



## **Panel on the Future of International Development Cooperation**

The wanton destruction of USAID has been a devastating blow to the health and welfare of people around the world – and, of course, to each of us who has worked for USAID over the years. The accomplishments of USAID since its creation in 1961 – and by its predecessor agencies as well – have been enormous, as each of us well knows. We must never forget this, which makes the UAA's efforts to preserve the legacy extremely important. Hopefully, some of these functions will be continued in the State Department structure, but this remains uncertain. We must continue the fight to see that they are protected and implemented effectively.

We must not only cherish and remember well all that has gone before. We should think ahead as well. USAID's legacy provides valuable lessons as we join with others to consider how critical global problems should be addressed in a rapidly changing world. The issues long addressed by USAID and its partners have not gone away simply because of what has been done to USAID.

We know what those issues are: pervasive poverty and lack of economic growth, dramatic and undeniable climate change and related disease outbreaks, declining rates of immunization and other disease prevention efforts, overwhelming youth unemployment in Africa, unsettling and unwanted immigration, recurrent conflict, and persistent weaknesses of effective governance, public integrity, and inclusive democratic institutions. These problems clearly interact with and reinforce one another, which heightens their importance as global concerns.

As development professionals, USAID alumni have much experience to draw upon as we think through where we go from here. Thus, this panel is designed to stimulate discussion at the AGM on how best to address such issues over the next five years. The following are examples of the topics to be discussed:

- The availability of concessional aid – not just in the US - is declining, and much of what is available will be focused on humanitarian needs, including disaster relief. Can such aid be linked more directly to development outcomes – e.g., local capacity building?
- How do private philanthropic organizations fit into the future. They have been enormously successful in accelerating progress in disease control, for example. As donor funds shrink, can they step into the breach or help leverage other types of funding?
- Can we move toward a more integrated and expansive investment model, using private as well as public resources to integrate development with trade and investment policy? What new instruments and institutions are needed?
- Private investment flows and mobilization of developing country domestic resources will be even more important as ODA declines. How can we overcome the traditional obstacles to attracting and focusing private investment most effectively?

- Will MDBs, in greater cooperation with one another, be able to take on the much larger role expected of them, including by greater leveraging of their resources and assuming a greater leadership role?
- Can public support in donor nations be strengthened so that ODA, this essential – albeit declining – resource, is protected and fostered?
- Perhaps most importantly, can we expect that the poorest developing countries will be able to undertake the governmental reforms needed for them to take responsibility for their own development, in concert with outside support?
- Panel members should provide a window into some of most important considerations: a) a developing country viewpoint; b) learning from foreign assistance strengths and weaknesses in addressing global issues; c) how international cooperation can be fostered more effectively; d) mobilizing geopolitical forces for change; e) influencing the use of private sector and philanthropic resources for maximum impact; and f) building support from the American public for development cooperation.