

**ILO Director-General's Message
for the International Day of Cooperatives**

July 2, 2022

It is a great pleasure to address you today on this, the one hundredth International Day of Cooperatives.

In many ways it is a double celebration for the International Labour Organization. Because this year we are also marking the 20th anniversary of the adoption of ILO Recommendation 193 on the promotion of cooperatives.

Their importance - and their power to bring about positive change - cannot be overstated.

The theme of this year, “Cooperatives Build a Better World”, has particular resonance, as people grapple with an uneven and fragile recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and now the often-dramatic impact of food and fuel inflation and looming financial crisis.

It is also timely, coming just after the 110th International Labour Conference last month adopted conclusions on decent work and the social and solidarity economy, including cooperatives.

The promotion of cooperatives is indeed embedded in the constitutional mandate of the ILO.

This testifies to our close links with cooperatives, which put people and decent work at the centre, while contributing to a more sustainable and socially inclusive future.

In recent years, international labour standards and declarations adopted by the ILO have reflected an increased interest in cooperatives and the wider social and solidarity economy.

What's important is that cooperatives are recognized not as temporary instruments for crisis response, but as fully fledged enterprises in their own right.

And seen as permanent and valuable sources of decent work creation, in addition to advancing equity, participation and social objectives.

Cooperatives everywhere, in all sectors of the economy, continue to make the world a better place.

They remain a valuable, strong and historic partner of the ILO.

Thank you.