

U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP COALITION

2009 TRIBUTE DINNER

WELCOME:

**BILL LANE AND NANCY LINDBORG,
CO-PRESIDENTS,
U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP COALITION**

MODERATOR:

**ANDREA MITCHELL,
CHIEF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT, NBC NEWS**

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

SPEAKERS:

**RICHARD STEARNS,
PRESIDENT, WORLD VISION**

**JAMES BELL,
CORPORATE PRESIDENT, CFO AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT,
THE BOEING COMPANY**

**DAN GLICKMAN,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP COALITION**

**REP. AARON SCHOCK (R-IL),
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**GEORGE INGRAM,
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP COALITION**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2009
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

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GEORGE INGRAM: Ladies and gentlemen, if you will take your seats, we're going to start the evening with a song from the African Children's Choir.

(Music, applause.)

MR. : Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition co-presidents, Nancy Lindborg and Bill Lane.

(Music.)

BILL LANE: Can I have your attention? First of all, let's not be shy. One more round, please. They were terrific. (Applause.) I'm Bill Lane. I'm a co-president of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. And my colleague, the other co-president, Nancy Lindborg, are proud to be here tonight. Now, first, two little ground rules: First of all, if you have cell phones, turn them off. There's plenty of time to return calls later on tonight. Secondly, feel free to start your first course right now. We only ask you to eat very quietly so you don't interrupt anybody.

Let me begin by saying it is a real honor to be before an audience of over 1,000 people. The U.S. Global Leadership Coalition is diverse, it's unique and in some ways, it's very powerful. But it's powerful not because of our numbers; it's power because we bring together a passion and a commitment to elevate smart power tools and to advance diplomacy and development by bringing together a robust international affairs budget.

Tonight, we have the extraordinary honor to honor or pay tribute to the secretary of state, the honorable Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, for her exceptional leadership. And Madame, we are proud to have you here tonight – welcome. (Applause.) We are also honored to have special guests with us representing the U.S. Senate, the House of Representatives, senior leaders from the administration, from embassies and from ministries representing over 20 countries. Please join me in welcoming all of our honored guests. (Applause.) Nancy?

NANCY LINDBORG: It's great to be here tonight with everybody, and this evening, we are gathered to celebrate the extraordinary success and accomplishments of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. And the diversity of our coalition is really evident in this room: business, NGO leaders, faith-based and military leaders, both development experts and national security experts, Democrats and Republicans and community leaders from all 50 states. And we're joined together in our very powerful conviction that, as a nation, we must have strong, civilian-led global engagement through development and diplomacy, and we must invest accordingly.

There's a lot to be proud of. Over the last decade, the international affairs budget has grown, providing essential resources to protect our national security, to save lives, to fight global poverty, to catalyze incredible choirs like the one that we just saw and invest in economic opportunities for all. This past year, in a year of a lot of partisan differences on lots of issues,

Democrats and Republicans came together in the Senate to restore \$4 billion to the international affairs budget. (Applause.)

It was remarkable. And in the House, they came together to pass the state foreign operations bill with record support. Of course, the new administration has been bold and very far-reaching in their commitment to double foreign aid and modernize our foreign assistance programs, and for that, we're very grateful. Inspired by the success of the "Impact '08" effort, the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition now invites all of you to join us in our new campaign, "Putting Smart Power to Work."

This is an effort to ensure that our policy commitments become real policy change. There's enormous momentum at both ends of Pennsylvania Ave. to embrace this new smart power approach to foreign policy. And Secretary Clinton, much of this is due to your leadership – many thanks. (Applause.) And the USGLC stands to do our part. We'll continue to be a leading voice in Washington and around the country in support of these civilian-led tools of development and diplomacy and in support of the international affairs budget. We thank everyone in this room for that.

MR. LANE: And what Nancy says is absolutely correct. We could not have reached all of these accomplishments without the support and dedication of the people in this room. I want to thank this evening's vice chairs, the dinner committee, the honorable congressional co-chairs. And I really have a special thanks to the dinner co-chairs, Richard Stearns, president of World Vision, and James Bell, the president of Boeing Company. On behalf of the board of directors of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, I want to thank you for joining in our collective journey to bring a better, safer world. And with that, the final word.

MS. LINDBORG: Yes, so, ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming this evening's master of ceremonies, someone you all know well, award-winning, internationally renowned journalist and commentator, NBC's chief foreign affairs correspondent and somebody who personally cares deeply about these issues, Mrs. Andrea Mitchell. (Applause.)

(Music.)

ANDREA MITCHELL: Thank you, Bill and Nancy. Thanks to all of you. This is simply amazing. I am told – I wasn't here last year; I think I was out on some campaign or other last year, or covering the transition – but I am told on good authority that last year, this ballroom was filled, but only with 800 people to honor the secretary of defense. And we have now exceeded all past dinners. This is the largest gathering ever in honor of the secretary of state. (Applause.)

And so it is a great pleasure to be here. This is certainly a signature event honoring diplomacy and global leadership around the world. With a membership of 400 business and NGOs to build support for the international affairs budget, this coalition has worked tirelessly to build bipartisan support for the cause of diplomacy in the world. And that's one of the reasons that I'm able to be here. This is a truly bipartisan, nonpartisan effort; this is an effort that bridges

every possible line – public and private and Republican and Democrat and American and foreign. And it is truly a tribute to all of you here in this room.

It's also a great pleasure to be part of this program tonight. You're saluting our global traveler, the U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Now others here will cite all the many reasons why you have selected her for this special honor. I can only attest to the fact that it is difficult, if not impossible just to keep up with her. (Laughter.) In the last year, she has traveled more than 185,731 miles. Think of it. It gives all of us a headache; I'm sure it gives you a headache, Madame Secretary. (Laughter.)

She has been to 43 countries. In the last week alone, she has testified in what can only be described as an experience only slightly less pleasant than root canal surgery – (laughter) – in front of no fewer than four House and Senate committees. On top of that, she was interviewed on three Sunday morning network television programs. I assure you, there is nothing worse than that. (Laughter.) You're nodding in agreement. I get it; I understand that completely. (Laughter.) The only thing slightly worse than Sunday morning programs is early, early morning television.

I've covered Hillary Clinton since she was first catapulted onto the world stage as part of the Clinton team in the 1992 campaign. That was only, you know, then, we thought, the capstone of a career that started long, long before that from her undergraduate days at Wellesley College. Now, she might have gotten the wrong idea about me early on in what I think could kindly be called our relationship – an appropriately adversarial relationship. It was one very early morning at a lunch counter in Chicago, Illinois, under the elevated tracks during – just right before – it was the day before the Illinois primary.

And I was there just casually having a cup of coffee with the lunch counter and blending in, I thought, with the commuters just before that primary vote. And I asked her a simple question, I thought, about some legal issue back in Arkansas. And as I recall, in her answer, she gave me her personal recipe for tea and cookies. (Laughter.) We have covered a lot of territory since, from the White House to the Beijing Women's Forum to the steppes of Mongolia to Pat Moynihan's farm in upstate New York to the United States Senate and to the State Department.

Now, I'll leave it to others to fill in all of the other highlights along the way, but it has been a remarkable journey and she has not nearly finished. As your guest of honor has vividly described the early chapters in her life in her best-selling memoir, "Living History," there's a lot more to come as she travels the globe. I have certainly also reported on many unique coalitions, but I have to tell you that tonight's is truly a remarkable one.

Looking around this room and talking to many of you beforehand, from CARE to Caterpillar to Microsoft to Mercy Corps, and of course, World Vision – the NBC team has covered extensively the great work World Vision is doing in Afghanistan – and to Boeing. You have all galvanized a powerful voice of NGOs and businesses. Your state networks are impressive, with corporate and faith-based and academic and military and nonprofit groups, grassroots groups, community leaders involved at every level.

Your national leadership reads like a who's who of our foreign policy and national security establishment, from Gen. Powell, who was at the State Department and welcomed back by Secretary Clinton today for the unveiling of his portrait, with really wonderful affection between the two and the true bipartisan nature of their collegial relationship, and the really great emotion that was felt when Secretary Powell spoke of the diversity that is inherent in not only our country, but in our diplomacy and our diplomatic corps. As your honorary chair, you have Secretaries Madeleine Albright, Frank Carlucci chairing your education efforts. And you've recently added Condoleezza Rice to your advisory council, which now boasts all living former secretaries of state.

In addition to the unique diversity and powerful leadership, the USGLC has been an effective and an important voice, as you all know, in advocating for the international affairs budget and in education Americans about the importance of smart power, of civilian-led tools of development and diplomacy, both in Washington and around the world. I had the privilege of traveling to many of these countries most recently with tonight's honoree, and I've seen firsthand the extraordinary global challenges and opportunities that we face today. I've also seen firsthand the remarkable contributions of America's leadership, both public and private.

Our increasingly interconnected world has no borders. From terrorism to infectious diseases to instability in fragile states, today, America's security and prosperity are tightly linked with the security and prosperity of all of the peoples of the world. It's no surprise, then, that a bipartisan consensus has emerged to embrace smart power in foreign policy, an approach that elevates our civilian-led tools of development and diplomacy alongside defense to address today's increasingly complicated world.

The international affairs budget, which provides the resources for America's development and diplomatic efforts is only, as you all know, 1 percent of our entire budget and it makes a world of difference. Just a few examples: Since 1970, the number of children under five years old who have been dying in the developing world has decreased by 50 percent. Vaccination campaigns have eliminated measles as a cause of childhood death in Southern Africa. Donor support for basic education programs reduced the number of out-of-school children across the globe by 25 percent over the last decade.

Perhaps this is why members of Congress have often said supporting the international affairs budget is not just the right thing to do; it's the smart thing to do. To continue tonight's tribute, it's a great honor for me to welcome this evening's dinner co-chairs. Please welcome Mr. Richard Stearns, president of World Vision, and Mr. James Bell, corporate president and chief financial officer of The Boeing Company.

(Music.)

RICHARD STEARNS: Well, thank you, Andrea for that wonderful tribute. I'm Rich Stearns, the president of World Vision, and it's my pleasure to welcome you to this tribute dinner this evening in honor of Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. I'm especially pleased to co-chair this evening with James Bell of the Boeing Corporation (sic), and I join him in celebrating the accomplishments of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition.

World Vision is proud to stand with Boeing in this room full of leaders from diverse sectors – corporate, nonprofit, faith-based, academic, governmental – all united in support of U.S. global engagement. Tonight, we pay tribute to Secretary of State Clinton for her leadership and deep commitment to elevating the smart power tools of development and diplomacy that strengthen the bonds between nations and the understanding among peoples.

Whether fighting hunger, malaria, HIV or AIDS, empowering women and girls, advocating for justice, rebuilding communities after disasters or restoring hope to children and families across the globe, each and every day, World Vision's 40,000 employees, motivated by their faith, are eyewitnesses to the effectiveness of our foreign assistance programs in 100 countries around the world. They, along with the millions of Americans who support the many NGOs and nonprofits present in this room tonight, care deeply about the humanitarian programs funded by our government, which represent their highest American values.

Madame Secretary, I know that you have seen the benefit and hope that our foreign assistance programs bring to children and families around the world. I want to thank you personally for your leadership in helping the NGO community make a difference in the lives of the world's most needy and most vulnerable. Since taking office in January, you have spoken out forcefully for a robust, global engagement, for leading the charge to modernize U.S. foreign assistance, and for renewing America's leadership the world over.

These are only made possible by an equally robust international affairs budget, something I think we all agree on in this room. Your leadership in advancing opportunities for women and girls, addressing food security, fighting global poverty and strengthening basic education are just a few examples of your extraordinary contribution to our building a better and safer world. As you said at your confirmation hearing, America cannot solve the most pressing problems on our own. And the world cannot solve them without America. The best way to advance America's interest is to design and implement global solutions.

For decades, World Vision and the others in this room have advocated for and participated in these global solutions. We know there is a deep reservoir of support within the American people for our efforts. And we applaud all that you are doing and pledge to work with you to help build a better, safer world for all of our children. Now, to continue this evening's tribute, I turn to my co-chair for the evening, James Bell. James? (Applause.)

JAMES BELL: Good evening. I am, too, delighted to welcome you to this evening's tribute dinner honoring Secretary Clinton. I'm also delighted to share this podium with Rick Stearns. And Madame Secretary, I'm really delighted and thank you for flying all those miles on Boeing airplanes. (Laughter.) As Rich mentioned, Boeing and World Vision are proud members of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, along with over 400 other business and organizations that share a commitment to a robust international affairs budget and appreciate the importance of elevating the smart power tools of development and diplomacy.

American businesses understand the critical role our foreign policy toolkit plays in protecting Americans' national security and building economic prosperity. In a globalized

economy, our security and prosperity are linked with that of other nations. U.S. companies also recognize the vital importance of these programs in demonstrating Americans' moral values. Through many of our corporate social responsibility programs, the business communities work in partnership with many of the NGOs and the government agencies here tonight.

Developing countries are America's fastest-growing export markets, accounting for nearly 45 percent of global trade. For just a little more than one penny of every dollar, investments in the international affairs budgets are crucial to creating the stable market conditions in many developing nations for U.S. goods and services. As we all witnessed from Secretary Clinton's trip to Africa this past summer, she is someone who is committed to opening markets and providing economic freedom throughout the world.

This is one of the many reasons why we are so proud to be honoring her tonight. Over a decade ago, when USGLC was in its infancy, then-first lady Hillary Clinton spoke at our first major event at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. In her intervening years, as a member of the Senate Armed Service Committee and now, as secretary of state, she has consistently made the case for greater investments in the civilian-led tools of global engagement, while also demonstrating an appreciation for the delicate balance needed to elevate and strengthen development and diplomacy, assuring that they have distinctive and empowered voices alongside a strong defense.

We could not have a more eloquent spokesperson than Hillary Clinton in delivering that message. Madame Secretary, we salute you for your leadership in support of a smart power foreign policy and for a strong international affairs budget, both of which not only enhance America's national security and our participation in the global marketplace, but also reflect and enhance American humanitarian and democratic values. Ladies and gentlemen, please join Richard Stearn (sic) and me in saluting our 67th Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. (Applause.)

(Music.)

MR. STEARNS: Madame Secretary, it's my privilege to present you with this engraved plaque in appreciation of your leadership in support of our civilian-led tools of global engagement for a robust international affairs budget. And I'm going to hold it for a few minutes, because it's very heavy – (laughter) – but James, will you read the inscription on the plaque?

MR. BELL: The inscription reads, "The U.S. Global Leadership Coalition salutes Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton for her vision, leadership and unwavering commitment to elevating the smart power tools of development and diplomacy and strengthening the U.S. international affairs budget. Presented to the Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, December 7, 2009." (Applause.)

(Music.)

SECRETARY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: Well, thank you all very, very much. This is an extraordinary evening and I am deeply honored to receive this award on behalf of the

State Department and USAID, the work that is done every single day by the men and women who serve in both doing the diplomacy and development work that truly is part of smart power. I want to express my appreciation to Nancy Lindborg and Bill Lane, to James Bell and Richard Stearns, and all of the evening's hosts, and I want to applaud the efforts of Liz Schrayner and the coalition staff who do such a great job. (Applause.)

And I want to thank Andrea Mitchell for her kind introduction and all that she does every day to keep Americans informed. I have traveled a lot of miles with reporters, but Andrea's the only one who traveled with me through Asia with a broken foot. (Laughter.) That's why she is such a successful, extraordinary, inveterate reporter. And I'm delighted to – I shouldn't say that, because she is a reporter – (laughter) – but I am delighted to have her covering the State Department once again.

You know, this award is especially meaningful because of the people who are part of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. I know many of you – not all of you – and I really respect and appreciate the work of all of you. I do remember speaking at the first major meeting of this group more than 10 years ago, when it was called the "Campaign to Preserve Global Leadership." And in the past decade, this coalition has come to occupy a critical space in the foreign policy arena.

You really have been pioneers in combining the expertise and talent of the private sector and NGOs to help create a better balance in our approach to foreign policy and our nation's security. As you know so well, for too long, we have focused more heavily on one of the so-called three D's – namely, defense – and less on the other two, diplomacy and development. Now, we obviously must never undermine our capacity to defend our nation and our people, but I believe that these three tools are mutually reinforcing.

And it has been my goal since becoming the 67th secretary of state to do all that I could to make sure that diplomacy and development were elevated alongside defense. That is the essence of smart power, but of course, smart power requires smart people. And the people who are working so hard every day to make sure we have the resources for diplomacy and development, that we solve the problems, that we fulfill this wonderful backdrop that sets forth strengthening our national security and creating opportunities and saving lives and building economic opportunities.

And we are following, in effect, the USGLC model by trying to leverage our civilian power. State, USAID, MCC, PEPFAR, other government agencies along with all of you are working to amplify diplomacy and development not for the sake of just doing that, but to achieve lasting results in the furtherance of America's national interests and our values. We have been talking a lot, in the last months, that we need to be committed to using American leadership to build a new architecture of global cooperation.

And fundamental to that idea is that the 21st century not only presents many shared challenges, but also demands shared responsibility. No nation can meet today's challenges or seize its opportunities alone. Leadership in this era means stepping up to the plate and galvanizing others to do the same. That is the approach we're taking in the Obama

administration. We're pursuing broader and, we hope, more effective diplomacy that reaches beyond governments. And we are committed to development that is delivered, as the president said, through partnership, not patronage, that achieves meaningful, measurable, sustainable outcomes.

Last week, the president outlined our strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan. And when he spoke at West Point, he made very clear that we cannot finish the job alone or with military might alone. To take advantage of this window of opportunity – and I believe that the beginning of President Karzai's second term is such a window of opportunity – we will be sending 30,000 new American troops to Afghanistan and we'll be joined by 7,000 or more troops from our allies in NATO and the international security force – ISAF.

But we're also tripling the number of civilians on the ground and we are seeing other countries come forward with additional commitments of civilians and civilian aid. When I became secretary of state, there were about 320 civilians in Afghanistan, and many of them were on six-month tours. And we have been on the path to more than tripling that number and we have 1-year tours and we have very specific assignments for the people who are being sent to Afghanistan.

We have also begun expanding our civilian effort in Pakistan, whose stability is essential to the security of that region and beyond. Now, like our troops, these civilians make huge sacrifices on behalf of our country, living and working in difficult and dangerous circumstances. Before I came to the dinner tonight, I hosted a reception at the State Department for family members of those who are serving in unaccompanied posts around the world, the bulk of whom are in Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

I saw their wives and their husbands, their children and in some cases, their parents. And it reminded me so forcefully that our civilians serve every single day in conflict areas, in places of great danger. And they come to these missions with a profound belief in the importance of their work. When I was in Kabul several weeks ago, I sat around a table at our embassy with some of the men and women who are part of our integrated, civilian-military approach.

And I listened to a colonel talk about how critical it had been to him and to his soldiers to have a USDA agriculture expert working with their brigade, and how a rule-of-law expert was working with JAG lawyers to extend a system of justice so that Afghans do not have to rely on the Taliban for legal matters in their communities.

This is not a one-way street. Our military creates space for our civilians to do their important work, and our civilians maximize the efforts of our troops in the field to bring stability and security. By working together, as your honoree from last year, Secretary Gates, has stressed, our military and civilian personnel are poised to make real progress, not only in Afghanistan and Pakistan and Iraq, but so many other places around the world. Ultimately, our goal is to prevent instability in the first place, to use our diplomatic and development tools to promote conditions that enhance peace and security and make the need for military action much more remote.

It is far cheaper to pay for civilian efforts up front than to pay for any war over the long run. Last year, Secretary Gates spoke to you about the importance of programs that amplify peace dividends, that promote active citizenships for economic development, expand opportunity and safeguard human rights. Now, it is rare – at least, it was rare – for a secretary of defense to advocate for better civilian capabilities and a stronger development program. But Secretary Gates and President Obama, all of you and I, know that it is only through this kind of approach to our foreign policy that we will be successful over the long run.

Now, today, we are still recovering from the deepest global economic shock in our lifetimes. We face environmental pressures, health pandemics, widespread poverty and hunger and the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction remain a threat to every person on the planet. Yet, even with these grave problems, our world is ripe with the potential for innovation. And we are poised to solve a lot of what appears to be intractable today. Promising technologies are emerging, from vaccines to ever-shrinking and more powerful laptops to cloud computing, new tools and power and connect more people than ever before.

With online networks tens of thousands of miles are crossed at the click of a button. Never before have we had so much contact and exchange with people everywhere at one time. So to meet these 21st-century challenges, we need to use the tools – the new 21st-century statecraft. And we've begun to do that. U.S. shipping companies are taking steps to defend their cargo ships and defeat piracy off the coast of Somalia. U.S. tech companies are working with the Mexican government – telecom companies and NGOs – to reduce narco-violence.

We've brought three tech delegations to Iraq, including a recent visit by Eric Schmidt, the CEO of Google, where he announced that Google would be digitizing the entire content of the Iraqi National Museum and launching an Iraqi government YouTube channel to promote transparency and good governance. We've seen the possibilities of what can happen when ordinary citizens are empowered by Twitter and Facebook to organize political movements, or simply exchange ideas and information.

So we find ourselves living at a moment in human history when we have the potential to engage in these new and innovative forms of diplomacy, and to also use them to help individuals be empowered for their own development. As part of smart power, we are strengthening our bilateral relationships and our historical alliances, as well as our ties to emerging powers. In the first 11 months of the administration, we've launched strategic dialogues with many countries, including China and India, that provide a foundation for partnership on a range of shared issues and give us a venue for discussion and conversation across the board on every single issue.

At the same time, we're working to engage leaders in governments with whom we don't agree, just as we did throughout the Cold War. We never stopped talking to the Soviet Union leadership, even as we had missiles pointed at each other. And we're broadening our outreach in other ways. We joined the Human Rights Council to participate in the often raucous international conversation on human rights.

We've signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We have fully embraced the Millennium Development Goals. And this week, our special envoy, Todd Stern,

will lead the U.S. delegation to the Copenhagen climate negotiations, where the United States will work to lay the groundwork for a comprehensive, international framework agreement that will mitigate one of our world's most pressing and pervasive problems.

Now, diplomacy, though, cannot be confined to official meetings or conferences in official buildings. So we're working to connect with the publics in other countries more effectively, to engage their business communities, to reach out to their civil societies. Overseas, I have held town hall meetings with students, advocates, lawyers, teachers, citizens to hear their views and answer their questions. Sometimes, they ask, shall we say, extremely pointed questions about the United States and American policy.

But I find that, actually, refreshing because it gives me a chance not only to respond, but it clearly demonstrates for many societies that are less than open that it's possible to engage leaders. I've been told in a number of countries that I've had more contact with the media and the people of the country than the leaders of those countries have had. And I often conduct roundtables with business leaders that are unvarnished, unfiltered exchanges that help to build greater understanding.

As we work to build partnerships with multinational corporations and international nonprofits, many of whom are represented here, we know that we're going to have to do more to really follow best practices – something the coalition has stood for. And we have to reach out to the non-state actors who are leading the charge on issues that are vital to our interests – securing the rights of women and girls, recognizing the power of young people, providing education and health in rural areas, and the list goes on.

The critical resources, infrastructure and expertise that exist in the business and NGO communities are interwoven together. There is no escaping, and I think that's good. But we can do more to leverage the combined efforts of the public and private and nonprofit sectors. It's like you say here at USGLC: from Boeing to Bread for the World, from Caterpillar to CARE. Well, we've launched the global partnership initiative at the State Department. At USAID, we have the global development alliance.

I'll give you just one, quick example. Last September, USAID and PEPFAR joined with General Mills to improve the capacity of small- and medium-sized food businesses across sub-Saharan Africa to produce healthy, fortified food products. This partnership will link the technical and business expertise of General Mills and up to nine additional food companies with as many as 200 small and medium-sized mills and food processors in 15 sub-Saharan African countries. This partnership will benefit an estimated 1.6 million small-holder farmers. With over 1 billion suffering from hunger and malnutrition around the world, these are the kinds of steps that we need to be taking.

Development is and must remain the key, and I'm delighted that with me tonight are two of our new leaders. I hope you'll get to meet Daniel Yohannes, who's sitting right there, who is the new president of the Millennium Challenge Corporation. (Applause.) Daniel came to this country from Ethiopia as a young, young man, took advantage of the extraordinary opportunities

available in America, pursued his dreams, fulfilled them, became very successful and now is giving back. And we are delighted to have him.

And I'm also proud to have a gifted partner and champion who will soon be at the helm of the U.S. Agency for International Development. It took us time to find the right person, but Raj Shah was worth the wait, and Raj will be reporting directly to me; he will always have a seat at the table as we formulate policy and chart our next steps. Together, we will ensure that USAID is once again, the premier development agency in the world. (Applause.) There's Raj.

We've also developed an unprecedented initiative aimed at advancing food security world wide; the scope and scale of this initiative is a good example of how we are rethinking development policies and priorities. We know some things, and we are working to learn others. After years of effort and billions of dollars, I think it's fair to say we have not achieved the lasting results we desire. But we have learned valuable lessons. We know that the most effective strategies emanate from those closest to the problems, not governments or institutions, no matter how well-meaning, hundreds or thousands of miles away.

We know, too, that our efforts have been undermined by a lack of coordination, too little transparency, haphazard monitoring and evaluation, an over-reliance on contractors who work with too little oversight and by relationships with recipient countries based more on patronage than partnership. We know that development works best when it is based not in aid, but in investment.

We have also learned that women and girls must be the focus of our work in the development area; they comprise the majority of the people on this planet who are underfed, underemployed, uneducated, unhealthy and poor. Investing in the potential of women and girls is one of the surest ways to fuel economic and social progress, and it is why we have named the first-ever ambassador for women and girls' global issues, Melanne Verveer. (Applause.)

Now, we can't do any of this if we don't have the resources that we need. Smart power requires smart people and requires resources as well. That's why I appointed the first-ever deputy secretary for management and resources, Jack Lew. (Applause.) And with Jack in the lead – I know Jack is here somewhere – we fought hard, with your help, for additional resources for State and USAID in the 2010 budget, but this cannot be a one shot deal.

We need a sustained effort to rebuild and reform diplomacy and development. As difficult as that may be in a time of trillion-dollar deficits and intense competition for scarce resources, but we really have no choice; we have immediate requirements in Afghanistan and Pakistan that have great bearing on our security; we have to transition from military to civilian work in Iraq; and we've got to demonstrate that this approach to development and diplomacy bears fruit.

As we invest in people, we have to make a very serious effort as to making sure we're constantly asking ourselves, what can we do better tomorrow than what we've done today. We're not going about this reflexively; we're being methodical. That's why I initiated the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review, the QDDR, to help align our priorities and

policies, our resources and our authorities. We have excellent people running that: Jack Lew and the acting administrator of USAID, Alonzo Fulgham, and Dr. Anne-Marie Slaughter. They've been driving this process; it's an exciting and necessary project, and we're receiving the interim reports from the working chairs, and I think there's already a great deal of rich insight that we've garnered.

This is working in concert with the Presidential Study Directive, which includes representatives from a number of agencies. We're trying to get to a whole-of-government approach. When we began to work on food security, we convened the first-ever meetings, where everybody from all the different agencies who had any stake in food security were in the same room.

It's not easy; there are all kinds of reasons why it's difficult. One of the reasons it's difficult is the way the Congress is structured, and who authorizes what, and who appropriates what, but we are determined to try to achieve this whole-of-government approach, because we think it's in the interest of our country, but it's also in the service of our ideals and our goals concerning diplomacy and development.

Now, we will need your ideas and your support as we look at the requirements of our civilian effort in the broader context of national security. A small increase in the national security budget, committed to diplomacy and development will reap enormous rewards. You understand that. So you're going to have to help us make the case. It's always been a challenging case to make, but we have slowly but surely made progress in this last year, and we need your help to continue that progress.

I have a great deal of empathy for what the folks at OMB are going through, and putting together a budget for next year; it's a pretty daunting picture, looking out and seeing all of the necessary domestic and international projects that really do need our funding, but we are just at the beginning of transforming our development and diplomacy agenda, and we cannot stop now. So I am here not just to accept an award on behalf of all the people I'm privileged to work with every single day, but to challenge you to help us continue to make the case, to bring your expertise and your commitment to the forefront.

Every one of you, whether you're in the private sector, or the not-for-profit sector, have friends and allies with whom you have worked over the years, who understand you and trust you. And we hope that you will be among the advocates we need to make that case, that the United States government needs to be by your side, as we transform the way we conduct foreign policy. We've made a lot of progress, but I'm always focused on how much more there is to be done. But I am confident that with the help of the members of this coalition, we will continue to do what we know must be done in furtherance of our country's values and interests. And perhaps in a year, two, three, four or five, we can look back and say, indeed, we've put to work the civilian-led tools that have given us the smart power that has made our world both better and safer. Thank you all very much. (Applause.)

MS. MITCHELL: Our thanks to Sec. Clinton, who made the case – and I think, looking around this room, I think that this is clearly Hillary's army of advocates for international aid, for

the goals that she has articulated, which is a bipartisan goal of helping women and girls in particular, and building on that base to expand everything that you have accomplished so far, and to do it bigger and better in the year to come. So thank you all very much. Now, please enjoy your dinner, and the program will continue immediately afterwards. Thank you. (Applause.)

(Pause.)

MS. MITCHELL: Thank you all very much, as you take your seats. I know you all enjoyed the dinner and the – (audio break).

DON GLICKMAN: I learned that when I was in the House of Representatives. It was the only way to quiet members of Congress down. So it has probably violated a bunch of House rules but I did it anyway.

The program says, “Remarks” – there are no remarks. I want you to know that. you heard from the greatest secretary of state in history so – (applause) – that’s it. However, I want to say what a great honor it is for me to be here and to pay tribute to Secretary Clinton but we have many special guests here tonight so Liz asked me to – by the way, Liz Schroyer and her team have done an amazing job tonight – you know, just extraordinary. (Applause.)

But anyway, we have many special guests. The first thing is that we have many ambassadors here. I would like to – I do not have the names; I only have the countries. But I would like you to hold your applause and I’d like to introduce the following ambassadors and ask them to stand up.

Ambassador from Afghanistan, from Cape Verde, from Georgia, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovenia and South Africa. Give them all a great round of applause. (Applause.)

We’ve had several members of Congress in and out this evening. As Liz mentioned, there is the White House Christmas Party tonight but we’ve had Sen. Frank Lautenberg, Rep. Earl Blumenauer, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, Rep. Donald Payne, Rep. Chris Van Hollen. So let’s thank all the members of Congress who came by, as well. (Applause.)

Okay, now, we’ve got a bunch of people from the administration. Some of them have been referenced by Secretary Clinton, but we have, first of all, in no particular order, but folks who are advancing the smart power agenda for this country – Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources Jack Lew. Where is Jack? I know he’s here tonight. (Applause.) He used to cut my budget in old days. I remember that.

Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Security Affairs Michael Froman. Michael, you here tonight? (Applause.) And I don’t think he is still here but the chief operating officer and acting administrator for USAID, Alonzo Fulham. I think Alonzo had to leave but let’s give him a great hand – outstanding job. (Applause.)

The chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, my friend Fred Hochberg. I think Fred is here or was here. (Applause.) Under secretary of state for economic energy and agricultural affairs – I know he's here – Robert Hormats. Stand up – right here. (Applause.)

Under Secretary of State for Management Patrick Kennedy. (Applause, cheers.) All right. Stand up! The director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, Christina Tchen. I've seen her around here. Christina? (Applause.) The CEO of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, Daniel Yohannes. Daniel, I think, had to leave. (Applause.) The director-designate of the U.S. Trade and Development Agency. Leocadia Zak. (Applause.)

Okay, so as many of you know – and this is kind of the – it's the end of the program but the heart of the program. As many of you know, the president has called for a doubling – a doubling – of foreign assistance by the year 2015. And that is commitment we all support.

Fortunately, this is an issue with strong bipartisan support at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. And in today's heavily polarized political world, that is no small feat. Over the past few weeks, a bipartisan Dear Colleague letter has been circulating on Capitol Hill to urge President Obama to request a robust international affairs funding in his fiscal 2011 budget.

In the Senate, this is being led by a strong bipartisan team of Sen. Kerry, the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, of Sen. Lugar, the ranking member of that committee and long-time champion Diane Feinstein and many others, totaling five Democratic and five Republican senators.

In the House, the letter is championed by a strong diverse team of Howard Berman, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, long-time chairman Mark Kirk, House Armed Services Committee chairman Ike Skelton, freshman Aaron Schock, Republican from Illinois, and Jerry Conley, Democrat from Virginia, and others. (Applause.)

So anyway, I want to first say this letter has galvanized support from Congress thanks to many of you here tonight. I was in Congress many years ago – we could not even get 10 percent of the people, I'll bet you, to sign a letter back then. The world has changed, largely by the leadership of these people – from all the committees in Congress, from all the caucuses, from the Blue Dogs to the freshman Republicans, just to name a few.

The majority of the United States Senate, 59 senators, including 12 Republicans and 15 freshmen, have signed this letter. Let's give the senators a hand for doing that. (Applause.) The largest number of signatures ever in the House, with 189 representatives. Together, that adds up to 248 signatures in the House and the Senate. That's a remarkable achievement in this day and age. Let's give the Senate and the House a hand for doing this. (Applause.)

Many people in this room wrote and encouraged their members of Congress to do this kind of thing, and this is an extraordinary statement of support for the smart power agenda, the international affairs budget and, ultimately, development and diplomacy's importance in building a safer and more secure world.

So we want to acknowledge all the members plus all the congressional staff who are here tonight. Would all the staff of the House and the Senate stand up? Anybody who works for the House or the Senate, stand up. (Applause.) Thank you. These are the people who actually run the country, by the way.

So I'd like to ask those staff – to thank them – and also I want to talk a little bit about a member who is here tonight. As I mentioned, tonight's the White House congressional holiday party, so we had stiff competition for attendance, and we had regrets from dozens and dozens of members who couldn't be here. That said, I am very pleased to welcome one of our newest champions in the House and one of the youngest members of Congress – sh – sh, sh, sh – this is a very important congressman – this man could be president of the United States one of these days and he's going to remember the applause that you get from him, okay.

In any event, one of the youngest members of the Congress who will be speaking on behalf of the 10 Senate and 12 House leading sponsors on this letter. And I want to recognize tonight Congressman from Springfield, Illinois, the home of Abraham Lincoln, Freshman Congressman Aaron Schock from the great state of Illinois. Thank you. (Applause.)

(Music.)

REP. AARON SCHOCK (R-IL): Well, good evening. It's a pleasure to be with each one of you, and on behalf of the bipartisan delegation that has signed this letter of support, I want to thank the U.S. Global Initiative, the good members that make up your team, the participating NGOs, the corporations and the sponsors who work across your respective turfs to put together a great organization to lobby on this important funding.

I will tell you that it has taken some time and some convincing among my colleagues on both sides, especially some of the newer members, as we struggle with our great uncertainty here in our own country and the great difficulty as we balance the needs of our country.

But the easiest way for me to explain this to my colleagues is that this really is about a political venture capital. This is about investing in the lives of people around the world not only for the life that we effect in a positive way through the services that you all support and the good work of our State Department, but ultimately, the long-term view that they have of our country and the benefits for generations to come that we will all see as a result.

We all know that it's important for us to communicate with the leaders of other nations but kings and queens, prime ministers and presidents come and go. And just as members of Congress are a function of who they represent, the leaders of these other nations are a function of who they represent, as well. And so the positive impact that we can make through a larger foreign affairs budget will only pay greater dividends as we create a better world but also a better view of our county around the world.

So thank you for the good work that you do, thank you for the work that you have done in convincing my colleagues and the support that you have given me, and know that in years to

come, you will continue to enjoy broad, bipartisan support on both sides of the aisle for the work that must be done. Thank you all. (Applause.)

MS. MITCHELL: Thank you very much, Congressman. And, finally, I just want to thank all of you for letting me participate tonight. I've got to tell you that if Liz Schroyer calls, there's no way that anyone in this room can say no. (Applause.)

And before closing this evening's program, I have the pleasure of welcoming back to the stage the remarkable African Children's Choir. Now, these young people – and you have to all be quiet because these young people have traveled all the way from Kenya and Uganda to be with us this evening and to inspire us with their music and dance. The USGLC is especially grateful to Motorola, who generously sponsored tonight's appearance by the choir. So please join me in extending a warm welcome to the young people from the African Children's Choir. (Applause, cheers.)

(Music.)

MR. : Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition chairman of the board, George Ingram.

(Music.)

MR. INGRAM: Ladies and gentlemen, if that won't inspire you to care about the next generation and to work for a better world, I don't know what will. Please, another round of applause – (applause) – for the African Children's Choir.

I just want to say a couple of words to Andrea Mitchell. It was wonderful of you to be with us here. Thank you again for leading us. (Applause.) Richard Stearns and James Bell, thank you for co-chairing this evening's event and for your leadership. (Applause.) To our board of directors, to the staff of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition – we all know Liz but there are lots of other wonderful, dedicated people who support her and have produced this evening. Thank you, thank you, thank you. (Applause.)

And to all of you, please, a round of applause for yourselves. It's you all that make this work. We've had a wonderful year, we have big challenges coming, but with your support, we can do it. And, please, join us in the foyer for dessert. Thank you – until next year. (Applause.)

(END)