

We welcome the efforts to reform America's food aid program

Feeding hungry people around the world has been a hallmark of America's international commitments for decades. Our generous provision of food aid and our nation's leadership has helped save countless lives.

As the frequency and urgency of crises have evolved, and as developing countries are building more capacity to grow food themselves, now is the time to reform our food aid program to reach more hungry people and to use our resources more effectively.

All other major food aid donors provide cash, rather than in-kind food, to NGOs, the UN World Food Program, and other international organizations, so food can be delivered to people in need as fast and as efficiently as possible.

A bi-partisan consensus has developed in the U.S. to support changes to America's food aid program. President George W. Bush urged reform and proposed budgetary changes multiple times, including in his last State of the Union address and in a U.N. General Assembly speech.

President Obama is now presenting a budget which advances these reforms further. If implemented, these proposals would enable the United States to reach 2 to 4 million additional hungry people, improve timeliness and effectiveness of food aid arrivals, support developing country economies, provide flexibility to food aid organizations, and save taxpayer dollars through new efficiencies in the process.

We support these measures and urge their implementation.

Affiliations are for identification purposes only.

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Elliott Abrams, Deputy National Security Advisor, Global Democracy Strategy 2005-2009

J. Brian Atwood, Chair, Development Assistance Committee, OECD 2011-2012; Administrator, USAID 1993-1999

Christopher B. Barrett, SB&JG Ashley Professor of Applied Economics and Management and International Professor of Agriculture, Cornell University

David Beckmann, President, Bread for the World; World Food Prize Laureate 2010

Carol Bellamy, Chair, Global Partnership for Education; Executive Director, UNICEF 1995-2005

Howard Berman, Member, US House of Representatives 1983-2013; Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs 2008-2011

Catherine Bertini, Executive Director, UN World Food Programme 1992-2002; World Food Prize Laureate 2003; Professor, Maxwell School, Syracuse University

John Bolton, US Ambassador to UN 2005-2006

Dr. James G. Butler, Deputy Director-General, UN Food and Agriculture Organization 2008-2011

Wendy Chamberlin, Deputy High Commissioner, UN High Commission for Refugees 2004-2007; President, Middle East Institute

Gebisa Ejeta, Distinguished Professor of Plant Breeding & Genetics and International Agriculture, Purdue University; World Food Prize Laureate 2009

Henrietta H. Fore, Chairman and CEO, Holsman International; Administrator, USAID 2007-2009

Helene Gayle, President and CEO, CARE USA

Dan Glickman, Secretary, USDA 1995-2001

David A. Harcharik, Deputy Director-General, UN Food and Agriculture Organization 1998-2007

Carla A. Hills, US Trade Representative 1989-1993

Howard Hjort, Deputy Director-General, UN Food and Agriculture Organization 1992-1997

L. Craig Johnstone, Deputy High Commissioner, UN High Commission for Refugees 2007-2009; US Ambassador to Algeria 1985-1988

Jo Luck, President and CEO, Heifer International 1989-2011; World Food Prize Laureate 2010

Senator Richard Lugar, US Senator 1977-2013; President, The Lugar Center

Peter McPherson, Administrator, USAID 1981-1987

Ruth Messinger, President, American Jewish World Service

Carolyn Miles, President and CEO, Save the Children

Jonathan Moore, Ambassador at Large and Director, US Bureau of Refugee Programs 1987-1989; US Representative, UN Economic and Social Council 1989-1992

James T. Morris, Executive Director, UN World Food Programme 2002-2007; President, Pacers Sports and Entertainment

Andrew Natsios, Administrator, USAID 2001-2006; Professor, George H.W. Bush School, Texas A & M

John Negroponte, Deputy Secretary of State 2007-2009

Dr. Philip E. Nelson, Professor Emeritus, Purdue University; World Food Prize Laureate 2007

Raymond Offenheiser, President, Oxfam America

Thomas R. Pickering, Under Secretary of State 1997-2000; U.S. Ambassador to UN 1989-1992

Bill Richardson, US Ambassador to UN 1997-1998

Pedro A. Sanchez, Director, Agriculture and Food Security Center, The Earth Institute at Columbia University; World Food Prize Laureate 2002

Eric P. Schwartz, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration 2009-2012; Dean, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

Ritu Sharma, Co-founder and President, Women Thrive Worldwide

Robert L. Thompson, Director of Rural Development, World Bank 2000-2002; Assistant Secretary for Economics, USDA 1985-1987

Ann M. Veneman, Secretary, USDA 2001-2005; Executive Director, UNICEF 2005-2010

Richard Williamson, Assistant Secretary of State, International Organization Affairs 1988-1989; President Bush's Special Envoy to Sudan, 2007-2009

Clayton Yeutter, Secretary, USDA 1989-1991; US Trade Representative 1985-1989