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### **Co-ops can help achieve Millennium Development Goals**

Washington, D.C. (Sept. 23, 2010) – In conjunction with high-level discussions this week at the United Nations on meeting the Millennium Development Goals, USAID has released a paper, *Celebrate, Innovate and Sustain*, outlining the U.S. strategy for reaching the eight goals by the target of 2015.

The strategy is based on four imperatives:

- Leveraging innovation,
- Investing in sustainability,
- Tracking development outcomes, not dollars, and
- Enhancing the principle and practice of mutual accountability.

The paper also provides explicit support for three major initiatives: the Global Health Initiative, Feed the Future (food security initiative), and the Global Climate Change Initiative.

Making these efforts work will focus on:

- Supporting research, innovation and access to knowledge,
- Investing in sustainability,
- Supporting good governance and democratic institution building,
- Empowering women and girls,
- Measuring results,
- Building sustainable delivery systems, and
- Reducing vulnerability to shocks.

In the economic growth sections, the report reemphasizes the importance of supporting broad-based, inclusive growth and the need for a good enabling environment. It also focuses on the need for coordinated action by various U.S. agencies such as USAID and the Dept. of the Treasury, as well as multilateral development banks.

“Cooperatives — with their emphasis on democratic principles, member control, inclusiveness, sustainability and accountability — can play an integral role in helping achieve the MDG goals,” says Rob Nooter, executive director of the U.S. Overseas Cooperative Development Council. “OCDC and its members will continue to find opportunities for applying the cooperative model to these development challenges.”

OCDC brings together seven organizations committed to building a more prosperous world through cooperative development. OCDC’s mission is to champion, advocate and promote effective international cooperative development. Its members are: ACDI/VOCA, CHF International, Communications Cooperative International, Land O’Lakes International Development, National Cooperative Business Association, NRECA International and the World Council of Credit Unions.