



## President Obama Signs New Policy Directive on Global Development

Earlier today, President Obama signed a Presidential Policy Directive on Global Development and presented the policy at a speech before the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Summit. This new directive is the first of its kind by a U.S. Administration and is a firm commitment to elevating development as “a core pillar of American power.”

The policy outlines concrete steps to advance development across the government and marks a significant movement forward on our agenda.

The new policy hews closely to the previously available Administration positions on development, including the National Security Strategy and the announcements made around G8 Summit in June of this year. The new policy is grounded in three pillars:

- A policy focused on **sustainable development outcomes** that places a premium on broad-based economic growth, democratic governance, game-changing innovations, and sustainable systems for meeting basic human needs;
- A **new operational model** that positions the United States to be a more effective partner and to leverage our leadership; and
- A **modern architecture** that elevates development and harnesses development capabilities spread across government in support of common objectives.

### Highlights of the new policy include:

- ◆ **Empowering USAID:** The policy calls for a long-term commitment to rebuilding USAID as “the U.S. Government’s lead development agency – and as the world’s premier development agency,” including the development of “robust policy, budget, planning and evaluation capabilities” and “streamlined operating methods and greater transparency.”
- ◆ **USAID voice at the NSC:** The fact sheet states that “the Administrator of USAID will be included in meetings of the National Security Council, as appropriate.”
- ◆ **Establishes Interagency Policy Committee:** The policy established an Interagency Policy Committee led by the National Security Staff and responsible to NSC Deputies and Principals. This represents a serious commitment of White House time and attention to development issues, as opposed to monitoring only crisis situations.

- ◆ **Establishing a Development Strategy:** The policy document also calls for the creation of a U.S. Global Development Strategy to be submitted to the President every four years.
- ◆ **Creation of a U.S. Global Development Council:** Consisting of experts from the private sector, academia, and other parts of civil society, this new council will provide high level input on U.S. development policies.
- ◆ **Working with Congress:** The new policy acknowledges the role Congress plays in setting development policy, and pledges to work cooperatively with Congress in making funding for development more flexible and effective. It specifically seeks to “forge a new and lasting bipartisan consensus on development policy within the broader context of our National Security Strategy.”
- ◆ **Three signature Initiatives:** The Administration also released fact sheets detailing how their three key development related initiatives, the Global Health Initiative, Feed the Future, and the Global Climate Change Initiative, embody the principles put forward by the new policy, including, “...investments in game-changing innovations and research, the capacity of host countries, and strong mechanisms to hold both ourselves and our partners accountable for achieving sustainable outcomes.”
- ◆ **Selectivity, Country-Ownership, Accountability.** The policy recognizes that the U.S. cannot “do all things, do them well, and do them everywhere” and acknowledges more selectivity about where and which sectors it works. It underscores the importance of country ownership and places a significant focus on measurable outcomes of impact.

### [USGLC Statement on the New Directive](#)

### **White House Released Documents**

The White House released the following four fact sheets and the President’s remarks at the MDG Summit:

[The President’s Remarks](#)

[White House Fact Sheet](#)

[Global Health Fact Sheet](#)

[Food Security Fact Sheet](#)

[Climate Fact Sheet](#)