

Co-operative enterprises commit to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

New York, 29 June 2016 – In a high-level meeting with representatives of the United Nations, Monique F. Leroux, President of the International Co-operative Alliance, pledged the co-operative movement's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. As sustainable, people-focused businesses, fostering decent work and inclusion, co-operative enterprises will play an essential role in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

"I am honoured to affirm today our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals. Co-operatives are key partners for achieving the United Nations' 2030 Agenda, since our values and principles run parallel to the Sustainable Development Goals", said Leroux.

In September 2015, UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Agenda recognises co-operative enterprises as important players within the private sector to achieve the SDGs. Co-operative businesses, due to their unique member-based model and roots in the communities where they operate, have the power to build a better living for all.

Sustainability is one of the five priorities of the Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade, the global strategy for and by co-operatives to take co-operation to a new level by 2020. The Alliance is working with the FAO and ILO to identify concrete targets and indicators for co-operatives to better evaluate their contribution to the SDGs. The 2016 International Summit of Co-operatives has also a rich program based on the theme "Co-operatives: The Power to Act". It will dedicate a full day to the topic of achieving the SDGs while gathering co-operators, global agencies, and world-renowned experts towards resolving these global issues.

"It is important for the Alliance to share its work with the United Nations as the co-operative movement contributes in a tangible way to the SDGs. The co-operative business model needs to be promoted and shared because co-operative enterprises foster democracy, social inclusion and operate with concern for the environment. Co-operatives are sustainable businesses that have the power to act at local, national and international levels", concluded Leroux.

The co-operative movement's commitment was pronounced at a high-level meeting in the presence of Mrs Daniela Bas, Director for Social Policy and Development (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs), H.E. Marc-Andre Blanchard, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, and H.E. Sukhbold Sukhee, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of

Mongolia to the United Nations. Also present were Carla Mucavi, Director of the FAO Liaison Office, and Vinicius Pinheiro, Director and Special Representative of the ILO to the UN.

Co-ops for 2030

Monique F. Leroux also announced the upcoming launch of *Co-ops for 2030*, an online platform for co-operatives to learn about and pledge commitments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. *Co-ops for 2030* is part of a global campaign for co-operatives to unite and engage in the SDG implementation process and will be available at www.coopsfor2030.coop on the International Day of Co-operatives, which will be celebrated on July 2nd.

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About the International Co-operative Alliance

The International Co-operative Alliance is an independent, non-governmental organisation established in 1895 to unite, represent and serve co-operatives worldwide. The Alliance provides a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and co-ordinated action for and about co-operatives.

The members of the Alliance are international and national co-operative organisations from all sectors of the economy. The Alliance has members from over 100 countries, representing close to one billion individuals worldwide.

According to the World Co-operative Monitor (<http://www.monitor.coop>) the world's top 300 co-operatives generate 2.6 trillion USD in turnover. Co-operatives generate partial or full-time employment for at least 250 million individuals worldwide, either in or within the scope of co-operatives, making up almost 12% of the entire employed population of the G20 countries.

<http://www.ica.coop>

About the International Summit of Cooperatives

The International Summit of Cooperatives (<http://www.summit.coop>) is the world's leading event for business development in the co-operative and mutual community. It offers managers, decision-makers, and leaders of co-operative and mutual enterprises a unique forum for reflection, discussion, co-operation, and training on major trends and their current and future issues, supported and enhanced by the attendance of internationally recognized experts. By demonstrating that co-

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operatives are one answer to the major economic issues of our times, the Summit aims to promote and foster the development of co-operative enterprises in all countries.

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