

Development Issues Committee
Foreign Assistance 2.0
Virtual Discussion on
Policy Coherence and the 1993 Wharton Report - Buried Treasure/Reinventing the Wheel
Tuesday May 26th, 2026 12 noon EDT to 1:30 pm

On Tuesday, May 26th, from 12noon to 1:30pm EDT, the Development Issues Committee is pleased to present Mike Crosswell on “Policy Coherence and the 1993 Wharton Report – Buried Treasure/Reinventing the Wheel” (July 2019 draft, updated March 2026.)

Foreign engagement through assistance is so vital to the national interests of the USA that inevitably a demand will emerge on revitalizing international leadership through among other initiatives, assistance institutions and programs. The demise of USAID has not altered the need for international engagement.

A comprehensive discussion on foreign assistance is essential to ensure that the American Public clearly understands and supports foreign assistance 2.0. That understanding will be enhanced and support will be strengthened by the experience and expertise of practitioners.

This is the UAA’s comparative advantage, to provide a practitioner’s perspective on what may be termed best practice for the next iteration of foreign assistance.

We will feature Mike’s presentation, a discussant’s remarks and Questions/ Discussions.

Mike Crosswell is a retired USAID officer who served from 1977 to 2016.

Mike’s distinguished career includes serving as a Senior Economist and Policy Advisor in USAID’s Policy Office (2010–2016) and as a policy analyst in the Office of Foreign Assistance (F) from 2006 to 2010. He previously held the role of Chief Economist in USAID’s Policy Bureau (PPC), served as lead policy advisor from 1993 to 2001, and worked in the early 1990s on trade, aid policy, and the agency’s post-Cold War mission. He served as USAID’s Chief Economist for Asia/Near East for nearly a decade.

Prior to his career at USAID, Mike served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Venezuela and earned a Ph.D. in economics from Northwestern University, specializing in trade and development. In retirement, he has continued to write on fragility, growth performance, and the development landscape. Since 2018, his work has focused on USAID’s history regarding policy and strategy.

Further details are available in his oral history, which can be accessed via the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training (ADST).