

Proposal for a US Department of Global Development

What is the proposed Department of Global Development?

- ◆ A Cabinet-level Department of Global Development would bring together the numerous US government agencies and departments now working to reduce poverty throughout the world. It would have a streamlined organizational structure with empowered, high-level leadership.
- ◆ The establishment of such a department is backed by key, non-partisan groups, including the Center for Global Development, the Center for US Global Engagement and others.

Why is a Department of Global Development necessary?

- ◆ The 9-11 Commission and other experts have recognized the urgency of addressing sources of global instability, including poverty. In addition, the US must engage as a full partner in addressing poverty in order to repair relationships with our allies and improve the perception of the United States.
- ◆ The current development assistance system is spread across 20 federal agencies, each with their own agenda. This fragmentation severely undermines effective coordination. The overall system lacks a leadership with sufficient authority to hold programs to high standards of cost-effectiveness, demand accountability for results, or leverage greater global cooperation.

What would the Department do?

- ◆ A Department of Global Development would elevate development to the same level as diplomacy and defense, the other two components of the 2006 National Security Strategy, ensuring that development is a top-level priority for the President.
- ◆ The Department would bring together each of the various agencies' budgets, giving one central organization the authority needed to allocate resources and hold programs to the highest standards.
- ◆ It would give the President a stronger voice in negotiations with Congress for the resources and policies needed to ensure the US lives up to its international commitments on poverty reduction.
- ◆ With such a unified effort, the US could better leverage resources for development from Europe, Japan and other key donors and support effective international institutions.
- ◆ An independent department would help keep poverty reduction from being subsumed by short-term national security concerns.

How will the Department be created?

- ◆ Within the first 100 days of the next administration, the new President should urge Congress to pass a new Global Development Act to establish the Department of Global Development. The Department should be up and running well before the midterm elections in 2010.

For more information:

Help Commission Minority report, page 163,

http://helpcommission.gov/portals/0/Beyond%20Assistance_HELP_Commission_Report.pdf.

"U.S. Foreign Assistance: Reinventing Aid for the 21st Century," The Brookings Institution,

http://www.brookings.edu/testimony/2008/0123_foreign_assistance_reform_brainard.aspx.

"Modernizing Foreign Assistance for the 21st Century: An Agenda for the Next US President," Center for Global Development, <http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/15561/>.