



International
Labour
Organization

ILO and Cooperatives

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMME (EMP/COOP)

This new series of bulletins is issued by EMP/COOP, the Cooperative Branch of the International Labour Organization, to provide regular updates on activities leading up to and during the International Year of Cooperatives 2012.



Dear All,

This is the first of a three-monthly bulletin which is to provide you with regular updates on the International Year of Cooperatives 2012 (IYC).

It is likely that the ILO will be asked to play a leading role in coordinating activities during the IYC as the only United Nations specialized agency with an explicit mandate on cooperatives and with the only international governmental instrument on cooperatives. It is a unique chance which we have to seize in order to promote cooperatives and raise awareness of their contribution to social and economic development. It is our explicit purpose as ILO to raise the profile and the visibility of cooperatives in the course of 2012 and beyond! We will do this by combining core ILO values, like Decent Work and Fair Globalization, with the Cooperative Values and Principles as included in the ILO Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation 2002 (R. 193).

Please provide us with feedback, ideas and suggestions on how to best celebrate this IYC. We are putting our best efforts into preparing the IYC, but we need your support in order to get the best possible result!

Your EMP/COOP team

> If you want to receive this IYC bulletin regularly by e-mail, please send a message with the reference line "subscribe IYC bulletin" to: coop@ilo.org

Background

On December 18, 2009 the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives (Res. A/RES/64/136). Since 1959, the UN has designated international years in order to draw attention to major issues and to encourage international action to address concerns which have global importance and ramifications.

Main objectives of the IYC:

UN Resolution A/RES/64/136, Operational Paragraph 3:

"Encourages all Member States, as well as the United Nations and all other relevant stakeholders, to take advantage of the International Year of Cooperatives as a way of promoting cooperatives and raising awareness of their contribution to social and economic development"

>> For the full text of the Resolution in all official UN languages see: <http://www.copac.coop/>

Member States are called upon to engage in national activities. The main role of the UN family will be one of coordinating on the international level. 2012 will also be the 20th anniversary of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the 10th anniversary of the ILO Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation 2002 (R. 193). Thus, the IYC lends itself also to strengthening efforts to further implement

R. 193 and to effectively incorporate measures enhancing sustainable cooperative business.

What has happened so far...

At the annual meeting of the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC; see box to the below) on March 24, 2010, suggestions regarding the organizational set-up for the coordination of the activities leading up to and during the IYC were made.

EMP/COOP suggests seizing the opportunity of the IYC

- to make cooperatives in all forms and with all their diverse activities known as a modern enterprise model and
- to promote their further development in accordance with R. 193.

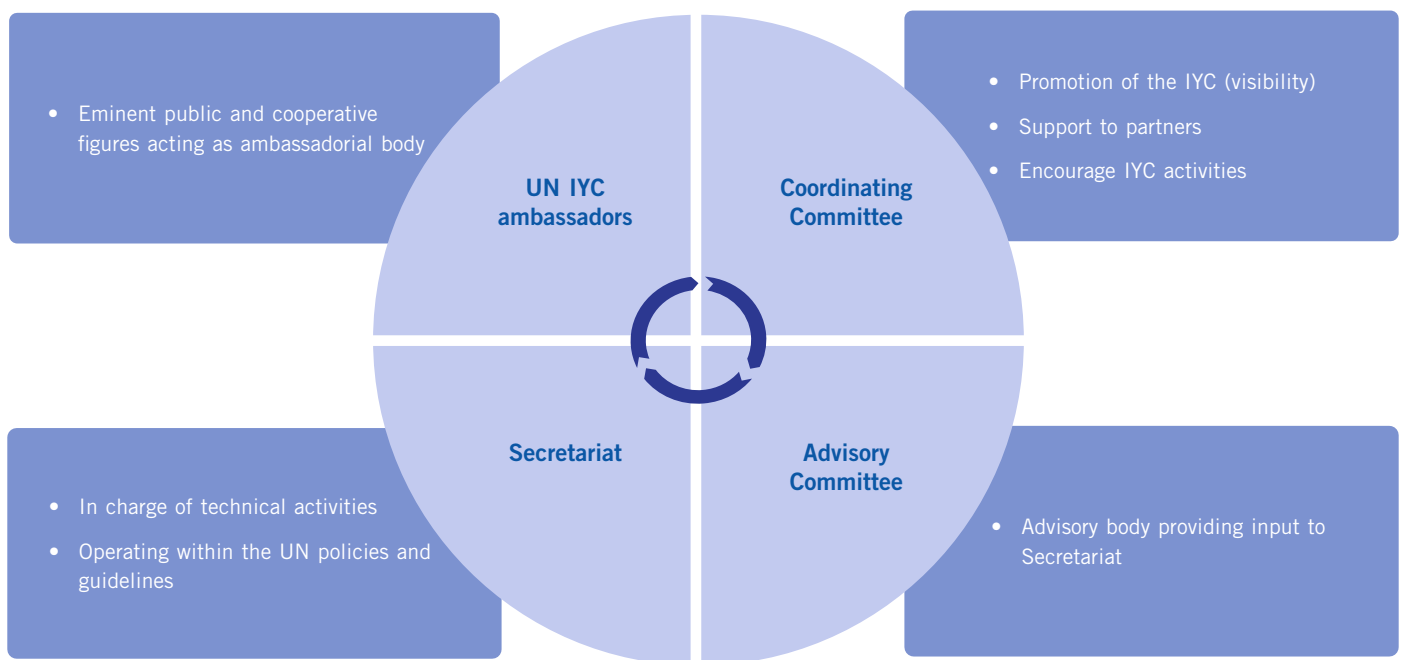
We are currently finalizing our own time plan and the list of activities we would like to realize during the IYC. This will be soon communicated on our website (www.ilo.org/coop). First discussions and steps for coordination measures between COPAC members have taken place.

... and what will happen next:

- The organizational set-up will be formalized. The Secretariat shall start its operations as soon as possible. The first meeting of the Coordinating Committee shall be prepared for autumn 2010.
- A logo and a slogan for the IYC will be developed until autumn 2010.
- A website for the IYC will be developed and shall be operational at the end of 2010.

What is COPAC?

COPAC is composed of the United Nations (UN), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) and the ILO. It was established in March 1971 after the UN General Assembly had requested the UN Economic and Social Council to consider the role of cooperatives in economic and social development (website: www.copac.coop).



>> Based on discussions in COPAC meeting (March 2010)