



June 20, 2007

Dear Friends of Foreign Assistance,

Please find enclosed the report for the second public meeting of 2007 for the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid (ACVFA). The May 23 proceedings included ongoing discussions of the U.S. foreign assistance reforms as well as the new U.S. military command for Africa, AFRICOM, and the overall mission of USAID. It is clear from the day's exchanges that the role of private voluntary organizations and USAID's other partners will continue to be intrinsically involved in the delivery of U.S. foreign assistance.

The morning session was kicked off with presentations by the three working groups that were created after the ACVFA's February 21 public meeting: economic growth, governing justly and democratically, and implementation mechanisms. The creation of these groups reflects the foreign assistance framework's priority objectives as well as the cross-cutting impact of their implementation. From the presentations and respective feedback of the three ACVFA members and the respondents regarding the draft recommendations, it is clear that there is a desire to have responsive and cohesive programs as reflected in the framework but that there are also concerns about the need for effective funding instruments to achieve those goals as well as the challenges of perhaps unintentionally stove piping programs.

The Committee invites the public to provide input to the working groups by June 15 via the ACVFA web site:

http://www.usaid.gov/about_usaid/acvfa/acvfafeedback.html The recommendations will be incorporated into the drafts. The ACVFA intends to post the final papers in the middle of July as well as share with USAID's leadership.

Following the working groups panel, the ACVFA received James Kunder, USAID's Acting Deputy Administrator for a presentation on USAID's overall mission. In light of the recent leadership transition, Mr. Kunder assured the Committee and the larger audience that the foreign assistance reforms continue to move forward and that USAID is very much at the table. He applauded the recent announcement of Henrietta H. Fore as Acting Administrator with the hope that her confirmation process will move forward expeditiously.

The afternoon session of the public meeting was devoted to AFRICOM with presentations by officials from both the U.S. Departments of Defense and State. From the ensuing questions of both the Members and the general public, it is clear that this effort to better integrate the U.S. military's work in Africa will require the input of not just USAID but also its partners.

I commend this report to the ACVFA community and in closing, the Committee looks forward to its next public convening on October 24 at the National Press Club and the opportunity to facilitate 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 style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John Sullivan
Chairman
Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid