



United Nations

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Division for Social Policy and Development  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
Secretariat Building, Room S-2945, New York, New York 10017  
Tel: (212) 963-9430, Fax: (212) 963-3062, e-mail: [coopsyear@un.org](mailto:coopsyear@un.org)

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## United Nations to Conduct a Global Census on Co-operatives

Following the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives the United Nations' Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) is embarking on a first of its kind endeavor to conduct a global census on the co-operative system. The International Year of Co-operatives raised the awareness of co-operatives and provided significant anecdotal evidence of their contribution to socio-economic development. The United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/66/123 not only proclaimed 2012 as the International Year of Co-operatives but also encouraged governments, in collaboration with all stakeholders, to intensify and expand the availability and accessibility of research on the operations and contribution of co-operatives.

As has been the case with initiatives around global remittances flows and access to financial services, the United Nations again intends to play a catalyst role by initiating research on the scope, size and impact on an under-studied area. The International Year of Co-operatives brought to light the lack of comprehensive data on co-operatives and raised questions on how to successfully support their development. Today only certain sectors of co-operatives (i.e., insurance, banking) and nations collect data.

As such, UN DESA is conducting a global census on co-operative and mutuals with the assistance of an expert in the field of co-operatives, Dave Grace & Associates. This activity will consolidate existing aggregate data on cooperatives and include new sources of information on co-operatives. The census will begin in August and results will be available towards the end of 2013.

The UN encourages all partners in the co-operative system to part-take in the forthcoming census. For more information regarding the census contact Ms. Wenyan Yang, Chief, Social

Perspective on Development, Division for Social Policy and Development, DESA or the research team at [coopsyear@un.org](mailto:coopsyear@un.org) .

*The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) promotes development for all and reflects a fundamental concern for equity and equality in countries large and small, developed and developing. It is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. More information can found at <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/index.html>*

*Dave Grace & Associates is an international consultancy firm with 17 years of experience in survey design, co-operative research and global data collection. Its clients include the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and several national co-operative associations. More information can found at [www.DaveGraceAssociates.com](http://www.DaveGraceAssociates.com)*