

Message:

International Day of Co-operatives 2016

Co-operatives: The power to act for a sustainable future



[Download this message on www.coopsday.coop](http://www.coopsday.coop)

Pledge on www.coopsfor2030.coop

On Co-op's day, the Alliance launches its online pledge platform. Co-ops are invited to register their contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals on:

www.coopsfor2030.coop

Both past and present initiatives are welcome.

Pledge your co-op's support for the Sustainable Development Goals and help build a centralized record of co-ops as sustainable business leaders!

Win!

Pledge this month of July and be eligible to win a free entry to the International Summit of Cooperatives!

www.summit.coop

On July 2nd, the International Day of Co-operatives will celebrate how co-operative enterprises contribute to the achievement of the United Nations' seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which set an ambitious agenda for 2030 to end poverty, combat climate change and ensure equality and inclusion for all.

As values- and principles-based enterprises that exist to meet the needs of people, co-operatives are well-placed partners to deliver the SDGs, which address hunger, food security, gender equality, inclusive growth and sustainable production and consumption, among other issues.

The SDGs mirror many of the objectives laid out in the Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade, a global strategy for and by co-operatives to become the acknowledged leaders in economic, social and environmental sustainability, the model preferred by people and the fastest growing form of enterprise.

When adopting the SDGs in September 2015, UN Member States recognised in the text the role co-operatives play as actors in the private sector.

Given this important acknowledgement of co-operatives in global policy, and the relevance of the SDGs to the work that co-operatives do every day, the Alliance invites co-operators around the world to engage in the implementation of the SDGs, by making a pledge to participate in the Co-ops for 2030 platform, an Alliance campaign to unite co-operatives around the world in building a sustainable future – together. The platform will allow co-operatives to learn about the



SDGs, set targets to help achieve the SDGs, track their progress and see how other co-operatives are engaging.

With co-operatives so entrenched in the communities that they serve, this is a rare opportunity to collaborate on a global level to advance shared interests.

We all know that co-operatives have the power to act for a sustainable future. Let's share that power with the world.

Pledge today at www.coopsfor2030.coop! And, share on Twitter and Facebook how your co-operative is celebrating the 2016 International Day - use the hashtag #coopsday!

Examples of co-operative contributions to sustainable development

- Co-operatives in Japan generate employment for 5.4 million people, nearly double the amount of unemployed citizens.
- In Kenya, the main type of back office loan offered by savings and credit cooperative societies is for school fees, allowing members to educate their children.
- Since 2003, Coop Italy's Buon Fine project has recovered still edible, unsold food projects and donated them to charities and people in need. Through the programme, Coop Italy has reduced food waste by 3,544 metric tons and assisted around 150,000 people in need.
- In Argentina, the Cooperativa Agropecuaria y Artesanal Unión Quebrada y Valles Ltda (Cauqueva) helps farmers cultivate, process and market indigenous potatoes, and operates a museum and small restaurant to promote traditional livelihoods.