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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

8 May 2012

Dear Mr. Gould,

I write on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to thank you for your letter of 11 April 2012 by which you invite him to participate as the keynote speaker in the World Co-operative Forum to be held on 31 October 2012 in Manchester.

While the Secretary-General is honoured by this invitation, it is with regret that he must decline due to pressing demands on his schedule.

The Secretary-General appreciates your understanding and sends his best wishes for a successful event.

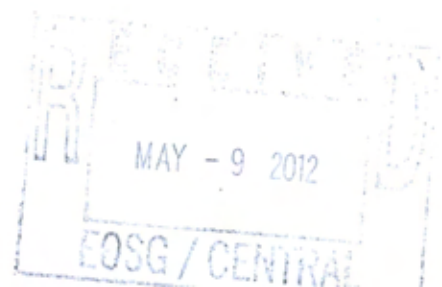
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Susana Malcorra
Chef de Cabinet

Mr. Charles Gould
Director-General
International Co-operative Alliance
Geneva

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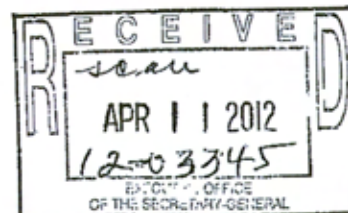
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International Co-operative Alliance



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Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon
The United Nations Secretariat
New York, NY 10017
USA



11 April 2012

Dear Secretary General,

On behalf of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), I would like to invite you to speak to co-operative leaders from around the globe who will gather in Manchester, UK on 31 October 2012 as our keynote speaker. The 31 October World Co-operative Forum is part of a week of activities to close the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives for the co-operative movement. We believe you would offer a stimulating keynote address that could reinforce the importance of this Year and help us build the momentum necessary to pivot from a Co-operative Year to a Co-operative Decade. We would ask you to speak for approximately twenty minutes on how those gathered can better advance sustainable development and on the challenges that all nations now face in seeking peace and prosperity.

Manchester will be the setting for a week's worth of activities that will draw some 10,000 co-operators and members of the public to experience firsthand a wealth of programs and a range of activities -emphasizing the power of co-operatives in the global economy. One of the key goals for the event, known as Co-operatives United, is to raise public awareness about co-operatives and their contribution to socio-economic development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Co-operatives United runs from Sunday 28 October to Friday 2 November. Among events will be a co-operative Living Village, in which every aspect of life is portrayed in a co-operative format. We are also organising a co-operative trade exposition: ICA EXPO.

While the event will not take place until October, we are respectfully requesting hearing back from you by May 15 to enable us to begin crafting an appropriate media and public relations campaign on your behalf.

Charles Gould
Director-General

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