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HEADQUARTERS • SIEGE NEW YORK, NY 10017

TEL.: 1 (212) 963.1234 • FAX: 1 (212) 963.4879

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The Secretariat of the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to General Assembly resolution 64/136 on cooperatives in social development, which proclaims the year 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC). A copy of resolution 64/136 is available online at <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unga-resolutions.html>.

Operative paragraph 3 of the resolution encourages all Member States, as well as the United Nations and all other relevant stakeholders, to take advantage of the International Year as a way of promoting cooperatives and raising awareness of their contribution to social and economic development.

In resolution 1980/67 on guidelines for future international years, the Economic and Social Council encourages Governments to form national committees or other mechanisms for preparing for, conducting and following up the international year at the national level (paragraph 19).

The Secretariat therefore invites Governments to set up a national committee, together with all relevant stakeholders, including cooperatives and UN Agencies, to coordinate activities in the preparation and observance of the IYC at the national level. In this regard, Governments are invited to nominate a national focal point for the Year.

The Secretariat would be grateful if the Permanent Missions could communicate to it, by 1 June 2010, the name and contact details of the national focal point and His/Her Excellency Government's plans to establish a national committee. The Permanent Missions may wish to convey the relevant information directly to Ms. Felice Llamas, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, room DC2-1348, Two United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, telephone: (+1-212) 963-2924, fax: (+1-212) 963-0111, and e-mail: llamas@un.org.

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T. C. H.