



US Overseas **Cooperative Development Council**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Leonard named chair of OCDC board**

Washington, D.C. (Jan. 5, 2010) – Carl H. Leonard of ACDI/VOCA has been named chair of the board of U.S. Overseas Cooperative Development Council, an association dedicated to implementing cooperative business principles to help disadvantaged people in developing countries. His one-year term as chair begins this month.

Leonard, who has 30 years' experience directing and managing economic assistance programs in Latin America and the Caribbean, joined ACDI/VOCA in 2001 and has served as president and CEO of the organization since 2004. Prior to ACDI/VOCA, Leonard worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development, serving as mission director in three countries and as acting assistant administrator. In this capacity, he oversaw 16 USAID field missions and three regional programs. He achieved the rank of career minister in the Senior Foreign Service and received numerous awards from USAID, including two presidential-rank awards and the agency's Distinguished Career Service Award. In 2009, Leonard chaired the 15-member Alliance for Global Food Security.

“In addition to his wealth of experience as a development professional with field and Washington experience, Carl brings great leadership skills that he has demonstrated as an OCDC board member for the past six years,” said Rob Nooter, OCDC executive director. “Carl has a keen sense of how best to position OCDC to increase the attention development donor agencies devote to cooperatives and our methodologies of building and strengthening member-owned and member-controlled businesses.”

OCDC brings together eight 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, AAC/MIS, CHF International, Communications Cooperative International, Land O'Lakes International Development, National Cooperative Business Association, NRECA and the World Council of Credit Unions.