

**SYMPOSIUM ON GLOBAL AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY:
PROGRESS TO DATE AND STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS**

*Convened by the Global Agricultural Development Initiative
May 20, 2010 | Washington, D.C.*

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

August 2010

SYMPOSIUM COCHAIRS

Catherine Bertini, former executive director, UN World Food Program

Dan Glickman, former secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

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ABOUT THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

The Chicago Council's Global Agricultural Development Initiative (GADI), launched in 2008 and expanded in 2010, purposes to build support and provide policy innovation for a long-term U.S. commitment to agricultural development as a means to alleviate global poverty. The Initiative is led by cochairs Catherine Bertini, former executive director of the UN World Food Program, and Dan Glickman, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

GADI activities support the goals of maintaining the policy impetus towards a renewed U.S. focus on agricultural development, providing technical assistance and innovation to agricultural development policies' formulation and implementation, and offering external evaluation and accountability for U.S. progress on food security. In all activities, GADI seeks to work closely with other organizations doing critical and complementary work on issues related to agricultural development and food security. The project pays particular attention to the role of smallholder farmers, women, and girls in the agriculture and food sectors of Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

The expanded initiative, launched in August 2010, builds upon the Council's previous work on global agricultural development. In 2009, the Council released the report, *Renewing American Leadership in the Fight Against Global Hunger and Poverty*, to provide a strategic plan for how the United States could better support the alleviation of global poverty through a refocusing of assistance on agricultural development. For more information, please visit the project's website: www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment.

ABOUT THE CHICAGO COUNCIL ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Founded in 1922, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs is a leading independent, non-partisan organization committed to influencing the discourse on global issues through contributions to opinion and policy formation, leadership dialogue, and public learning. The Chicago Council provides members, specialized groups, and the general public with a forum for the consideration of significant international issues and their bearing on American foreign policy.

The Chicago Council takes no institutional positions on matters of public policy and other issues addressed in the reports, publications, and events it sponsors. All statements of fact and expressions of opinion discussed during the symposium are the sole responsibility of their authors and may not reflect the views of their respective organizations, the project funders, or The Chicago Council's board and staff.

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PREAMBLE

Since U.S. President Barack Obama took office in January 2009, a number of policy developments indicate a shift in thinking about how the international community, with unique leadership provided by the United States, can best leverage its resources to address the challenges of global poverty, food insecurity, and malnutrition. In his inaugural address, President Obama pledged to work alongside the people of poor nations to make their “farms flourish and clean waters flow.”¹ This pledge was followed by President Obama’s call at the April 2009 G-20 Summit in London for the U.S. Congress to double support for agricultural development.² At the G-8 Summit in L’Aquila, Italy in July 2009, G-8 leaders announced the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security, a \$22 billion multinational food security initiative to “free mankind from hunger and poverty,” and later reconfirmed these commitments at the G-20 meeting in Pittsburgh in September 2009.³ At the World Summit on Food Security convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome in November 2009, 60 heads of state and government and 191 ministers from 182 countries and the European Union endorsed the Global Partnership and its five principles.⁴

The U.S. government commitment to food security continued in 2010. The President’s FY11 Congressional budget request asked for \$1.844 billion towards food security and nutrition.⁵ In April 2010, the World Bank announced \$880 million in commitments to the new Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, a multi-lateral trust fund to assist in the implementation of pledges made at L’Aquila and to aid vulnerable populations afflicted by hunger and poverty.⁶ Moreover, the U.S. Congress continues to consider legislation that would provide on-going funding for new and existing U.S. government programs that address global hunger and food insecurity.

In an effort to build and sustain the gathering momentum for change in U.S. food security and agricultural development policy at a key time in the policymaking process, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs convened a symposium on May 20, 2010, to review the U.S. government and international community’s progress in addressing the problem of global food insecurity. The day-long symposium featured the official release of the *Feed the Future Guide*, the implementation strategy for the Obama Administration’s global hunger and food security initiative.⁷ It also provided a forum for discussion on U.S. efforts to develop a whole-of-government approach to advance global food security, policy barriers and market access challenges facing stakeholders across the agriculture and food supply chain, and obstacles and opportunities in formulating and implementing country-led strategies.

¹ Barack Obama’s Inaugural Address, January 20, 2009, text as viewed at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/inaugural-address/>.

² The White House, *Doubling Financial Resources Available for Agricultural Development*, Fact Sheet, April 2, 2009. http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/remarks/G20_fact_sheet_1_Doubling_Financial_Resources_or_Agricultural_Development.pdf.

³ L’Aquila Joint Statement on Global Food Security, July 10, 2009.

http://www.g8italia2009.it/static/G8_Allegato/LAquila_Joint_Statement_on_Global_Food_Security%5b1%5d.0.pdf

⁴ FAO, World Summit on Food Security, *Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security*, November 16-18, 2009.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/Summit/Docs/Final_Declaration/WSFS09_Declaration.pdf

⁵ Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2011, February 1, 2010, text as viewed at

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2011/assets/budget.pdf>.

⁶ World Bank, The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), text as viewed at <http://go.worldbank.org/C6708BEDX0>.

⁷ United States Government, *Feed The Future Guide*, May 20, 2010. <http://www.feedthefuture.gov/guide.html>.

The Chicago Council was pleased to partner with the following organizations for this event: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Bread for the World, Concern Worldwide, DuPont, German Marshall Fund of the United States, Global Harvest Initiative, InterAction, International Center for Research on Women, International Food Policy Research Institute, ONE Campaign, Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, United States Institute of Peace, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and the World Food Prize Foundation.

AGENDA

Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security

Progress to Date and Strategies for Success

May 20, 2010

Mayflower Renaissance Hotel | 1127 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington, D.C.

- 8:00 A.M. **REGISTRATION OPENS**
- 9:00 A.M. **SYMPOSIUM BEGINS**
Location: Grand Ballroom (1st Floor)
- WELCOME FROM SYMPOSIUM COCHAIRS**
Catherine Bertini, former executive director, UN World Food Program
Dan Glickman, former secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- 9:10 A.M. **KEYNOTE**
Introduction
Marshall M. Bouton, president, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs
- Keynote Address
The Honorable Rajiv Shah, administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development
The New Architecture for Food Security
- 9:30 A.M. **PANEL 1 – FEED THE FUTURE GUIDE – RESPONDENTS**
Moderator
Dan Glickman, cochair, Global Agricultural Development Initiative
- Discussants
Doug Bereuter, president, The Asia Foundation
Rosa DeLauro, member, U.S. House of Representatives
Cheryl Mills, chief of staff, counselor, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of State
Rajiv Shah, administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development

10:45 A.M.

DISTINGUISHED REMARKS

Introduction

Marshall M. Bouton, president, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

Distinguished Speaker

The Honorable Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, president, Republic of Liberia

The Role of Agriculture in Post-Conflict Recovery –The Case of Liberia

11:00 A.M.

PANEL 2 – COUNTRY INVESTMENT PLANS: CASE STUDIES

The U.S. government has identified several countries in which to target investment for the *Feed the Future* initiative in 2011. This discussion will provide senior representatives from these key countries an opportunity to discuss the goals, priorities, and implementation strategies put forth in the countries' investment plans and expectations for progress.

Moderator

Sir Gordon Conway, professor of International Development, Imperial College, London

Discussants

Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, minister of food and disaster management, People's Republic of Bangladesh

Aghatham Ag Alhassane, minister of agriculture, Republic of Mali

12:15 P.M.

LUNCH

Location: State/East Rooms (1st Floor)

OPENING REMARKS

Marshall M. Bouton, president, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

Paul Schickler, president, Pioneer Hi-Bred

KEYNOTE

Introduction

Dan Glickman, cochair, Global Agricultural Development Initiative

Keynote Address

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack, secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Research and Institutional Capacity Building: USDA's Role in Global Food Security and Feed the Future

1:45 P.M.

SYMPOSIUM RESUMES

Location: Grand Ballroom (1st Floor)

PANEL 3 – OVERCOMING POLICY BARRIERS AND MARKET ACCESS CHALLENGES

Critical to long-term food security is the construction of functional and open local and regional markets that can be accessed by stakeholders across the agriculture and food supply chains. Experts and the USG strategy recognize that key to achieving this goal will be increasing private sector investment and activity in agricultural and food supply chains in the developing world. This panel will highlight challenges and discuss strategies to constructing and participating in reliable and accessible markets.

Moderator

Robert Thompson, professor emeritus in Agricultural Policy, University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana

Discussants

Raymond Gilpin, associate vice president, Sustainable Economies Centers of Innovation, United States Institute of Peace

Paul Schickler, president, Pioneer Hi-Bred

Ritu Sharma, president and co-founder, Women Thrive Worldwide

3:00 P.M.

KEYNOTE

Introduction

Catherine Bertini, cochair, Global Agricultural Development Initiative

Keynote Address

A. Namanga Ngongi, president, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
Seizing New Opportunities

3:30 P.M.

PANEL 4 - INVESTING IN REGIONAL AND COUNTRY-LED PLANS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The L'Aquila Food Security Initiative and USG *Feed the Future* initiative endorse investments in comprehensive and multi-stakeholder regional and country-led strategies to advance agriculture-led growth. Questions remain about how to develop strategies that are comprehensive, appropriately take into account capacity constraints, and incorporate and coordinate USG internal efforts, with other stakeholder efforts, without overburdening recipients. This panel will assess the challenges and opportunities for regional- and country-led planning.

Moderator

Catherine Bertini, cochair, Global Agricultural Development Initiative

Discussants

Deborah Atwood, director, Corporate Affairs and Public Policy, Mars

Rodney Bent, member, Transatlantic Taskforce on Development; executive advisor, Booz Allen Hamilton

Shenggen Fan, director general, International Food Policy Research Institute

Mark Suzman, acting president, Global Development Program, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

4:45 P.M.

CLOSING REMARKS

Catherine Bertini, cochair, Global Agricultural Development Initiative

5:00 P.M.

SYMPOSIUM ADJOURNS

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening Keynote – *The New Architecture for Food Security*

The Honorable Rajiv Shah, administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development

Administrator Rajiv Shah opened the event by announcing the release of the U.S. *Feed the Future Guide*, the strategy and implementation plan for the U.S. food security and agricultural development initiative.⁸ He outlined the rationale for investment in food security, highlighted three principles upon which the strategy and implementation plan are based, and then asked for support and guidance from several stakeholders to help realize and sustain the effort.

Last year, the number of people suffering from chronic hunger exceeded 1 billion. Although both the food and global financial crises contributed to this increase, the lack of support for agricultural development on the part of the U.S. and broader donor community perpetuated the problem. As evidenced by the 2008 food riots, pervasive hunger and undernourishment can threaten global stability. Administrator Shah credited agricultural development, a proven springboard for broader economic development and food security, as a mechanism to foster peace and opportunity, and therefore America's own national security. The *Feed the Future* initiative is part of the Obama Administration's broader plan to advance stability and enhance prosperity in partner countries by elevating and integrating development, alongside defense and diplomacy, as a key component of U.S. foreign policy.

Feed the Future, Administrator Shah explained, seeks to create a modern aid mechanism. The strategy and implementation plan are based on the principles first laid out in the L'Aquila declaration in 2009 and include commitments to country-led and -owned plans, a comprehensive approach to food security, and improved donor coordination.

Country investment plans are one of the only ways to create broad, transformative impact through providing a mechanism to bring successful donor projects to larger-scale. They also streamline and coordinate donor activities by designating specific areas and crop value chains as investment priorities around which all stakeholders can organize. Approaching food security comprehensively – “from the research lab to the table” – is also important to long-term impact. Administrator Shah highlighted several components that were critical to include in such an approach:

- a restructured research agenda which will support the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) system, the land-grant universities, and the Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs);
- robust regulatory reform within countries to give farmers more freedom to choose the technology they use;
- the development of agriculture markets that align investments in grain storage, market-information systems, and feeder roads with private-sector priorities;
- the refocusing of efforts to increase agricultural business investments in priority countries;
- new creative partnerships with food buyers to ensure market durability and supply-chain management;
- innovative regional investments to help implement the trade and investment corridors that many African partners have requested and highlighted as their top regional agriculture priority; and

⁸ United States Government, *Feed The Future Guide*, May 20, 2010. <http://www.feedthefuture.gov/guide.html>.
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- efforts to focus and expand investment in women's producer networks and fellowship programs.

Finally, improved coordination at the donor level reduces the burden of implementation on the recipient country government. The creation of the multi-donor trust fund, hosted by the World Bank, is one way this principle is being realized, but more work is needed to ensure all stakeholder efforts are harmonized effectively. Part of this effort is for the U.S. government to continue to streamline its interagency process to increase the impact of its investments.

Administrator Shah closed his remarks by requesting support from specific stakeholders involved in food security activities. He encouraged partner countries to strengthen their comprehensive development plans and committed to helping mobilize the global support for the plan's implementation and appointing a single point of contact in the country to coordinate U.S. government efforts. He asked nongovernmental actors to align their expertise and activities behind country priorities and develop specific strategies in projects and programs for building local capacity through the agriculture and nutrition sectors. He noted the need for the private sector to work with countries, the U.S. government, and other donors so constraints on business operations can be reduced and incentives for investment increased. He highlighted the importance of Congressional support for the *Feed the Future* initiative for it to be sustained long-term. Finally, he asked that people hold each other, and the U.S. government, accountable so this initiative is implemented in a way that materially reduces global hunger.

Panel 1 – Respondents to the Feed the Future Guide

Moderator

Dan Glickman, cochair, Global Agricultural Development Initiative,
The Chicago Council of Global Affairs

Discussants

Doug Bereuter, president, The Asia Foundation

Rosa DeLauro, member, U.S. House of Representatives

Cheryl Mills, chief of staff, counselor, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of State

Rajiv Shah, administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development

Cheryl Mills, chief of staff and counselor to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, opened the panel by describing the role of the *Feed the Future* initiative in the broader context of U.S. development policy and highlighting the importance of country-ownership of development plans and processes, stakeholder and interagency coordination, measuring the impact of the initiative on the ground, and developing strategies that are informed by previous successes and failures.

The *Feed the Future* initiative, Ms. Mills explained, is a central component of the Administration's development strategy and overall approach to foreign policy. President Obama has stated that aid is not an end in itself: the purpose of foreign assistance is to create the conditions to make it no longer necessary. The same principles that guide the U.S. approach to food security are applied to its global health activities and other aspects of U.S. development policy.

There are several components, Ms. Mills stated, that will be important to the *Feed the Future* initiative's success. Plans for development should be led by the host countries and based on strategies that lead to long-term poverty reduction. Part of these plans and overall strategy, that the U.S. government and others continue to work through, is the construction of a framework that will facilitate partnerships and collaboration between multiple stakeholders – governments, foundations, the private sector, and nonprofits. Providing a better model for cooperation is also needed within the U.S. government. The Administration is working on developing a common and joint leadership framework that will allow the resources that multiple agencies bring to bear – USAID and the U.S. Departments of State, Agriculture, and Treasury - to be mobilized for and applied through the U.S. global hunger and food security initiative to maximize results on the ground. Finally, the Administration acknowledges the importance of emphasizing women and girls in all aspects of development approaches and ensuring that this focus is reflected at both the policy and operational levels.

Doug Bereuter, president of The Asia Foundation, suggested several strategies for the government to consider as it moves forward with the *Feed the Future* initiative. While the initiative comprehensively identifies key partners– public and private, domestic and international – and recognizes the need for a global effort to raise resources and promote effective coordination, the U.S. government does not have the ideal structure in place to implement a whole-of-government approach. If this initiative is to be realized, it will take persistence, Congressional input and oversight, and greater feedback from operational NGOs on the program's formulation and implementation. Additionally, he urged the U.S. to leverage resources it uniquely brings to the global effort, primarily its land-grant university system, agricultural training and research capabilities, and extension expertise.

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Mr. Bereuter outlined eight steps the Administration might take to engender support for agricultural development within the U.S. government, private sector, and other stakeholders. First, the public must continue to understand the enormous challenge posed by global hunger. Second, the percentage of U.S. foreign aid devoted to agriculture should be increased, and USAID's ability to deliver agricultural development assistance strengthened. Third, strategies should be tailored to empower women and girls, because they are the key to making development gains. Fourth, the U.S. government should recognize the importance genetically modified crops and technologies play in increasing productivity. Fifth, the U.S. government strategy should avoid an overemphasis on infrastructure development. Infrastructure is important, but given the limited financial resources the available to the U.S. government, focusing too heavily on it risks diverting funding away from the farmers who most need the capital. Sixth, the potential for significant and high-level corruption will continue to be a problem. Trusting donor-recipient countries to develop the plans, do the work, and make the programs effective is an important step forward, but major examples of corruption could hinder future support. Seventh, the administration should not underestimate the role of inertia in preventing developing world farmers from changing many of the traditional, yet counterproductive, farming practices they currently utilize. There should be a significant emphasis on research, education, and hands-on agriculture extension that incorporates American expertise and voluntarism, such as the Farmer to Farmer program.⁹ Finally, there is a great need for breakthroughs in microfinance, which would help women and small-scale entrepreneurs. In many countries, women often lack the collateral and assets to get loans, so it is critical the initiative supports programs that transfer credit into the hands of women farmers.

Representative Rosa DeLauro re-affirmed the importance of capitalizing on the U.S. land-grant university system and programs that share American technical expertise, summarized recent congressional action to address hunger and poverty challenges, and offered thoughts on why increasing support for agricultural development advances U.S. national security and global prosperity.

In recent years, Congress has worked to expand funding towards international food assistance and supporting programs. In FY10, the Food for Peace program was increased by 38 percent and the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program support was doubled and amended to include a pilot program on fortified food to improve nutrition for aid recipients.

However, because of higher food prices and global economic uncertainty, the number of undernourished people in the world has increased by over 150 million over the past two years. The continued existence of such famine in today's day and age is more than just a problem, Representative DeLauro argued, it is a moral outrage. But even if one does not share this sense of moral obligation, global hunger and poverty are now unequivocally and fundamentally national security issues. Representative DeLauro remarked that history demonstrates that hunger forces people into desperate acts and pervasive famine and starvation can create the conditions for militant extremism around the world. Simply put, agricultural development assistance and food aid are not only important and often overlooked components of America's international diplomacy; they are a crucial aspect of our current efforts to combat global terror. When America fights hunger and poverty, it undercuts the recruiting base of those who would threaten its citizens. As former national security advisor Sandy Berger wrote last year, "Ensuring that no child goes to school

⁹ USAID, The John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer (FTF) Program.
http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/agriculture/farmer_to_farmer.htm.

hungry is the single greatest investment we can make in building prosperous, healthy and stable societies.”¹⁰ A critical part of ensuring that schoolchildren and their families across the world are well-fed is increasing the agricultural capacity of developing nations.

The *Feed the Future* initiative puts agriculture back at the center of U.S. development policy, expanding and honing its international food security efforts by improving nutrition and increasing agriculture productivity. Working to revamp U.S. development policies to help more nations create the capacity to feed themselves is both the right and smart choice. Data shows that agriculture is the primary source of food, income, and employment in developing countries. 70 percent of the world’s poor live in rural areas, and agriculture growth contributes, proportionally, six times more to their economic development than industrial growth. Representative DeLauro emphasized the importance of continuing to think about how to engage women in the fight against global hunger. Women invest up to 90 percent of their earnings in their families and communities – twice the rate that men tend to invest. Additionally, women produce 80 percent of the food supply in some parts of Africa, yet they receive less than ten percent of the credit given to farmers and own only about two percent of the land.

Experience demonstrates, Representative DeLauro explained, that Congress will more readily provide funding for initiatives that have well-communicated success stories. The International Food Policy Research Institute’s (IFPRI) *Millions Fed: Proven Successes in Agricultural Development*¹¹ can offer examples of the impact agricultural development practices can have on the ground and be helpful in securing on-going Congressional support for the *Feed the Future* initiative.

Rajiv Shah was then asked by **Dan Glickman**, moderator of the panel and cochair of the Global Agricultural Development Initiative, to respond to comments made by the preceding panelists. Administrator Shah first addressed Mr. Bereuter’s concerns about interagency coordination, calling on his colleagues in government to meet, cooperate, and coordinate. To this end, he noted that he meets with the interagency team weekly. Administrator Shah then touched on the land-grant university system, agreeing that more could be done to focus efforts on the right priorities. He pointed to research on drought-tolerant crops by Roger Beachy, director of the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and the work being done by the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center¹² as examples of the “right thing to do.” He spoke about the progress in Kenya, and suggested that the power of an SMS text-based market price system allows for better aggregation of data, better research, and better coordination than ever before. Administrator Shah turned to two points related to the questions raised about USAID’s capacity and role within the U.S. government. First, he addressed comments from Mr. Bereuter and others about USAID’s diminished role and funding. He pointed to 4,000 foreign-national staff and more than 130 agricultural experts around the world that have proven themselves indispensable due to their understanding of institutions, cultures, and local preferences within the countries where they work. In his second point, he implored Congress to understand that while some of the initiative’s effort may fail, that lessons-learned through the failure will be productive to ensuring second and third round efforts are effective.

¹⁰ “Hunger Breeds Violence,” Sandy Berger, *Los Angeles Times*, 10/16/2009, <http://articles.latimes.com/2009/oct/16/opinion/oe-berger16>

¹¹ International Food Policy Research Institute, *Millions fed: Proven successes in agricultural development*, 2009. <http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/oc64.pdf>.

¹² Donald Danforth Plant Science Center - <http://www.danforthcenter.org/>.

Finally, Administrator Shah highlighted Ms. Mills' comments on country-owned planning and the need for partnership, not patronage. He agreed with all the discussants' remarks on the role of women as being a determining factor of the success or failure of the initiative, stating that targeted services to women farmers are necessary to be successful.

Distinguished Remarks – *The Role of Agriculture in Post-Conflict Recovery – The Case of Liberia*

The Honorable Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, president, Republic of Liberia

President Johnson Sirleaf described the Liberian government's role in expanding the country's agricultural sector after a pro-longed period of civil war. In 2006, Liberia began to recover from a civil conflict that decimated the country's infrastructure and institutions. Because the majority of the Liberian population fled to urban areas, the agricultural sector was essentially dormant. In the past four years, the country's "Lift Liberia" Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS)¹³ has yielded an average of seven percent per annum growth, diminished a \$4.9 billion external debt overhang, and reactivated its agriculture sector. In spite of this progress, poverty continues to be the most significant determination of food access. In many parts of the country, about 70 percent of the population depends on agriculture. Recognizing that raising agricultural productivity is the most effective way to reduce poverty, Liberia's government is strengthening its agricultural sector to both boost food security within the country and increase the potential for agricultural exports.

Liberia's agricultural sector goals include revitalizing operations and activities that contribute to sustainable economic growth and development, improving food security and nutrition, and increasing farmers' employment and income. While Liberia's political commitment to agriculture is unequivocal, public financing of the sector remains inadequate. The share of the country's national budget allocated to agricultural development increased from approximately \$3 million in 2006 to \$7 million in 2009, however funding towards this sector represents only 2 percent of the national budget. Moreover, Liberia's population remains vulnerable to chronic food insecurity stemming from physical and human capital constraints and poor natural resource, farm-management, and health practices. Liberia is, nevertheless, intensifying its efforts to alleviate poverty and spur economic growth through its "Back to the Soil" campaign¹⁴, which increases food production of key staples, rice and cassava, and other crops.

The Liberian government, President Johnson Sirleaf remarked, recognizes that agriculture has the potential to become a large source of employment, especially for thousands of its citizens that are unable to find work due to the war. If Liberia can grow its own food and be self-sufficient, the country could then be insulated from the effects of the soaring global food prices, which it experienced in 2008. This is why, in 2009, Liberia developed the "Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program"¹⁵, which is guiding the ministry of agriculture and the country's development partners in better coordinating activities aimed at Liberia's agricultural development. The program is in line with the country's development agenda, as well as the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP).¹⁶

President Johnson Sirleaf believes that the Liberian agricultural sector is now well positioned for longer-term development practices. At the core of developing sustainable agriculture and food systems is the transformation of small-holder agriculture into a sustainable, diversified, income-generating sector that is well-integrated into markets – one in which commercial agriculture provides support and incentives to small farmers. To achieve this objective, Liberia's public-sector

¹³ Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, Republic of Liberia, <http://www.liftliberia.gov.lr/>.

¹⁴ The Executive Mansion, Republic of Liberia, "Back to the Soil' Campaign Launched in Monrovia," June 20, 2008. http://www.emansion.gov.lr/press.php?news_id=750.

¹⁵ Liberia ECOWAS Agricultural Policy and the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (ECOWAP/CAADP) Compact, October 16, 2009. <http://www.nepad-caadp.net/pdf/Liberia.pdf>.

¹⁶ Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program - <http://www.nepad-caadp.net/>

agriculture investment priorities between 2010 and 2013 include food and nutrition security, competitive value chains and market linkages, institutional development and land and water development. In an emerging, market-driven economy, a large share of the actual development of agriculture is carried out by the private sector through their involvement in different facets of production, processing, servicing, and trade. She sees the government's role as providing the enabling policy environment for the private sector to thrive. Liberia's government recognizes the importance of private-sector-led growth in improving production, and has therefore entered into concession agreements with investors for development of the agriculture sector. These agreements have given agriculture investors the right to undertake productive activities in areas of their choice, and to work with small holders through out-grower arrangements supported by the public sector.

Panel 2 – Country Investment Plans: Case Studies

Description: *The U.S. government has identified several countries in which to target investment for the Feed the Future initiative in 2011. This discussion provided senior representatives from two of these countries an opportunity to discuss the goals, priorities, and implementation strategies put forth in the countries' investment plans and expectations for progress.*

Moderator

Sir Gordon Conway, professor of International Development, Imperial College, London

Discussants

Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, minister of food and disaster management, People's Republic of Bangladesh

Aghatham Ag Alhassane, minister of agriculture, Republic of Mali

Sir Gordon Conway, professor of international development at Imperial College, London, opened the second panel by applauding the present political and financial pledges to global food security and discussing potential strategies to ensure committed funds have an impact on the ground.

Since 2008, the international community has renewed its political commitment to combating global hunger. There were significant financial pledges made at the G-8 in July 2009 and agricultural development activities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America are expanding: there are new seed companies, innovative microcredit schemes, new varieties of rice and cassava, and pioneering work on conservation agriculture.

In spite of this progress, a risk to on-going progress, Dr. Conway explained, is bridging the gap between the macro-level financial commitments and the work occurring on the ground. The World Bank Multi-Lateral Trust Fund will help provide this linkage by channeling donor funds into country-led agricultural and food security development plans. Country-led plans, which are emphasized in the U.S. *Feed the Future* strategy, offer frameworks to invest funds in comprehensive agriculture sector development. Regional organizations, such as CAADP, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa¹⁷, and similar Asian efforts, are structures that can also support the effective application of funds. At the core of this challenge is the need for a "theory of change," or new way of thinking about development and agriculture. The book, *The Doubly Green Revolution*, and the *Feed the Future Guide* both present a new paradigm for agriculture and development and can help change the international dialogue occurring around these issues.

Dr. Conway also identified two challenges at the micro-level: bringing effective pilot projects to national and regional scale and developing national policy frameworks to support long-term agricultural development. Public-private partnerships can support larger-scale projects, but the policy environment must enable private sector investment. For this reason, developing effective macroeconomic, investment, trade, and subsidy policies and institutions for extension, research, and development must be part of a broader country strategy if agricultural development efforts are to spur economic growth over the long-term.

¹⁷ Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa - <http://www.agra-alliance.org/>

The Honorable Aghatham Ag Alhassane, minister of agriculture, Republic of Mali, highlighted activities the government has undertaken to increase the country's agricultural productivity. Upon entering office, Mali's president, the Honorable Amadou Toumani Toure, advocated for agricultural incentives that protected small-scale farmers, but also left room for larger-scale private enterprises to participate more fully in the agriculture sector. Efforts to modernize Mali's land tenure system grew the country's irrigated land from 80,000 hectares in 2002 to more than 30,000 hectares in 2010. It has also adopted an agricultural investment program with other countries in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Minister Alhassane identified two outstanding challenges: the development of agribusinesses and processing capabilities to strengthen the maize value chain and the need to transition farmers from more primitive hand tools to mechanized farming devices.

The Honorable Abdur Razzaque, minister of food and disaster management, People's Republic of Bangladesh, discussed the country's agricultural progress to date and future plans. In 2006, Bangladesh first established a national food policy plan through a participatory process involving multiple stakeholders, including private entrepreneurs, civil society, government officials, and the country's development partners. The policy represents a major effort to guide, implement, monitor, and coordinate action on programs and projects for food security in the country. Since independence in 1971, Bangladesh has tripled its agriculture production from 11 million tons to 33 million tons. Production in high-value crops such as vegetables, fruits, livestock, meat, and milk have also increased. However, population growth and density remain a persistent challenge. While the percentage of people in the country that have access to food has increased, so too has the number poor. Bangladesh is also concerned about future trends such as climate change, water scarcity, and disaster management. 60 percent of Bangladesh's land is cultivated, the highest proportion in the world, and the country is depleting its scarce water resources at an alarming rate, leaving it vulnerable to climate shocks and natural disasters.

The global food crisis of 2007 and 2008 further convinced the Bangladeshi government of the importance of relying on domestic production for food security. The government's strategy for improving food security focuses on investing in research and extension, efficient water use, crop diversification, and commercialization, with a special emphasis on engaging with development partners. If the government can implement its national food policy action plan with support from global donors, Bangladesh would be able to comprehensively address its hunger and poverty challenges and could be food self-sufficient in the near future.

Luncheon Keynote – *Research and Institutional Capacity Building: USDA's Role in Global Food Security and Feed the Future*

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack, secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Secretary Thomas Vilsack focused his remarks on the importance of agricultural development in ensuring long-term global food security and how the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is contributing its unique expertise to the *Feed the Future* initiative.

As agriculture is one of the largest contributors to most developing countries' gross domestic product, investing in the sector's development has proven to be one of the most effective methods to spur economic growth and increase incomes of impoverished persons living in rural areas. Alleviating poverty and making sure that children are well-fed, and therefore, well-educated, will lead to a more stable and secure world. As incomes of individuals living in the developing world increase, trade opportunities for American farmers will expand. Additionally, increasing agriculture production in the developing world will be critical to meeting the demands placed on the global agriculture and food systems in the years ahead. Projected population increases, changes in climate and decreased availability of arable land means that in the future, farmers will need to produce more food, using fewer resources. Because of these factors, the USDA has established global food security as a departmental goal and is working closely with other U.S. government agencies to contribute its expertise and resources to the *Feed the Future* initiative.

USDA offers support for *Feed the Future* by assisting with research and development, providing technical assistance, and encouraging trade and smarter regulation. Working in concert with USAID, the department has developed a global agricultural research agenda which seeks to address fundamental constraints that contribute to food insecurity, such as pests, disease, and weather variability. The strategy is also focused on increasing the sustainability of agriculture by improving soil conditions and water-use efficiency. Yet if these goals are to be met, science must be recognized globally as a central component to catalyze increased productivity. America also has a longstanding history of deploying its research outputs around the world through extension services, often working in partnership with U.S. and international universities, the private sector, and farmer cooperatives. The Cochran and Borlaug Fellowships¹⁸ and land-grant university Collaborative Research Support Programs¹⁹ have been tools to engage some of the world's best and brightest agriculture researchers. Finally, USDA works with ministries of agriculture from around the world to build policy and regulatory capacity through strategic guidance and information-sharing that helps foster market-based systems for agriculture. For example, the department is currently working to incentivize Afghan farmers to grow staple crops while also helping to develop national infrastructure and credit systems that remove the benefits of growing opium poppy.

The *Feed the Future* initiative is not just about building capacity to help people feed themselves; it is about creating positive economic opportunities and fundamentally transforming the lives of the world's poor. It also advances America's economic and national security interests. For this reason, the mission should be supported by the American government and the people of the United States.

Symposium participants first queried Secretary Vilsack about utilizing agriculture science effectively, particularly with respect to biotechnology. Secretary Vilsack noted the risky nature of

¹⁸ USDA, Cochran Fellowship Program. <http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/cochran/cochran.asp>; USDA, Borlaug Fellowship Program. <http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/borlaug/Borlaugarchive.asp>.

¹⁹ USAID, Collaborative Research Support Programs. <http://crsps.org/>.

the farming business and warned that because developing countries do not have comparable risk-management systems in place, they should not become testing grounds for scientific innovations in agriculture. However, he stated the success of the hybrid seed in overcoming risk aversion: such seeds were able to succeed commercially after the inventor reduced the monetary cost. Secretary Vilsack then took a question about impending reform in the U.S. foreign assistance system. He noted the president's commitment of \$3.5 billion over three years, which awaits appropriation from Congress, to meet worldwide food security and agricultural development needs. Secretary Vilsack reminded the audience that the U.S. government's commitments must be met and led, truthfully, by the simultaneous commitment of developing countries. Washington is in the process of identifying countries that should receive assistance from the *Feed the Future* initiative based on countries' investment plans and resources. The next question Secretary Vilsack took was about farmers of the future, to which he answered that most of the world's future farmers are likely to be women raising families. Therefore, he argued, it is necessary to figure out ways to incorporate family-run operations into strategies that address global food insecurity. The last question for Secretary Vilsack was with regard to producing enough food in the United States for both consumption as and fuel production, particularly with respect to corn. Secretary Vilsack identified feedstock alternatives to corn-based ethanol that could serve as fuel, such as woody biomass, manure, and various grasses. But Secretary Vilsack also tied in the food-fuel issue to what is occurring in rural America to date: 90 percent of persistent-poverty counties in the United States are rural; farmers are aging; and a corresponding decline in political representation will follow this impending population decline. He argued that by creating a companion biofuel economy that creates new job opportunities in rural areas and complements the country's agriculture sector, the United States can continue to increase economic opportunities for its citizens.

Panel 3 – Overcoming Policy Barriers and Market Access Challenges

Description: *Critical to long-term food security is the construction of functional and open local and regional markets that can be accessed by stakeholders across the agriculture and food supply chains. Experts and the USG strategy recognize that key to achieving this goal will be increasing private sector investment and activity in agricultural and food supply chains in the developing world. This panel highlighted challenges and discussed strategies to constructing and participating in reliable and accessible markets.*

Moderator

Robert Thompson, professor emeritus in Agricultural Policy, University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana

Discussants

Raymond Gilpin, associate vice president, Sustainable Economies Centers of Innovation, United States Institute of Peace

Paul Schickler, president, Pioneer Hi-Bred

Ritu Sharma, president and co-founder, Women Thrive Worldwide

Robert Thompson, the panel's moderator and professor emeritus in agricultural policy at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, began the third panel by observing that the Obama administration's creation of the *Feed the Future* initiative to overcome the dual challenges of poverty and hunger is in America's national security and economic interests. However, to successfully overcome policy barriers and market access challenges, it is crucial to strike the right balance between government-led public good initiatives and private sector-led approaches. Government must not impede the private sector's essential role in providing resources that complement public policies and funding.

Of the one billion people who live in a food-stressed situation today, began the panel's first speaker, **Raymond Gilpin**, associate vice president of the Sustainable Economies Center of Innovation at the United States Institute of Peace, a significant proportion of them live in conflict-affected countries. Most of these people live in fear for their lives, in uncertain, complex environments without clear hope for a better tomorrow for themselves or the generations that would follow. The most hunger-afflicted countries on the world food index are primarily those that have been, in one way or another, affected by conflict. Because many of the fundamental causes of hunger and poverty are associated with conflicts, policymakers and donors need to adopt conflict-sensitive approaches to address market access and broader development issues.

Conflict situations present several unique challenges to advancing agricultural development that should inform food security strategies. First, food security is not always an issue of food availability; rather, it is often a matter of accessibility. As violent conflict normally destroys or weakens infrastructure and institutions that allow food to be stored and transported, agricultural development strategies in post conflict areas need to take into account institutional and infrastructural peculiarities. Moreover, people in post conflict settings often lack funds to purchase food because they are displaced or forced to liquidate their assets to survive. Finally, food assistance distributed in conflict situations is often controlled by dominate groups, which at times prevent emergency supplies from reaching those that are most vulnerable.

Dr. Gilpin outlined several ideas for decreasing domestic market fragmentation, particularly in post-conflict settings. Tariff and non-tariff issues should be addressed with the full cognizance of the importance of compensating mechanisms in the form of income support and safety nets. Additionally, front-loading assistance for infrastructure, technology, and moving towards aid for trade could enable the sustainability focus to be introduced to food security. Moreover, governments and donors need to create production incentives that not only help settle or resettle farmers, but enable them to produce both for consumption and for markets so that the income gap is closed. Internationally, donors need to develop a coordinated, regional rapid response initiative that can be implemented as soon as disaster strikes. Indeed, in crises, most humanitarian aid is bought on the spot market, which is exorbitantly high-priced and unacceptable because it does nothing to build local capacity. Donor countries need mechanisms that allow the sourcing of both local and regional food surplus services, thus making food more readily available to food-deficit areas. This needs to be complemented by expanded market access, as the most important production incentive that a farmer can have is the assurance that he or she is able to sell their produce for a fair and reasonable price.

Paul Schickler, president of Pioneer Hi-Bred, identified three components of food security approaches that are especially important to the agribusiness sector: that they are host-government led, holistic in nature, and tailored to the local environment.

Government support for agricultural development is critical to spurring agriculture growth and advancing food security. Brazilian government support for agriculture boosted productivity and exponentially grew the country's overall agriculture sector. In the 1970s and 1980s, Brazil was not open to outside investment, or amenable to adopting new agriculture technologies; instead, the government promoted a closed approach to agriculture. But policies changed and Brazil began to welcome international involvement and investment, accept new technologies, and remove both non-tariff and tariff barriers. These reforms allowed Brazil to blossom into one of the world's largest producers of citrus, soybean, coffee, sugar cane, pork, and poultry, helping the country to become a leader in agriculture technology.

Agricultural development approaches must also be holistic. Oftentimes when development actors assess how agriculture can be improved, their thinking is limited to the production side of the equation, such as the availability of inputs and credit. But agricultural development must be looked at more broadly. In addition to encouraging a strong legal system in the host country—property and land rights and the ability to use land and other collateral for loans—donor countries need to increase the availability of tools and technology, access to markets, and the sharing of information, roads, and storage facilities. One other aspect that warrants significant emphasis is the importance of strong farmer education and extension services. Host governments and donors must ensure there are adequate educational opportunities to train agriculture producers, while also establishing much-needed extension services to deploy information throughout the host country's agriculture sector.

Finally, it is important to remember that all agriculture is local. Donors cannot simply increase agriculture production by providing a uniform solution across multiple, distinct environments; solutions have to be catered to the local culture and environment. Agribusinesses act on this scale: they utilize local people and resources and develop products tailored to the environments where they will be deployed.

The panel's final speaker, **Ritu Sharma**, president and co-founder of Women Thrive Worldwide, agreed that agricultural development programs must be designed, led, and implemented locally if they are to successfully overcome barriers to market access. An important part of this is considering gender when thinking about market access issues.

Policymakers and donors are well aware of women farmers' impediments to accessing markets. These include insufficient access to credit, inputs, and roads, as well as a lack of access to programs where women can retain their capital, including insurance programs. But these barriers are not always dissimilar from those facing men. It is important, therefore, that donors focus on both men and women farmers when considering the issue of gender within agriculture. There needs to be consideration for how agriculture can be strengthened as both a community and family enterprise, as the majority of Africa's smallholder farmers operate on family plots of land, either for subsistence or to sell off excess production at the market.

It is also important for development actors to consider gender when designing agricultural development programs—that is, creating programs and products based on what the consumer needs and is willing and able to use. Programs are best designed through separate consultation with both female and male farmers about their needs. For example, women often grow different crops than men and use different tools. When designing a new irrigation system or new plowing technology, development actors have to keep in mind that women are not as strong as men. They cannot pump certain amounts of water. They cannot lift certain plows. Too often, agricultural development projects fail because they do not take into account that a woman or a girl child is going to be the one actually performing the farming task. Therefore, it is critical that policymakers take the time to consider the role of women when they are designing projects and programs, as failing to do so can be a costly and inefficient way to expend resources.

Robert Thompson, the panel's moderator, laid out a number of questions for the discussants related to the panel's themes. First, he asked Mr. Schickler for his thoughts on linking smallholder farmers to agriculture markets. Mr. Schickler referenced his earlier point of the necessity of viewing agriculture as a local enterprise and used the example of his company's efforts in China to bring equipment manufacturers together with local government officials and Chinese growers. Dr. Gilpin responded to Dr. Thompson's question about markets recovering from conflict and how to get them back in business. Using Vietnam and sub-Saharan Africa as examples, he stressed the importance of security of tenure, removing poor policies that restrain market access, and providing infrastructure support. Dr. Thompson then asked Ms. Sharma about female smallholder farmers, and if there is a well-proven model to link them to local, regional, and national markets. She responded that in addition to focusing on the specific needs of the local community, there is a strong role for women's cooperatives to play. Dr. Gilpin seconded Ms. Sharma's suggestion, referring to research that cohesion and peer monitoring leads to better use of credit and higher loan repayment rates. He added that a strong banking system ensures financial regulation and fiscal prudence, particularly for the cooperatives Ms. Sharma discussed. Mr. Schickler also spoke to the issue of credit, mentioning that a legal system that supports the expansion of credit makes for a more successful market. Dr. Thompson then asked Mr. Schickler how to engage the private sector in supporting agriculture research and development, to which he responded that he is a strong proponent of education and extension activities that help the flow of information to farmers. He emphasized that partnering with institutions that produce agriculture students will help local farmers earn a living from their agriculture production. Ms. Sharma clarified that partnerships must entail the best that the private sector has to offer in addition to the expertise of the U.S. government, other donors, and indigenous knowledge. She also described a gap between the way Global Agricultural Development Initiative

the American public and the U.S. Congress view international societies and cultures—a gap between short-term needs and long-term, sustainable development. Dr. Thompson closed with points that he felt had not been discussed given the time constraints, including the facilitation of regional trade and the issue of protectionist trade policies. In particular, he argued that promoting regional trade is vital to accelerating economic development.

Keynote Address – *Seizing New Opportunities*

Global Agricultural Development Initiative

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A. Namanga Ngongi, president, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa

A. Namanga Ngongi, president of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), began his remarks by remarking that as a “revolutionary,” he and AGRA are constantly searching for opportunities to seize upon to defeat “the enemy”—food insecurity, poverty, and malnutrition in Africa.

AGRA, founded by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was created to be a partnership organization working with a wide variety of collaborators and counterparts across the agriculture value chain. AGRA strives to ensure that advances made in one area, such as seed production or soil improvements, can be leveraged by private capital and markets, and can be solidified and advanced by complementary public policies.

Increasing seed production was seen as the greatest need at the time of AGRA’s founding. African farmers did not have access to seed varieties that were able to significantly increase yields. Since AGRA began supporting small seed companies throughout Africa, results have demonstrated that smallholder farmers, when given the same access to technology as large scale farmers, are able to significantly improve yields. AGRA has also focused on increasing smallholder farmer’s access to agriculture inputs like fertilizer, and also on expanding education and extension services to better inform farmers on technologies that can boost crop output and improve soil management.

Additionally, AGRA believes that African smallholder farmers need better public policies and mechanisms to support their efforts. Government intervention in African markets has led to price instability and unsupportive structures. Even farmer cooperatives have fallen out of favor because they are often overly political in nature. One way to offer more stability and growth to the agriculture sector is through expanded private sector investments and public-private partnerships. Ultimately, the private sector will drive the development of a productive agriculture and food system in Africa.

Finally, AGRA fully supports the focus of the U.S. government’s *Feed the Future* initiative on country-led development, as the strategy is closely aligned with the CAADP model. But country-led processes should not mean government-dominated processes. Country-led must include the private sector, NGOs, donors, and the host government, so farmers know they are working with a variety of stakeholders who fully understand their needs and concerns.

Symposium participants asked about AGRA’s efforts to provide legal support to farmers, particularly women farmers. Dr. Ngongi replied that there is an effort underway to certify that seed being produced by African government-run institutions is transferrable to the private sector, as the lack of private seed companies is currently a major constraint to increasing food production. Furthermore, he contended AGRA believes that women must be given the right to own land, which is not the case in most African societies.

Panel 4 – Overcoming Policy Barriers and Market Access Challenges

Description: *The L'Aquila Food Security Initiative and US Feed the Future initiative endorse investments in comprehensive and multi-stakeholder regional and country-led strategies to advance agriculture-led growth. Questions remain about how to develop strategies that are comprehensive, appropriately take into account capacity constraints, and incorporate and coordinate USG internal efforts, with other stakeholder efforts, without overburdening recipients. This panel assessed the challenges and opportunities for regional- and country-led planning.*

Moderator

Catherine Bertini, cochair, Global Agricultural Development Initiative

Discussants

Deborah Atwood, director, Corporate Affairs and Public Policy, Mars

Rodney Bent, member, Transatlantic Taskforce on Development; executive advisor, Booz Allen Hamilton

Shenggen Fan, director general, International Food Policy Research Institute

Mark Suzman, acting president, Global Development Program, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Catherine Bertini, cochair of the Global Agricultural Development Initiative and moderator of the fourth and final panel of the symposium, began by noting the U.S. government's *Feed the Future* initiative endorses the idea of comprehensive, multi-stakeholder, regional, and country-led strategies. But country-led plans should not become government-dominated plans, as it is critical to understand and integrate the perspectives of the many stakeholders responsible for creating and implementing these strategies.

Mark Suzman, acting president of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Development Program, discussed how the Foundation's work on agriculture was both complementing and advancing national and global solutions to poverty and hunger challenges. The Foundation first formed the Global Development Program in 2006 and made agricultural development the largest focus area. There were significant declines in donor assistance for agricultural development beginning in the late 1970s and continuing through the middle 2000s. This trend was inexplicable because developing country governments were committed to developing their agriculture sectors, but clearly lacked the resources to do so. The Foundation saw a genuine opportunity to develop and support new partnerships and programs, build on what was and what was not working, and encourage a variety of actors to engage or re-engage, to spur agriculture-led growth in the developing world.

Through partnerships with African governments and institutions, as well as through collaboration with multilateral initiatives such as the World Bank's Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, the Foundation has been able to examine and determine the best tools and interventions available to assist smallholder farmers in the developing world. This speaks to why the U.S. government's commitment to supporting the country-led process is such an important new dimension in foreign assistance policy: by adapting to national plans that governments themselves are initiating, donors will receive a greater return on their investments by partnering with the countries that are working the hardest, showing the most progress, and committing their own resources.

The Foundation also chose to work in agriculture because long-term agriculture investments have proven to be sustainable. Indeed, there is clear evidence that successful investments in agriculture have three times the poverty reduction potential as investments in other areas. Long-term success in agriculture includes farmers generating sufficient income to send their children to school rather than putting them to work in the field, thus promoting a virtuous circle that helps support broader development goals. Additionally, investments in agriculture can generate long-term economic growth and progress within developing countries.

Shenggen Fan, director general of the International Food Policy Research Institute, discussed how international research organizations can be helpful in developing and implementing country plans by providing evidence-based strategies and tracking data to monitor and evaluate progress.

From a research-based perspective, the most important components of implementing the *Feed the Future* initiative will be adequately building in-country capacity and setting the right priorities so limited resources can be invested effectively.

Both of these components can be informed and strengthened by reliable data and external monitoring and evaluation of current agriculture efforts. Unfortunately, there is a deficit of reliable data on agriculture growth and investment, including the number of impoverished and malnourished people. Moving forward, research institutions, in partnership with governments, can provide data and analysis on agricultural development progress to help inform investment priorities. IFPRI has set up a system to support the 2003 Maputo Declaration²⁰, where African leaders pledged to commit ten percent of their national budget annually to spur a six percent increase in agriculture growth. IFPRI tracks commitments to this pledge and also has created a strategic analysis and knowledge support system (SAKSS)²¹ that provides data on major development indicators within Africa at the regional, sub-regional, and country levels. The purpose of this information is to inform country governments as to where along the agriculture and food supply chains funds can be most effectively invested to yield a six percent increase in agriculture growth. Research organizations, such as IFPRI, can also offer evidence-based advice and monitoring and evaluation services to help other countries' agriculture ministers develop food security plans and implementation strategies.

Deborah Atwood, director of corporate affairs and public policy at Mars, highlighted the importance of agribusinesses partnering with governments, international institutions, and other donors to provide comprehensive support for smallholder farmers that truly transforms livelihoods.

One of the most important things Mars often learns through its business undertakings in the developing world is how to plan for its next venture. During Mars' cash-for-crop work programs to support smallholder farmers producing cocoa in West Africa, a lack of access to fertilizer and farmer education became an issue. Consequently, Mars worked to have farmer field schools delivered directly from the company to support these farmers' on-the-ground efforts. However, even then the revenue Mars generated for its farmers through agriculture-related pursuits proved insufficient to transform the livelihoods of the farmers. Accordingly, the company recognized it needs to complement its work programs by improving nutrition, health care, and education for the

²⁰ Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the African Union, *Report of the Ministers of Agriculture*, Maputo, Mozambique, July 1-2, 2003. http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/IMG/pdf/04_Maputo-Declaration-2003.pdf

²¹ International Food Policy Research Institute, Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support Systems (SAKSS). <http://www.ifpri.org/book-38/node/5229>.

participating smallholder farmers. For that reason, Mars is eager to create partnerships—with governments, international institutions, and others—to help achieve broader development goals for the farmers in the communities the company works.

Rodney Bent, member of the German Marshall Fund’s Transatlantic Taskforce on Development and an advisor to Booz Allen Hamilton, discussed the value of engaging multiple stakeholders in the development of country investment plans. Country consultative processes are very difficult to implement, as their prospects for success often depend on internal political dynamics. It is easy to say that country-led development means talking to a minister in the donor-recipient country’s capital and endorsing a plan that they may or may not have developed on their own. But that strategy is inherently flawed; you need to go to areas away from the capital to become fully informed about the development priorities for the country.

Consulting with a vast spectrum of people during the development of the country plan is important to creating a successful strategy. The U.S. government’s *Feed the Future Guide* correctly identifies the appropriate types of entities to confer with, including civil society, private business, labor, and producer organizations. But to find out the real constraints that are impeding the country’s ability to increase economic growth, donors need to develop a process that solicits input from people who sometimes may not be comfortable giving their opinions. Finally, country-led plans should also mean country-led implementation, including working to give business to indigenous organizations, thereby helping to build local capacity.

Symposium participants asked how donors would be able to monitor and evaluate progress of their agricultural development assistance policies when the strategies would be tailored to individual countries. Mr. Suzman referenced Dr. Fan’s research to remind the audience that development actors need to use data that already exists to build a more consistent monitoring and evaluation framework going forward. Mr. Bent responded to a question about the environment, in which he addressed the importance of building climate into project designs; otherwise, he argued, the development program will not be sustainable. Mr. Bent also responded to a question on funding towards AIDS prevention, the lack of which he argued stymies economic growth. Ms. Atwood answered a question about public-private partnerships addressing health, mentioning a women’s coffee co-op in Colombia where the women who participate receive medical treatment twice a year for two weeks at a time. She described this as an example of horizontal partnerships. Dr. Fan spoke to leveraging agriculture for achieving positive health, nutrition, and hunger outcomes. He argued that policymakers need to take a comprehensive and coordinated approach to achieving nutrition and health outcomes through agricultural development. Dr. Fan further expanded his point about coordination by reminding the audience that climate change and oil prices continue to threaten global food security, therefore making it even more important to develop robust international partnerships around agricultural development. Mr. Suzman added a final point about the global fiscal crisis, which he reminded the audience is still affecting developing countries as well as the U.S. and donor countries in the form of aid and other resource mobilization.

Closing Remarks

Catherine Bertini, cochair, Global Agricultural Development Initiative

Catherine Bertini closed the symposium by summarizing major themes and conclusions discussed throughout the day, and identifying key next steps in advancing the U.S. commitments to food security

First, this is a moment for action: agricultural development and food security are high on the U.S. and international agendas. In the U.S., both the Administration and Congress are considering renewed support for food security activities. Developing country governments are putting together country investment plans and pledging to commit greater resources to agriculture. Other bilateral donors and international organizations are recognizing the important role of agriculture as it relates to development. Although there is significant progress that needs to be made, the opportunity for change is incredible.

Second, the approaches to overcoming the challenges of poverty and hunger are new and different. They recognize the invaluable role women and girls play in agriculture and food systems. They put an emphasis on country-designed and -led plans. They also emphasize the importance of integrating government and non-government stakeholder efforts, working to develop the entire agriculture and food value chain, and addressing related challenges such as health and the environment.

Third, the U.S. should contribute in areas where it has a comparative advantage. These include utilizing its land-grant university system and offering valuable support related to research, education, and extension.

Fourth, if the challenge of global poverty is to be overcome, we must continue to deal with difficult yet critical issues. Ms. Bertini highlighted discussions about nutrition, and the opportunities school-feeding can provide. She urged stakeholders to not be afraid to continue to work carefully through the genetically modified organism issues. Moreover, monitoring and evaluation must be a critical component of new approaches.

Fifth, the new emphasis on best practices, lessons-learned, and success stories will only strengthen approaches to agricultural development and food security. Future policies can and should be informed by what has worked, what hasn't worked, and what could have been done better. In the same vein, pursuing success stories can help sustain the momentum for these important activities.

Sixth, continued political leadership advocating for food security is essential. Leadership will be needed in both the Administration and Congress to advance U.S. efforts. Similarly, leadership will be needed at the country-level to spearhead the successful implementation of investment plans. Leadership will be critical at the regional and international levels to continue to garner the resources and technical support needed to truly overcome the challenge of global poverty.

Finally, there are several things the U.S. can do in the near-term to help realize the commitments it has made in the *Feed the Future* initiative. It is important that a Global Hunger and Food Security Coordinator be appointed immediately. Legislation on food security should be passed to ensure that agricultural development becomes a long-standing component of U.S. development policy. Moreover, budgetary resources need to be committed to food security strategies and

implementation plans. Finally, the U.S. should coordinate its efforts with other bilateral donors, including emerging agricultural economies such as Brazil, China, and India, which can offer unique assistance to developing countries working to expand their agricultural sector.

Ms. Bertini closed by re-affirming that now is the time for action: “Not the briefest moment, yours or mine, will ever come again. Let us seize the moment.”

BIOGRAPHIES

SYMPOSIUM LEADERSHIP & DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

Catherine Bertini

Professor of Public Administration

Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University

Cochair, Global Agricultural Development Initiative

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

Catherine Ann Bertini is a professor of public administration at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. Ms. Bertini previously served as UN under secretary-general for management (2003-05) and as executive director of the UN World Food Program, the world's largest international humanitarian aid agency (1992-2002). Ms. Bertini was credited with assisting hundreds of millions of victims of wars and natural disasters throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and parts of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Before serving in the UN, Ms. Bertini was USDA assistant secretary for food and consumer services, where she ran the nation's \$33 billion domestic food assistance programs. She also served in the Department of Health and Human Services, the Illinois Human Rights Commission and the Container Corporation of America. Ms. Bertini has received numerous honorary degrees from universities in four countries and the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy. In 2003, she was awarded the prestigious World Food Prize—the foremost international award recognizing the achievements of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food in the world. Ms. Bertini earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the State University of New York at Albany. She was a fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and policy maker in residence at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. She is a member of the board of directors of the Tupperware Brands Corporation, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the International Academy of Food Science and Technology. Ms. Bertini is a member of the Board of International Food and Agriculture Development, an advisory committee to USAID, a founding member of the new Global Humanitarian Forum, based in Geneva, and a member of the jury for the Hilton Foundation's Humanitarian Prize.

Marshall M. Bouton

President

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

Marshall M. Bouton became president of The Chicago Council on August 13, 2001. The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, founded in 1922 as The Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, is a leading, independent, nonpartisan organization committed to influencing the discourse on global policy issues through contributions to opinion and policy formation, leadership dialogue, and public learning. Dr. Bouton came to The Chicago Council from the Asia Society, New York, where he was executive vice president and chief operating officer from 1990 to 2001. Dr. Bouton was previously the Director of Policy Analysis for Near East, Africa and South Asia international security affairs in the U.S. Defense Department and special assistant to the U.S. Ambassador to India, Robert F. Goheen. He was the founding US executive secretary of the Indo-U.S. Subcommittee on Education and Culture. He has resided in South Asia for eight years on four separate occasions, beginning in 1964, and has visited the region regularly. Dr. Bouton is an Adjunct Professor in the Political Science

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Department at Northwestern University, where he teaches on India and Asia. Dr. Bouton is chairman of the International Advisory Board of the Center for the Advanced Study of India at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Visiting Committee to the Division of Social Sciences at The University of Chicago, the International Institute for Strategic Studies, the Board of Directors of Chicago Sister Cities International Program, the Board of Directors of the Academy for Urban School Leadership, the Editorial Advisory Board of *India Review*, the Pacific Council on International Policy, The Commercial Club of Chicago, The Economic Club of the City of Chicago, the Chicago Club, the Harvard Club of New York City, and the Metropolitan Club of the City of Washington, D.C. He is married and has two grown children.

Dan Glickman

Senior Fellow

Bipartisan Policy Center

Cochair, Global Agricultural Development Initiative

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

Dan Glickman is a senior fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center. He previously served as chairman and CEO of the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA). Prior to joining the MPAA in September 2004, Mr. Glickman was the director of the Institute of Politics located at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government (August 2002-August 2004). Mr. Glickman served as the secretary of agriculture from March 1995 until January 2001. Under his leadership, the Department administered numerous farm and conservation programs; modernized food safety regulations; forged international trade agreements to expand U.S. markets; and improved its commitment to fairness and equality in civil rights, both in the treatment of its employees and in the execution of its programs. During his tenure, the department also focused extensively on improving our nation's diet and nutrition, and on fighting hunger. Secretary Glickman led the effort to ensure that an effective regulatory approval process that is based on sound science governs new agricultural technologies. Before his appointment as secretary of agriculture, Secretary Glickman served for 18 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Kansas' 4th Congressional District. During that time, he served as a member of the House Agriculture Committee, including six years as chairman of the subcommittee that had jurisdiction over most federal farm policy issues. Moreover, he was an active member of the House Judiciary Committee, where he was a leader on technology issues. In addition to his focus on agriculture, Secretary Glickman was a leading congressional expert on general aviation policy (where he wrote landmark legislation providing product liability protection for small airplane manufacturers), and also served as chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Before his election to Congress in 1976, Secretary Glickman served as president of the Wichita, Kansas, School Board; was a partner in the law firm of Sargent, Klenda and Glickman; and worked as a trial attorney at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. He received his B.A. in history from the University of Michigan and his J.D. from the George Washington University. He is a member of the Kansas and District of Columbia Bars.

A. Namanga Ngongi

President

Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa

Dr. Ngongi has extensive experience in agricultural development, peace and security issues. He began his career alongside farmers in his native Cameroon, where he worked as an agricultural extension officer for the Ministry of Agriculture, helping farmers to improve yields and to diversify

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and market their crops. In 1980, Dr. Ngongi was attached to the Cameroon Embassy in Rome. He joined the World Food Program in 1984, becoming Deputy Executive Director in 1994. Dr Ngongi held that position until his appointment as Undersecretary-General and Special Representative and Head of the UN Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2001. Since his retirement from the UN in 2003, Dr. Ngongi has undertaken several high-level missions, including a study on food reserve systems in Africa and coordination of an international conference on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in Sierra Leone. Born in 1945 in Buea, Cameroon, Dr Ngongi obtained his PhD in Agronomy from Cornell in 1976.

The Honorable Rajiv Shah

Administrator

United States Agency for International Development

Dr. Rajiv Shah was sworn in as the 16th administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on December 31, 2009. USAID, a U.S. Government agency, has provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for almost 50 years. Previously, Dr. Shah served as Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics and as Chief Scientist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where he was responsible for maintaining a safe, sustainable, competitive U.S. food and fiber system, as well as strong communities, families, and youth through integrated research, analysis, and education. At USDA, he launched the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, a new scientific institute that elevated the status and funding of agricultural research to be more in line with other major scientific groups. He also produced innovative initiatives in bioenergy, climate, global food security, childhood obesity, and food safety.

Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Shah served as director of Agricultural Development in the Global Development Program at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In his seven years with the Gates Foundation, Shah served as the Foundation's director of Strategic Opportunities and as deputy director of policy and finance for the Global Health Program. In these roles, he helped develop and launch the foundation's Global Development Program, and helped create both the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa and the International Finance Facility for Immunization - an effort that raised more than \$5 billion for child immunization. Prior to joining the Gates Foundation in 2001, Shah was the health care policy advisor on the Gore 2000 presidential campaign and a member of Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell's transition committee on health. He is the co-founder of Health Systems Analytics and Project IMPACT for South Asian Americans. In addition, he has served as a policy aide in the British Parliament and worked at the World Health Organization.

Originally from Detroit, Michigan, Shah earned his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and his Master of Science in health economics at the Wharton School of Business. He has attended the London School of Economics, is a graduate of the University of Michigan, and has published articles on health policy and global development. Shah previously served on the boards of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the Seattle Public Library, and the Seattle Community College District. In 2007, he was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum. Dr. Shah is married with two children. He lives in Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

President

Republic of Liberia

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was born in central Monrovia in 1938 and has led a distinguished career spanning nearly four decades in the private and public domain in Liberia and internationally. She began her career in banking and economic and financial management in 1965 at the then Treasury Department in Liberia. In 1979, as Minister of Finance of Liberia, Sirleaf spearheaded the move to curb the mismanagement of government finances. After the military coup of 1980, she served as President of the Liberian Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI), Vice President of CITICORP's Africa Regional Office in Nairobi, and Senior Loan Officer at the World Bank, where she was an initial member of the World Bank Council of African Advisors. In 1985, she took a sabbatical to contest for a seat in the Liberian Senate. She was placed under house arrest and then sentenced to ten years in prison for speaking against the Samuel Doe regime. After being incarcerated for a few months, she fled to the United States and served as Vice President for Equator Bank and in 1992 she joined the UNDP as Assistant Administrator and Director of its Regional Bureau of Africa with the rank of Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations. She left that post in 1997 to run as a Presidential candidate against Charles Taylor, where the official results placed her second in a field of thirteen.

In 2003 when Charles Taylor was exiled to Nigeria and the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL) was formed, Sirleaf was selected to serve as Chairperson of the Governance Reform Commission, where she led the country's anti-corruption reform by changing the reporting mechanism of the General Auditing Commission from the Executive to the Legislature thereby strengthening and reinforcing its independence. She left this position to successfully contest the 2005 Presidential elections, resulting in her historical inauguration on January 16, 2006, as President of Liberia. After years of fighting for freedom, justice and equality in Liberia, spending time in jail and being forced into exile more than once, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is now entrusted with the most challenging task any Liberian leader has ever faced – rebuilding a post-conflict nation.

Her strong bipartisan support from the U.S. has resulted in Liberia's inclusion in two supplemental budgets and to her well recognized speech at a Joint Meeting of Congress. In recognition for her tireless efforts to make Liberia a post-conflict success story, Sirleaf was awarded in 2007 the coveted Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor bestowed by an American president.

Sirleaf has served on many advisory boards and committees. Notable among these are: International Crisis Group (USA); Songhai Financial Holdings Ltd. (Ghana); Center for Africa's International Relations, University of Witwatersrand (South Africa); Women's World Banking (USA); Synergos (USA) and Women Waging Peace (USA). She was a founding member of the International Institute for Women in Political Leadership and has written widely on financial issues, development and human rights. She is the recipient of several awards including the Civil Rights Museum Award (2007); the Africa Prize for the Sustainable End of Hunger (2006); the IRI Freedom Award (2006); the David Rockefeller Leadership Bridging Award (2006) and the Common Ground Award (2006). Special honors received include Commander de l'Ordre du Mono of Togo (1996); Ralph Bunche International Leadership Award (1995); Franklin D. Roosevelt Freedom of Speech Award (1988) and the Grand Commander of the Star of Africa Redemption (1980).

She was one of seven internationally eminent persons designated in 1999 by the OAU to investigate the Rwandan genocide, one of five Commission Chairs for the Inter-Congolese Dialogue and one of two international experts selected by UNIFEM to investigate and report on the effect of conflict on women and women's roles in peace building. She was the initial Chairperson of the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), and a visiting Professor of Governance at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA).

Sirleaf attended the College of West Africa in Central Monrovia, and holds a Masters in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. She has received seven Honorary Doctorate degrees from universities around the world and is founder and chief supporter of Measuagoon, a community development NGO in Liberia. She is the proud mother of four sons and has seven grandchildren.

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack

Secretary of Agriculture

United States Department of Agriculture

Tom Vilsack was appointed by President Barack Obama as the 30th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and sworn into office on January 21, 2009. As Secretary of Agriculture, Vilsack is working hard to strengthen the American agricultural economy, to revitalize rural communities, to protect and conserve our natural resources, and to provide a safe, sufficient and nutritious food supply for the American people. Because USDA's work affects every American every day, we are proud to be the 'Every Way, Every Day' USDA.

As Agriculture Secretary, Vilsack has worked to implement President Obama's ambitious agenda to turn around the economy and put Americans back to work. In the tough economy of 2009, USDA supported struggling farmers and ranchers, provided food aid to 1 in 5 Americans, and implemented the Recovery Act to create jobs and build a foundation for future economic growth.

At USDA, Secretary Vilsack is working to ensure that America's forests and private working lands are conserved, implementing new strategies to restore our forests and clean our water supply. These efforts are already creating private sector jobs protecting and rehabilitating our forests and wetlands.

Under Vilsack's leadership, USDA is working to improve the health of America's children, targeting child hunger and obesity with efforts to encourage balanced meals, nutritious eating and increased physical activity. He has ordered a top to bottom review of USDA's food safety standards and has begun to implement policy changes to ensure the safety of the American food supply.

Secretary Vilsack shares President Obama's commitment to strengthening rural America, which is why USDA is helping create economic opportunities in America's rural communities by expanding broadband access, promoting renewable energy, increasing agricultural exports, taking advantage of ecosystem markets, capitalizing on outdoor recreation, and linking local farm production to local consumption. And USDA is revitalizing rural America by investing in critical infrastructure such as homes, fire stations, water systems and health clinics that will create jobs and improve the quality of life for rural residents.

Secretary Vilsack's USDA is promoting American agricultural production and biotechnology exports by conducting cutting edge agricultural research and maintaining an appropriate safety net for Global Agricultural Development Initiative

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America's farmers and ranchers. Vilsack is committed to President Obama's National Export Initiative to expand American agricultural exports through travel, negotiations and improved promotion strategies. And he has worked to develop a United States Government-wide strategy to establish food security across the globe.

Secretary Vilsack has worked to make the Department more efficient, transparent and effective. He has instituted reforms at USDA that will save taxpayers more than \$50 million. And he has made civil rights a top priority, taking definitive action to improve the Department's record and to move USDA into a new era as a model employer and premier service provider.

Prior to his appointment, Vilsack served two terms as the Governor of Iowa, the first Democrat elected to that office in more than 30 years. In that role, and as a state senator and the mayor of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, Vilsack has a remarkable record of making positive change in the lives of those he has served.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Vilsack was born into an orphanage and adopted in 1951. He received a bachelor's degree from Hamilton College in 1972 and earned his law degree from Albany Law School in 1975. Following school, he and his wife Christie moved to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa - her hometown - where he practiced law. The Vilsacks have two adult sons, Jess and Doug; a daughter-in-law, Kate, who's married to Jess; and one grandchild.

SYMPOSIUM MODERATORS AND DISCUSSANTS

His Excellency Aghatam Ag Alhassane

*Minister of Agriculture
Republic of Mali*

His Excellency Aghatam Ag Alhassane has been Minister of Agriculture since April 2009 and was Minister of Environment from October 2007 to April of 2009. Prior to these cabinet positions, he worked in the Office of the President, in charge of development and peace building issues in the Northern regions of Mali. Minister Ag Alhassane holds an engineering degree in Agriculture and speak six languages, including French, English and Arabic. He was born in 1958 in Gao, Mali. He is married and has six children.

Deborah Atwood

*Director, Corporate Affairs & Public Policy
Mars, Inc.*

Deborah Atwood is director of Corporate Affairs and Public Policy at Mars, Inc. Previously, she was a partner with C&M Capitolink, working with Congress, administration officials, and federal and state agencies on behalf of clients in the chemical, agricultural, environmental, mining and food industries. Ms. Atwood served as a partner at Capitolink from 1999 until 2001 when she took a leave of absence to serve in the Bush administration from August 2001 to September 2003 as special assistant to Deputy Secretary of Agriculture James Moseley. From 1995 until 1999 she was assistant vice president of legislative and regulatory affairs for the National Pork Producers Council, and served from 1992 until 1995 as vice president for legislative and regulatory affairs at the American Meat Institute. She served in President George H. W. Bush's administration from 1989 to 1992 as deputy associate administrator for congressional and legislative affairs at the Environmental Protection Agency. She began her career on Capitol Hill on the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee staff from 1981 to 1983, working for Congressman Joel Pritchard. Later, Deborah joined the staff of Senator Slade Gorton, with responsibility for energy, water and fisheries policy. She is a marine resource scientist by training and has also worked at the Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Rodney Bent

*Executive Advisor
Booz Allen Hamilton
Member, Transatlantic Taskforce on Development
The German Marshall Fund*

Mr. Bent is an Executive Advisor at Booz Allen Hamilton working on diplomacy and international development issues. Prior to joining the firm, he was Acting Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Officer at the Millennium Challenge Corporation. His previous experience includes work at the House Appropriations Committee and service as a Senior Advisor to the Iraqi Ministry of Finance and the Iraqi Ministry of Planning in Baghdad. Mr. Bent spent 20 years at the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, where his final position was Deputy Associate Director for the International Affairs Division. Mr. Bent has also held positions at Bankers Trust Company and at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. During his Federal career, he was awarded the ranks of Distinguished Executive and Meritorious Executive in the Senior Executive Service.

The Honorable Douglas Bereuter

President & CEO

The Asia Foundation

The Honorable Douglas Bereuter became the president and CEO of The Asia Foundation, headquartered in San Francisco, in September 2004, the day after he retired as a member of Congress from Nebraska after serving 26 years. During his congressional career, he was a leading member of the House International Relations Committee, where he served as vice chairman for six years, chaired the Asia-Pacific Subcommittee and later the Europe Subcommittee, had long tenures on its subcommittees on Economic Policy & Trade and Human Rights, and was President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. He also served on the House Financial Services Committee for 23 years and on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, retiring as its vice chairman. Mr. Bereuter graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Nebraska and has two Masters degrees from Harvard University in both city planning and public administration. He served as an infantry and intelligence officer in the U.S. Army, practiced and taught graduate courses in urban and regional planning, led various agencies and programs in Nebraska State Government, and served one four-year term as a Nebraska state senator. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the World Affairs Council of Northern California, the Pacific Council on International Policy, and a dean's advisory board at the University of California-San Diego.

Sir Gordon Conway

Professor of International Development

Imperial College, London

Professor Sir Gordon Conway is Professor of International Development at Imperial College, London where he is currently working on an advocacy grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for support of agricultural development in Africa. From 2005-2009 he was Chief Scientific Adviser to the Department for International Development. Previously he was President of The Rockefeller Foundation and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex. He was educated at the Universities of Wales (Bangor), Cambridge, West Indies (Trinidad) and California (Davis). His discipline is agricultural ecology. In the early 1960's, working in Sabah, North Borneo, he became one of the pioneers of sustainable agriculture. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2004 and made a Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George in 2005. He was recently President of the Royal Geographical Society. He has authored *The Doubly Green Revolution: Food for all in the 21st century* (Penguin and University Press, Cornell).

Representative Rosa DeLauro

Representative, Connecticut's 3rd District

United States House of Representatives

From her first days along tagging along with her father, Ted, in Wooster Square to standing up for her beliefs in Congress, one thing has never changed about Rosa DeLauro – she's about people. Since coming to Congress, Rosa has built a reputation for constituent services and hard work. She has been recognized many times over as one of the House of Representatives' top "Workhorses" by Washingtonian magazine, and has been called a "hero for the working families." To really know Rosa, you have to know her family. Her father, Ted, came to America when he was 13, speaking no English. Rosa's mother, Luisa, was raised by Rosa's grandmother, who was widowed with six children in 1918, and supported the family by running a pastry shop, Canestri's, in New Haven's Wooster Square. From early on, Rosa's parents stressed the importance of hard work, compassion for others, and getting a quality education.

After learning these early values at home, Rosa attended the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy in Milford. Although she has degrees from Marymount College and Columbia University, her real education came from her father, Ted, an old-school civil servant, who made it his business to know every family he represented. To him, politics was about helping people.

Soon after college, Rosa followed her parents' footsteps into public service. In 1990, she was elected to Congress and has since become one of its hardest working members. She has helped improve schools, bring tax relief to middle-class families, protect employee pensions, and encourage job creation in Connecticut. Just like the lessons she learned when she was young, for Rosa, politics will always be about helping people.

Rosa is currently serving her tenth term as a United States Congresswoman for Connecticut's 3rd Congressional District. She currently serves in the leadership of the Democratic Caucus. She has served as co-chair of the House Steering and Policy Committee since 2002 and currently chairs the Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee in the 110th Congress, where she has the oversight of the nation's food safety system and ensures that federal agencies such as the FDA and USDA prioritize science and the public interest.

Congresswoman DeLauro is known throughout Connecticut as a strong and unyielding champion for women and working families. Along with her efforts to improve food safety and child nutrition on the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, she has led the fight in Congress to achieve full pay equity for women and to ensure that all workers have access to paid sick days.

Congresswoman DeLauro is known as a plain-spoken, forthright advocate for people, an honest broker on policy who is willing to lead with all parties on matters of domestic and social policy. DeLauro is married to Stanley Greenberg, President of Greenberg- Quinlan Research, Inc., a public issues research firm.

Their children—Anna, Kathryn and Jonathan Greenberg—all are grown and pursuing careers. They have four grandchildren, Rigby, Sadie, Teo and Jasper.

Shenggen Fan

Director General

International Food Policy Research Institute

Dr. Shenggen Fan was appointed Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in December 2009. He joined IFPRI in 1995 as a Research Fellow and led IFPRI's program on public investment before becoming the Director of IFPRI's Development Strategy and Governance Division. Prior to working at IFPRI, he held positions at the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) in the Netherlands and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at the University of Arkansas. He received his PhD in applied economics from the University of Minnesota, and his bachelor's and master's degrees from Nanjing Agricultural University in China. Dr. Fan's research, which has been widely published, has centered on pro-poor development strategy, pro-poor investment, and rural-urban linkages in developing countries in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. He has served in editorial board of various academic journals and is currently an Executive Committee member of the International Association of Agricultural Economists. He has also received numerous awards, including the Outstanding Alumni Award in Applied Economics and the Distinguished Leadership Award for International (both from

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the University of Minnesota) as well as the Outstanding Young Scholar award from the National Science Foundation of China.

Raymond Gilpin

*Associate Vice President and Director, Sustainable Economies Center of Innovation
United States Institute of Peace*

Raymond Gilpin is associate vice president and director of the sustainable economies center of innovation at the United States Institute of Peace. He leads USIP's work analyzing relationships between economic activity and peace promotion, and collates sound practices from practitioners and experts and designs appropriate capacity-building and reach-back tools for conflict environments. Before this he worked as academic chair for defense economics at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University; director of international programs at the Intellibridge Corporation (part of the Eurasia Group); senior economist at the African Development Bank Group; economist at the World Bank; and research director at the Central Bank of Sierra Leone. He was a panelist at the 2009 World Food Prize Symposium and has been interviewed by media outlet including the BBC and VOA. He holds a doctorate from Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. His thesis was on Macroeconomic Stabilization and Parallel Markets (1993). He also holds an Executive Certificate in International Finance and Capital Markets from Georgetown University.

Cheryl Mills

*Chief of Staff and Counselor, Office of the Secretary
United States Department of State*

Ms. Cheryl Mills is the Counselor and Chief of Staff to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. As Counselor, Ms. Mills is a principal officer who serves the Secretary as a special advisor on major foreign policy challenges and provides guidance to department bureaus with respect to such matters. Ms. Mills currently is leading the Department's interagency global hunger and food security initiative and diplomacy and development efforts in Haiti. As Chief of Staff, Ms. Mills manages the Secretary's staff and provides policy and managerial support to the Secretary in administering operations of the Department. From 2002 to 2009, Ms. Mills served as Senior Vice President at New York University. During her tenure at NYU, Ms. Mills was Senior Vice President for Operations and Administration, supervising business operations of the University; Senior Vice President and General Counsel, supervising the Office of Legal Counsel, and Senior Vice President supervising the Offices of Legal Counsel, Public Safety, Compliance and Risk Management. Ms. Mills also served as Secretary to the Board of Trustees. From 1999 to 2001, Ms. Mills was Senior Vice President for Corporate Policy and Public Programming at Oxygen Media, where she oversaw public policy, communications and philanthropic and community initiatives; she also co-directed Oxygen's legal and political programming. Prior to joining Oxygen, Ms. Mills was Deputy Counsel to the President at the White House, where she supervised 35 attorneys and staff. Ms. Mills' legal experience also includes serving as Associate Counsel to the President, as Deputy General Counsel of the Clinton/Gore Transition Planning Foundation, and as an associate at the Washington, D.C. law firm of Hogan and Hartson where she represented various school districts seeking to implement the promises of Brown v. Board of Education. Ms. Mills received her Juris Doctor degree in 1990 from Stanford Law School, where she was elected to the Stanford Law Review. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Virginia, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa.

His Excellency Muhammad Abdur Razzaque

Minister of Food and Disaster Management

People's Republic of Bangladesh

Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque started his professional career as a scientific officer at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council. He was the national coordinator of Integrated Farming System Research and Development and was promoted to the rank of chief scientific officer of BARC. He resigned from service in August 2001 to take part in politics actively.

Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque contested the Parliamentary Election held in 2001 as a candidate of Bangladesh Awami League from the Modhupur area of Tangail district, and was elected as the Member of Parliament. He worked as a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Agriculture and the Estimate Committee during the 8th Parliament. Dr. Razzaque was again elected the Member of Parliament from the constituency Tangail-1 (Modhupur-Dhanbari Upazila) in the 9th Parliamentary Election on December 29, 2008. He was appointed as a Minister on January 6, 2008 and was given charge of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management.

He is a member of American Society of Agronomy, Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS), Bangladesh Agronomy Society, Bangladesh Horticulture Society, Bangladesh Krishibid Institutions and many other organizations in different capacities.

Paul Schickler

President

Pioneer Hi-Bred International

Paul E. Schickler is president of Pioneer Hi-Bred. He joined Pioneer in 1974 as an accountant and held other administrative positions until 1984, when he was named controller. In 1995, Mr. Schickler was named vice president of Human Resources, Learning and Development, Communications, and Real Estate Management. He was named vice president, director, Latin America Operations for Pioneer in 1999. This role later expanded to include Mexico and Africa. In October 2003, responsibility for the remaining international businesses was added, and he was named vice president, International Operations. He was named to his current position in November 2007. Mr. Schickler serves on the Grand View College Board of Directors and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International (JDRF) board of directors. He received bachelor of science and master of arts degrees in business administration from Drake University.

Ritu Sharma

President and Co-Founder

Women Thrive Worldwide

Ritu Sharma is President and Co-Founder of Women Thrive Worldwide (Women Thrive), the leading organization advocating in Washington D.C., to shape U.S. policy to benefit women living in poverty in developing countries. Due in large part to Ritu and Women Thrive, global women's issues are now being incorporated into U.S. foreign policy, including U.S. assistance and trade programs. A first generation American of East Indian heritage, Ritu's family left behind generations of violence and poverty in Punjab, India to build a new life in the United States, where she founded Women Thrive in 1998. Ritu is an inspiring public speaker, an adept coalition builder and a political strategist who has led numerous advocacy campaigns to success. She serves on the board of the U.S. Global Leadership Campaign (USGLC) and has appeared and been quoted on gender, global women's issues and U.S. foreign policy in many media outlets, including *The Washington Post*, Global Agricultural Development Initiative

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CNN.com, National Public Radio, The New York Daily News, Parade, The Boston Globe, The Baltimore Sun, The Hill, Fox News online, Washington News Channel 8 and Body and Soul magazine.

Mark Suzman

Acting President, Global Development Program

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Mark Suzman is director of policy, advocacy and special initiatives for the Global Development Program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In that capacity he oversees the foundation's global development policy and communications work and relationships with governments, NGOs and other key partners to increase awareness, action, and resources devoted to international development priorities. He also oversees a grant portfolio that both directly supports global development policy and advocacy priorities and addresses key crosscutting initiatives related to creating opportunities for poor people to lift themselves out of poverty in areas like urban poverty and governance. From 2005 to 2007, Suzman was the senior advisor for policy and strategic communications in the Office of the Secretary General at the United Nations (U.N.) where he worked primarily on reform and modernization of the United Nations system. From 2000 to 2005, Suzman served at the United Nations Development Program as policy director in the Office of the Administrator, helping develop and implement an ambitious overhaul of the organization and develop a new focus on areas like democratic governance and the Millennium Development Goals. Prior to working for the U.N., he was a correspondent for the *Financial Times* in Johannesburg, South Africa; London; and Washington D.C, working on issues ranging from the White House and international trade policy to welfare reform and the election of Nelson Mandela as President in South Africa. He has been a frequent commentator for television and radio, including CNN, the BBC and NPR. Originally from South Africa, Suzman holds a doctorate in international relations from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He earned his bachelor's degree, *summa cum laude*, from Harvard University.

Robert Thompson

Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Policy

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dr. Robert L. Thompson recently retired from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he held the Gardner Endowed Chair in Agricultural Policy. He serves on the USDA-USTR Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade and the International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council. Previously Thompson served as Director of Rural Development and Senior Advisor for Agricultural Trade Policy at the World Bank (1998-2002); President and CEO of the Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development (1993-98); Dean of Agriculture (1987-93) and Professor of Agricultural Economics (1974-93) at Purdue University; Assistant Secretary for Economics at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (1985-87) and Senior Staff Economist for Food and Agriculture at the President's Council of Economic Advisers (1983-85). Raised on a small family dairy farm in northern New York State, Thompson received his B.S. degree from Cornell University and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue University and holds honorary doctorates from the Pennsylvania State University and Dalhousie University (Canada). He is a fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry and of the Ukrainian Academy of Agricultural Sciences.