



## ICA Factsheet – UN International Year of Co-operatives

*“Co-operatives are a reminder to the international community that it is possible to pursue both economic viability and social responsibility.” Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General*

The United Nations decided in 2009 that 2012 would be the International Year of Co-operatives (IYC). As the world’s leading proponent of the co-operative movement, the ICA is deeply involved in promoting this UN International Year.

The International Year of Co-operatives, or IYC, celebrates a different way of doing business, one focused on human need not human greed, where the members (who own and govern the business) collectively enjoy the benefits instead of all profits going just to shareholders.

Having an International Year of Co-operatives provides an opportunity to captivate the attention of national governments, the business community and, most importantly, the general public on the advantages provided by the co-operative model.

### Co-operative Enterprises Build a Better World

The theme for the International Year is ‘Co-operative Enterprises Build a Better World’. By specifying a theme for an international year, the UN draws attention to issues of global significance and this theme was chosen for 2012 in part because co-operation is clearly part of what the UN is all about.

The UN’s goals for the IYC are to:

- Increase public awareness about co-operatives and their contributions to socio-economic development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
- Promote the formation and growth of co-operatives.
- Encourage governments to establish policies, laws and regulations conducive to the formation, growth and stability of co-operatives.

As the global voice of co-operatives, ICA has chosen to focus on increasing public awareness during the IYC as the most efficient and effective way to use our resources.

### Contact

If you want more information on the work of the International Co-operative Alliance or about the UN International Year of Co-operatives please go to [www.2012.coop](http://www.2012.coop).

If you would like to get in touch with us please contact Nicola Kelly, ICA Communications Director at [kelly@ica.coop](mailto:kelly@ica.coop).