



April 14, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Blinken  
U.S. Secretary of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Julie Su  
U.S. Secretary of Labor (Acting)  
200 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Blinken and Acting Secretary Su,

As you are aware, on Tuesday, April 18, the United Nations General Assembly will be debating a very important resolution for our organization: it is the [Resolution A/77/L.60](#) entitled: "*Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy for Sustainable Development*": the text refers to **cooperatives** as a fundamental part of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and, once adopted, this resolution will coexist with the UN Resolution on cooperatives in social development.

**NCBA CLUSA International urges the United States to support the adoption of this resolution.** NCBA CLUSA is the apex association for all types of cooperatives in the United States with a vision of more people using cooperatives to build a more inclusive economy. Cooperatives, as user owned and democratically controlled businesses (as opposed to an extractive outside investment model) have been used in the U.S. and around the world to change the lives of countless people. One in three people in the United States are members of cooperatives including credit unions, farmer cooperatives, utility cooperatives, consumer cooperatives, and worker cooperatives.

**We kindly request within your capacities as Secretaries of State and Labor, support for the resolution through your Mission in New York before April 18.**

The following UN Member States are currently co-sponsoring this resolution: Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, France, Equatorial Guinea, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, and Senegal.

*Recalling* that cooperatives employ about 10% of the economically active population of the planet (about 300 million people),

*Recalling* that in order to accelerate the initiatives aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the Secretary General of the United Nations, in his August 2021 report entitled "[Our Common Agenda](#)" encourages a greater diversity of companies, from multinationals to micro-enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises, contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and climate action,

*Recognizing* the importance of the [Resolution of the International Labor Organization on decent work and the social and solidarity economy](#), approved in June 2022, in which it recognizes that the social and solidarity economy encompasses cooperatives, companies, organizations and other entities that carry out economic, social and environmental activities of collective or general interest,

*Within* the framework of our collaboration and mutual respect, that our organizations are key actors to ensure a future of work, of the integral development of people and of the care and conservation of the planet, we appreciate the efforts that our government can develop within the framework of the Assembly General of the United Nations on April 18, 2023.

Thank you for your continuing support.

In Cooperation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DOUG O'BRIEN', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Doug O'Brien  
National Cooperative Business Association  
NCBA CLUSA International  
Member of the Cooperatives of America  
Member of the International Cooperative Association