



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 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 for more than 100 years been a vital part of the economy and have proven resilient during the recent global recession, sustaining lives, livelihoods and communities;
- Whereas,** Millions of co-operatives are owned and governed by more than 1 billion members and employ 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-ops operate across the economy, finding a broad range of expression in areas including food, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, employment, finance, insurance, housing, healthcare and the arts;
- Whereas,** The mission of the Cooperative Fund of New England (CFNE) is to advance community based, co-operative, and democratically owned enterprises with preference to those that serve low income communities; and
- Whereas,** In its more than 35 years of operation, CFNE has made over \$24 million in loans to over 550 co-ops and community organizations. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Cooperative Fund of New England commits to

1. Join with the United Nations and the International Co-operative Alliance, and partners such as the Neighboring Food Co-op Association, the Valley Alliance of Worker Co-ops, the National Cooperative Business Association 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 New England, 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 our co-operative partners and allied organizations to become involved in efforts to support, celebrate and promote the *International Year of Co-operatives*.

Be It Further Resolved,

That the Cooperative Fund of New England will distribute this resolution among co-ops and co-operative associations, policy makers, funding organizations, community development organizations, and the press across our region.

**Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Cooperative Fund of New England
3rd June 2011, Brattleboro, VT**

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