



March 22, 2007

Dear Friends of Foreign Assistance,

Please find enclosed the report of the first public meeting of 2007 for the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid (ACVFA). The February 21st meeting agenda reflected a desire on the part of the ACVFA to assess programs that have been in place over the past several years as well as a look ahead to the implementation and the impact of the ongoing U.S. foreign assistance reforms.

The morning session was kicked off with a dynamic presentation by Dan Runde with USAID's Global Development Alliance (GDA). Dan was then joined by a strong group of panelists, all of whose organizations (Chevron, the German Marshall Fund, and the International Youth Foundation) have partnered with the GDA. They provided invaluable insights and lessons learned regarding their collaborations.

Following this discussion, James Kunder, USAID's Acting Deputy Administrator, gave a candid and very timely overview of USAID's programs in Afghanistan, having just returned from a visit. His perspective regarding the challenges on the ground as well as his cautious optimism clearly showed that much work needs to be done, necessitating a close working relationship between USAID and its partners as well as the larger USG presence on the ground.

The remainder of the public meeting was devoted to the foreign assistance reforms. First, a joint budget presentation led by Dirk Dijkerman and James Painter from the Office of the Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance. This was a helpful and detailed overview of the projected budget for the FY 2008 fiscal year. Ambassador Randall Tobias concluded the meeting with the keynote address, emphasizing the importance of an integrated U.S. foreign assistance program, across all budget categories, and calling for greater teamwork among all involved. He also called upon the ACVFA to create working groups, based upon the new framework that would provide recommendations and lessons learned.

As a result, the ACVFA has created three working groups: Economic Growth, Governing Justly and Democratically, and Implementation Mechanisms. Each of these groups is in the midst of crafting papers that will be presented at the May

public meeting. The Committee welcomes the public to provide input via the following web site: http://www.usaid.gov/about_usaid/acvfa/acvfafedback.html

In closing, the ACVFA looks forward to its next public convening on May 23 at the National Press Club and the opportunity to facilitate information exchange and consultation between USAID and its partners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John D. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Sullivan
Chairman
Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid