



## **Resolution on the International Year of Cooperatives**

WHEREAS, The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/136 on cooperatives in social development proclaims the year 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC);

WHEREAS, The theme of the International Year is "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World";

WHEREAS, The Resolution recognizes that "cooperatives, 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 IYC to promote cooperatives, to raise public awareness of the contribution of cooperatives to social and economic development and to promote the formation and growth of cooperatives;

WHEREAS, The National Association of Housing Cooperatives (NAHC), a membership association representing housing cooperatives in the United States, has advocated that the United States and its government participate in the International Year;

WHEREAS, NAHC is working with other cooperative groups to prepare tools and materials to enable cooperatives to take advantage of the IYC to promote cooperatives;

WHEREAS, The cooperative business model has empowered people around the world to improve their lives through economic and social progress;

WHEREAS, Cooperatives are a major economic force in developed countries and a powerful business model in developing countries, employing 100 million people;

WHEREAS, Millions of cooperatives operate in every nation of the world, owned and governed by more than 1 billion members;

WHEREAS, The economic activity of the largest 300 cooperatives in the world equals the 10<sup>th</sup> largest national economy;

WHEREAS, More than 29,000 cooperatives operate in the United States;

WHEREAS, U.S. cooperatives generate 2 million jobs, make a substantial contribution to the U.S. economy with annual sales of \$652 billion and possessing assets of \$3 trillion;

WHEREAS, U.S. housing cooperatives provide affordable self governing housing communities for 1.2 million families, who manage over \$150 billion in housing assets

WHEREAS, Cooperatives are the people's business, and for more than a century have been a vital part of the world economy. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Housing Cooperatives, convened at its 2011 Annual Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, commits to

1. Join with NCBA and its members in supporting and celebrating the year 2012 as "the International Year of Cooperatives";
2. Recognize the vital role cooperatives play in the economic and social well-being of the United States;
3. Celebrate the year by engaging in efforts to raise the profile of cooperatives and demonstrate how cooperatives build community, contribute to local economic and social wealth, generate employment, provide competition in the marketplace and fulfill needs not met by government or traditional private sectors.