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### **Ban Ki-moon calls co-operatives a “unique and invaluable presence in today’s world” in message to International Co-operative Alliance General Assembly**

***UN Secretary General congratulates the International Co-operative Alliance and co-operative community on sustainable business model that reduces poverty and generates jobs.***

**Cancun, Mexico** – Wednesday 16 November 2011 — In a video message played to an audience of over two thousand delegates attending the [International Co-operative Alliance \(ICA\) General Assembly](#) in Cancun, Mexico, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon congratulated the ICA and its members for their contributions to the global common good.

Moon’s message came a little over two weeks after the United Nations launch of [International Year of Co-operatives](#), taking place in the year 2012. With a theme of “Co-operative Enterprises Build a Better World,” the International Year of Co-operatives offers the global co-operative community a platform to demonstrate that co-operatives offer a diverse, values-based business model to provide a sustainable source of revenue for communities and individuals.

*“Co-operatives are a unique and invaluable presence in today’s world,” said Moon. “They help to reduce poverty and generate jobs,” he continued.*

In his message, Moon emphasised the role that co-operatives play in strengthening communities socially and economically. He recognised that co-operatives are value-based businesses and are rooted in their communities because they are owned by their members.



In closing, Moon called upon ICA President Dame Pauline Green, the audience and the co-operative community to “create better businesses and a better world” through co-operative enterprise.

*“I thank Secretary General Moon for his message on behalf of the global co-operative movement,”* said Dame Pauline Green as she launched the International Year on behalf of the International Co-operative Alliance at the General Assembly. *“As he noted, co-operatives have been resilient during this economic crisis, building a better world for their members, and the International Year of Cooperatives offers us all an opportunity to take this message to the people of the world. It’s our opportunity to tell this positive, powerful story,”*

## **INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES**

Interviews can be arranged with some of the world’s leading authorities on co-operatives including:

- **Dame Pauline Green, President, ICA**
- **Charles Gould, Director-General, ICA**

**To arrange interviews, please contact the ICA’s Communications Team:**

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## **Notes to editor:**

1. Ban Ki-moon’s message to the General Assembly will be available on the Co-operative News – The Global News Hub at [www.thenews.coop](http://www.thenews.coop) from 8pm Mexican Time | 9pm New York Time | 2am Greenwich Mean Time | 1pm Sydney Time.

The International Co-operative Alliance is the global voice for the values-based business model of the cooperative, uniting co-operatives worldwide and providing a forum for knowledge and concerted action. ICA was established by co-operatives in 1895. It has members in almost 100 countries representing one billion people worldwide.

2. Co-operatives are successful, values-based businesses owned by their members. Whether they are customers, employees or residents, the members get an equal say in the business and a share of the profits. The Cooperative principles were first established in 1844 by the Rochdale Pioneers.

Employing 100 million people, co-operatives are significant economic actors in many different sectors: agriculture/forestry, banking/credit unions, consumer, health, insurance, workers, fisheries, housing, transport and tourism

3. The United Nations has declared 2012 the International Year of Co-operatives. With its



theme of 'co-operative enterprises build a better world', the Year is an opportunity to raise awareness of how co-operatives are successful values based businesses owned by their members.

4. Further information available at [www.2012.coop](http://www.2012.coop).

