

COMMITMENT SIX:

We will promote optimal allocation and use of public and private investments to foster human resources, sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry systems, and rural development, in high and low potential areas.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

OBJECTIVE 6.1: To create the policy framework and conditions so that optimal public and private investments are encouraged in equitable and sustainable development of the food systems, rural development and human resources on the scale needed to contribute to food security.

To this end, governments, in cooperation with all actors of civil society, international and private financing institutions, and technical assistance agencies will, as appropriate:

(a) Promote policies and measures to enhance the flow and effectiveness of investments for food security;

(b) Give priority to human resource development and strengthen public institutions, especially in LIFDCs, including through equipping and staff training, to enhance their supportive and facilitating role in promoting increased investment in food security;

(c) Encourage the development of public-private partnerships and other institutions in promoting socially and environmentally responsible investment and re-investment from domestic and foreign resources, and increase the participation of local communities in investment;

(d) Strengthen cooperation, at the regional and international level, to share the costs of investments in areas of common interest, such as appropriate technology generation through collaborative research and transfer, as well as to share investment experience and best practices.

The United States:

The United States provides less than 20% of the development assistance going to developing countries. If U.S. bilateral assistance resources are to have the desired impact, then it is crucial to leverage the remaining 80% of official assistance resources to support as far as possible U.S. assistance and foreign policy priorities. Consequently, USAID places a high priority on donor coordination, both in the field and at the policy level with other donors' decision-makers.

The only regular forum for policy-makers of donor countries is the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Almost all major industrialized donors face constrained budgets for development assistance, and as a result, the commitment to improving the quality and impact of development assistance through the DAC is stronger than ever.

At the May 1996 DAC High Level Meeting, 21 donor countries approved a forward-looking rationale and strategy for development cooperation, *Shaping the 21st Century: The Contribution of Development Cooperation*. This consensus vision provides an overarching policy framework for partnerships for development. This is the first time that donors have collectively endorsed a set of key results-oriented goals. The ambitious but achievable targets agreed upon include goals in the following areas: poverty reduction, primary education and gender equality, reduce mortality for infants, children, and mothers, access to reproductive health services, and national strategies for environmentally sustainable development.

InterAction and Faith Action for People-Centered Development, a national working group of religious and faith-based organizations, work to advocate higher levels of U.S. development assistance to low-income countries. Member organizations educate their constituents and supporters about the relatively small amount of U.S. resources devoted to humanitarian and development assistance. They draw attention to the fact that the U.S. ranks last among developed countries in its level of development assistance as a percentage of GNP.

A broad array of NGOs and private sector groups are actively working to boost the level of aid resources devoted to food

security, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development.

OBJECTIVE 6.2: To endeavour to mobilize, and optimize the use of, technical and financial resources from all sources, including debt relief, in order to raise investment in activities related to sustainable agriculture, fisheries, forestry and food production in developing countries to the levels needed to contribute to food security.

To this end, governments, in cooperation with the international community and all actors of civil society, as well as international and private financing institutions will, as appropriate:

(a) Undertake to raise sufficient and stable funding from private and public, domestic and foreign sources to achieve and sustain food security;

(b) Encourage investment to create infrastructures and management systems that facilitate sustainable utilization and management of water resources;

© Support investments that contribute to sustainable food security and further conservation and sustainable utilization and management of natural resources, including land, water, watersheds, fisheries and forests.

(d) Strive to secure appropriate international financial assistance for sectors related to food security, where it is needed;

(e) Strengthen efforts towards the fulfillment of the agreed ODA target of 0.7% of GNP. In striving to promote sustainable food security, development partners should endeavour to mobilize, and optimize the use of technical and

The United States:

Many NGOs are working to assure that aid is allocated based on need and utilization capacity.

Many NGOs, led by RESULTS, are working to boost the level of development aid resources devoted to microcredit as a follow-up to the Microcredit Summit.

A worldwide campaign has been launched by civil society organizations calling for cancellation of unsustainable debt burden of highly-indebted poor countries. The campaign, Jubilee 2000, enjoys especially strong support and involvement by religious organizations worldwide.

The U.S. encourages investment to create infrastructures and management systems that facilitate sustainable utilization and management of water resources through capital projects of the international and regional development banks, through support to the International Irrigation Management Institute (IIMI), and through support to IARCs and bilateral projects which promote more effective on-farm water management.

To arrest the rapid degradation of renewable resources in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, the U.S. is focusing on four resources that provide the greatest benefit to the largest number of people: forests, water, agricultural lands, and coastal resources. With U.S. help, Haiti planted more than five million trees in the most important watershed, and community-based management is occurring on 217,000 hectares in the Philippines, up from 19,600 hectares in 1994. The U.S. assists 11 countries in addressing their most pressing water management issues. To practice agricultural sustainability, the U.S. focuses on technology transfer, including improved crop and land management and the development of drought-resistant crop varieties through its Collaborative Research Support Program. The U.S. supports nine national coastal resource management programs and several of a regional nature.

Development and humanitarian assistance remain crucial components for realizing this Administration's and Congress's vision for our nation's future and its relations with the rest of the world. The FY 1998 budget request was the minimum level necessary to address the Administration's foreign policy goals; it is also consistent with President Clinton's plan to balance the budget by 2002.

With regard to subparagraph (e), the United States notes that it is not among those countries that have agreed to an official development assistance target. The United States will continue to provide high quality aid on a case-by-case basis as appropriate.

financial resources at the levels needed to contribute to this goal and should ensure that this flow of concessional funding is directed to economically and environmentally sustainable activities;

(f) Focus ODA towards countries that have a real need for it, especially low-income countries, and enhance their capacity to utilize it effectively;

(g) Explore new ways of mobilizing public and private financial resources for food security, inter alia, through the appropriate reduction of excessive military expenditures, including global military expenditures and the arms trade, and investment for arms production and acquisition, taking into consideration national security requirements;

(h) Promote mechanisms to mobilize domestic savings, including rural savings;

(i) Promote mechanisms to provide access to adequate credit, including micro-credit, for men and women equally, for activities in the food sector;

The U.S. has delineated three categories of countries where it will work. "Full" missions are located in countries where specific development needs have been identified, where measurable results can be achieved, where distinct foreign policy interests are at stake, and where governments and other institutions demonstrate achievement of our mutual objectives. The U.S. also has the capacity to work in a maximum of ten "transition" countries that have moved from political and economic crises to more stable conditions of growth and development. A second category of countries will have a more limited U.S. economic development presence. In these settings, U.S. programs will be restricted to two or three agency goals. A circumscribed amount of foreign assistance resources will be expended in countries where there is not U.S. direct-hire presence. Programs in these countries will focus on discrete objectives, often involving specific global problems such as support for a transition election. To ensure continued effective implementation of program activities and the attainment of measurable results, the U.S. will maintain the skills necessary to help nations manage natural disasters, emerge from civil conflict, encourage conflict resolution, and address the problems facing the poor worldwide. It will also maintain a modest research and evaluation budget, which will allow it to develop mechanisms that enhance its development capabilities and to learn from its experience.

n.a.

The Micro and Small Enterprises Development Program uses loans and guarantees to encourage financial institutions to extend and expand credit to microenterpreneurs and small businesses. It is a grass-roots program designed to help poor people create employment for themselves, acquire incomes, build assets, and join in strengthening of the formal sector of the economy. Microenterprise and small loan programs provide the bridge to society for poor people who until now have has no real connection to the economic main stream.

The U.S.'s credit guarantee programs include the Micro and Small Enterprise Development Program, the Urban and Environmental Credit Program, and a request for new authority to transfer up to \$10 million from Sustainable Development assistance for an Enhanced Credit Authority program. The U.S. believes that there are significant instances in which U.S. development priorities can be best funded through credit, especially in emerging market countries and in countries moving toward graduation status. Credit resources permit the leveraging of private sector resources to support sustainable development and to enable the U.S. to reach populations it would not otherwise be able to reach. These programs enable people to feed themselves and their families better, educate their children, improve their health, and upgrade housing standards. Ultimately, the goals of all U.S. credit programs is to allow the

citizens of the developing world to concentrate on something beyond their next meal and free up economic growth potential of the next generation of U.S. economic partners.

(j) Promote investment to benefit small-scale food producers, especially women, and their organizations, in food security programmes; strengthen their capacity to design and implement these programmes;

See above.

(k) Give priority to people-centered investments in education, health and nutrition in order to promote broad-based economic growth and sustainable food security;

U.S. programs address the difficulties that many countries face in expanding and improving basic education including a lack of budgetary resources, poorly trained teachers, inappropriate curricula, a shortage of supplies, and inadequate building structures. U.S. health efforts have led to the prevention of the deaths of an estimated four million infants and children annually. U.S. child survival programs target the principal causes of these deaths, including vaccine preventable disease, diarrhea, malnutrition, acute respiratory infections, and malaria. The U.S. has carried out vitamin A programs in 50 countries, including Nepal where its program reaches 1.5 million children and has averted 13,000 deaths and Bangladesh where a home gardening program serves 2.5 million people in 90 districts.

(l) Identify financial, physical and technical resources available internationally and encourage the enhancement of their transfer, where appropriate, into developing countries and countries with economies in transition while also developing an enabling environment, notably through strengthening national capacities, including human resources;

See 6.2 (a-j)

(m) Intensify the search for practical and effective solutions to debt problems of developing countries and support the recent initiatives of international financial institutions (International Monetary Fund and World Bank), to reduce the total external debt burden of Heavily Indebted Poor Countries;

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(n) Explore the possibilities for countries to direct the funds released by debt swaps towards the achievement of food security.

n.a.