

The Neighboring Food Co-op Association

Resolution on 2012: The International Year of Co-operatives

- Whereas,** The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/136 on Co-operatives in Social Development proclaims the year 2012 as the *International Year of Co-operatives*;
- Whereas,** The theme of the International Year is *Co-operative Enterprises Build a Better World*;
- Whereas,** The Resolution recognizes that co-operatives “in their various forms, promote the fullest possible participation in the economic and social development of all people, including women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, are becoming a major factor of economic and social development and contribute to the eradication of poverty”;
- Whereas,** The Resolution encourages all relevant stakeholders to take advantage of the *International Year* to promote co-ops, to raise public awareness of the contribution of co-operative enterprise to social and economic development and to promote the formation and growth of co-ops;
- Whereas,** The National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA), International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) and other organizations are promoting the *International Year* and encouraging co-ops to participate in related activities;
- Whereas,** The co-operative business model has empowered people around the world to improve their lives and communities through economic and social progress;
- Whereas,** Co-ops have proven resilient during the recent global recession, sustaining lives, livelihoods and communities;
- Whereas,** Millions of co-operatives operate in every nation of the world, owned and governed by more than 1 billion members and employing 100 million people worldwide;
- Whereas,** More than 29,000 co-operatives operate in the United States, securing 2 million jobs, generating annual revenues of \$652 billion and possessing assets of \$3 trillion;
- Whereas,** Co-operatives are the people’s business, and for more than a century have been a vital part of the economy, spanning the local and regional to the global;
- Whereas,** Co-ops operate across the economy, finding a broad range of expression in areas including food, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, employment, finance, housing, healthcare and the arts;
- Whereas,** Food co-ops have been pioneers and innovators in the areas of healthy food, sustainable agriculture, Fair Trade and relocalization of economies; and
- Whereas,** The vision of the Neighboring Food Co-op Association is of a *thriving regional economy, rooted in a healthy just and sustainable food system and a vibrant community of co-operative enterprise*. Now, therefore, be it
- Resolved,** That the Neighboring Food Co-op Association commits to
1. Join with the NCBA, ICA and other organizations in supporting and celebrating the year 2012 as the *International Year of Co-operatives*;
 2. Recognize and promote the vital role of co-ops in the economic and social well-being of communities in our region, across the United States and around the world;
 3. Celebrate the *International Year of Co-operatives* by engaging in efforts to raise the profile of co-operative enterprise, to demonstrate the benefits of co-ops in building local ownership and wealth, and to apply the co-operative model to new challenges and opportunities in our communities; and
 4. Encourage its member food co-ops, other co-operatives and credit unions, and allied organizations to become involved in efforts to support, celebrate and promote the *International Year of Co-operatives*.

Adopted by the NFCA Board of Directors, 12th May 2011



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