitable and prosperous world by 2030. Cooperatives will keep building an equitable and sustainable future for all by embracing the chances given by global cooperation, flexibility, and supporting government. We must recognize the transformative potential of cooperatives and enable them to foster their growth and impact on a global scale.

## 5. Policies To Be Addressed:

Some policy issues which emerge are:

- i) Need of an International Knowledge Sharing Platform in the Cooperative sector similar to the- ‘SOLUTION EXCHANGE’ in India

Launched in India at the start of 2005, Solution Exchange was a novel UN initiative experiment that offered an unbiased forum for the sharing of ideas and knowledge among development practitioners in important thematic areas pertinent to accomplishing the framework of the Millennium Development Goals. The UN served as a catalyst and played a facilitation role. Solution Exchange was able to bring together practitioners cutting across institutional boundaries to share knowledge, ideas, information and experiences. Solution Exchange could connect development professionals in similar fields from diverse organizations ranging from Government, bilateral and multilateral development partners, and non-governmental organizations to academics, corporations, and media. This is done through an email-based network and also through face-to-face interactions.

A similar exclusive platform on the Cooperatives is an urgent need globally. UN can think of starting an international Knowledge-sharing platform on Cooperatives with a Community of Practices in different subsectors of cooperatives.

While the knowledge platform can be utilized for communicating in small groups working on some specific agenda, the larger purpose of Knowledge platform(s) in the context of cooperatives could be for the following purposes –

- Developing a repository of successful cases, innovations and best practices on cooperatives
- Solving problems /troubleshooting related to various subsectors of Cooperatives
- Policy dialogues for influencing policies related to cooperatives and various subsectors of cooperatives

- Training Demand Assessment and Curriculum development utilizing the platform to get the suggestions of the various stakeholders – practitioners, government officials, researchers/ academicians and independent experts on various subsectors of Cooperatives
- Development of training manuals/study material on various subsectors of Cooperatives and functional areas
- Developing M&E/ MIS systems related to cooperative initiatives and projects
- Developing technical notes/ ready reckoners/ directories/hybrid knowledge products on various subsectors of Cooperatives and functional areas

**ii) International Cooperative University :**

An International University can be established by the UN on cooperatives as there is no common platform on which cooperative subject is taught with the idea of global thinking on cooperatives. The university can have specializations in subsectors like dairy, fisheries, housing, Handloom/Handicrafts/ Industrial cooperatives and also functional areas such as MIS/M&E in cooperatives, operation management, and Procurement in Cooperatives.

**iii) UN Exchange Programme in collaboration with ICA :**

With ICA, the UN can have a special exchange programme for the practitioners, Trainers and Academician of Cooperatives to know the cooperative movement of different countries. Each member country can host this exchange programme through a specialized training and research institution of cooperatives.

**iv) Engaging more students, youth and academia in cooperatives :**

In collaboration with ICA, the UN can make more efforts to engage youth in cooperatives. Youth can be associated with cooperatives in three ways - Firstly, by functioning as a promoter of the cooperative movement by contributing to popularizing and informing about the concept of cooperatives to the people; Secondly, by forming their youth cooperatives for various

objectives and their joint enterprises. They can join together for a common cause by applying the theory of self-help and mutual help;

Thirdly, by forming campus cooperatives in Universities and functioning as their joint enterprises. For this, students & academicians can join together for a common cause by applying the theory of self-help and mutual help and focusing on experiential learning ie learning by doing. To materialize this, it is important to provide them with training and education on cooperatives, encourage more research in cooperatives.

ICA Committee for Youth and ICA-AP Committee for Cooperatives in Education( ICEI) can be supported by the UN. The vision of the ICA Youth Committee (ICA YC)[13]is to effectively and inclusively, unite, promote, and represent youth in cooperatives at the global level. It has the role of promoting youth at the behest of the ICA and providing thematic advice to all ICA bodies to support their actions toward young people. ICEI aims at promoting education in general, and in particular training and information on the ICA Statement on the Cooperative Identity.

More and more involvement of students, youth and academia in the cooperative sector can bring more professionalism and innovation in Cooperatives with the use of technology and new management practices and can fast-track the development which is inclusive and sustainable through cooperatives as per the UN Agenda 2030.

**References :**

1. "International Cooperative Alliance," [Online]. Available: <https://www.ica.coop/en/cooperatives/cooperative-identity>.
2. I. C. Alliance, "ICA: Cooperatives Facts and Figures," 2020. [Online]. Available: [https://www.ica.coop/en/cooperatives/facts-and-figures#:~:text=Cooperatives%20provide%20jobs%20or%20work,thrive%20\(World%20Cooperative%20Monitor\)](https://www.ica.coop/en/cooperatives/facts-and-figures#:~:text=Cooperatives%20provide%20jobs%20or%20work,thrive%20(World%20Cooperative%20Monitor)).
3. "Annual Report," National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Cooperative, 2013. [Online]. Available: [http://www.ja-kyosai.or.jp/about/annual/index\\_e.html](http://www.ja-kyosai.or.jp/about/annual/index_e.html).

4. J. Schwettmann, "Cooperatives and Employment in Africa," International Labour Organization, International Labour Office - Geneva.
5. "United Nations: Department of Economic and Social Affairs," 2017. [Online]. Available: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/cooperatives/what-we-do/meetings-and-workshops/power-of-cooperatives.html>.
6. "United Nations : Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Social Inclusion)," [Online]. Available: <https://social.desa.un.org/issues/cooperatives>. [Accessed 2023].
7. "United Nations: Department of Economic and Social Affairs," [Online]. Available: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/cooperatives-social-policy-and-development-division.html#:~:text=The%20Division%20acts%20as%20focal,the%20International%20Day%20of%20Cooperatives..> [Accessed December 2023].
8. "Promoting cooperatives: An Information Guide to ILO recommendation 193," ILO, 2014. [Online]. Available: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_emp/---emp\\_ent/---coop/documents/publication/wcms\\_311447.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/publication/wcms_311447.pdf).
9. "2012- Internatioanl Year of Co-operatives," United Nations , [Online]. Available: [https://www.un.org/en/events/coopsyear/#:~:text=The%20United%20Nations%20General%20Ass](https://www.un.org/en/events/coopsyear/#:~:text=The%20United%20Nations%20General%20Assembly,employment%20generation%20and%20social%20integration)embly,employment%20generation%20and%20social%20integration.
10. F. a. A. O. o. t. U. Nations, "CONFERENCE: Thirty-eighth Session, Internatioanl Year of Cooperatives 2012," Rome , 2013.
11. "International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation," [Online]. Available: [https://www.icmif.org/news\\_story/un-resolution-calls-for-a-second-international-year-of-cooperatives-in-2025/](https://www.icmif.org/news_story/un-resolution-calls-for-a-second-international-year-of-cooperatives-in-2025/).
12. "International Cooperative Alliance," [Online]. Available: <https://www.ica.coop/en/newsroom/news/resolution-calls-second-international-year-cooperatives-2025>. [Accessed 14 November 2023].
13. "About Us," [Online]. Available: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us>.
14. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/cooperatives/what-we-do/meetings-and-workshops/egm-coops-2030agenda.html>