

November 10, 2008

President-elect Barack Obama  
cc: John Podesta, Transition Team Co-Chair  
c/o Transition Team Headquarters  
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President-elect:

As a bipartisan coalition of foreign policy and development leaders, we would like to congratulate you on your election as our nation's 44<sup>th</sup> President, and to offer our support as you and your team prepare to transition to the White House.

We greatly appreciate the pledge you made during the campaign to elevate and strengthen U.S. development and diplomacy as critical components of our foreign policy and national security strategy. In particular, your commitments to double foreign assistance over time and create an elevated, empowered, consolidated and streamlined U.S. development agency are ones we endorse and support wholeheartedly.

We recognize that achieving those goals will take time. We would like to recommend a few early, critical steps toward achieving these goals. These steps will require few budgetary resources in and of themselves, but will make our development investments more efficient and effective over time, and will send a strong signal of your intention to elevate and strengthen development as a pillar of our foreign policy.

- **Ensure that the Secretary of State nominee agrees that modernizing our foreign assistance policies, tools, and operations in an elevated, empowered, consolidated, and streamlined U.S. development agency is a top foreign policy priority;**
- **Empower a single individual with broadened responsibility for USAID, MCC and PEPFAR; and**
- **Name a Deputy National Security and Economic Advisor for Development with joint NEC/NSC responsibility for interagency and White House coordination and coherence of development policy.**

Efforts to elevate global development and modernize foreign assistance will require a substantial investment of time and effort. These investments, however, will have big returns in terms of restoring global economic stability, security and prosperity, and in making these programs more effective. We urge you to **incorporate a robust International Affairs Budget in your FY10 request** to demonstrate your commitment toward fulfilling your pledge to double foreign assistance over time.

The attached note fleshes out these and related key steps in more detail. Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you and your incoming Administration.

Sincerely,



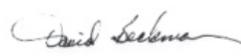
Steve Radelet  
Co-Chair, MFAN  
Center for Global  
Development



G. William Anderson  
USAID Senior Foreign  
Service (ret.)



Brian Atwood  
Hubert H. Humphrey  
Institute of Public Affairs  
University of Minnesota



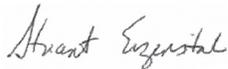
David Beckmann  
Bread for the World



Nancy Birdsall  
Center for Global  
Development



Larry Diamond  
Hoover Institution  
Stanford University



Stuart Eizenstat  
Covington & Burling LLP



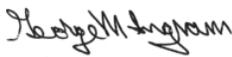
Francis Fukuyama  
The Paul H. Nitze  
School of Advanced  
International Studies  
Johns Hopkins University



Helene D. Gayle  
CARE



Michael Gerson  
Council on Foreign  
Relations



George Ingram  
Academy for Educational  
Development



Carol Lancaster  
Mortara Center for  
International Studies  
Georgetown University



Bill Lane  
Member, HELP  
Commission



David Lane  
ONE



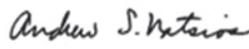
Charles MacCormack  
Save the Children



Michael McFaul  
Center on Democracy,  
Development and  
Rule of Law  
Stanford University



Peter McPherson  
National Association  
of State Universities  
and Land-Grant Colleges



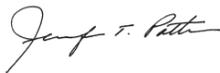
Andrew Natsios  
Walsh School of Foreign  
Service, Georgetown  
University



Ray Offenheiser  
Oxfam America



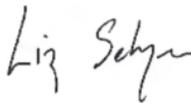
Stewart Patrick  
Council on Foreign  
Relations



Jennifer Potter  
Initiative for Global  
Development



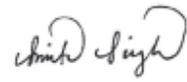
William Reese  
International Youth  
Foundation



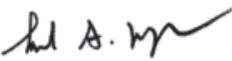
Liz Schroyer  
Center for U.S. Global  
Engagement



Ritu Sharma  
Women Thrive  
Worldwide



Smita Singh



Sam Worthington  
InterAction

\* The signatories of this letter endorse it in their individual capacities as foreign assistance and global development experts. Organizational affiliations are listed for identification purposes only.