



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 44th 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,

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* 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.