

**AMBASSADOR PATRICIA HASLACH, DEPUTY COORDINATOR FOR
DIPLOMACY, TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES SUB-COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND OVERSIGHT AND THE SUB-
COMMITTEE ON AFRICA AND GLOBAL HEALTH
WASHINGTON, D.C.
TUESDAY, July 20, 2010**

Chairmen Carnahan and Payne, Ranking Members Rohrabacher and Smith, and Members of the Committees: thank you for this opportunity to speak with you about Feed the Future, the Administration's global hunger and food security initiative. Ambassador Garvelink and I began our work as Deputy Coordinators this past May. As the Deputy Coordinator for Diplomacy, I oversee donor coordination, as well as engagement with bilateral and multilateral partners and International Organizations.

Let me begin by providing some background for Feed the Future. President Obama, Secretary Clinton, and Administrator Shah have articulated a new vision for development for the United States – one that embraces development as a strategic, economic, and moral imperative that is as central as diplomacy and defense to solving global problems and advancing America's national security. The strategy for Feed the Future exemplifies this new vision for development. It starts with the recognition that food security is not just about food, but it is also about security—national security, economic security, environmental security, and human security. In addition to alleviating instability fueled by hunger and desperation, investing in farmers, especially women, can lead to greater economic growth and prosperity for all. At the same time, by creating vibrant markets, our efforts benefit American companies and other enterprises seeking customers and investment opportunities abroad.

President Obama's pledge in L'Aquila, Italy, in July 2009 of at least \$3.5 billion for agricultural development and food security over three years already has helped to leverage and align more than \$18.5 billion from other donors in support of a common approach to achieve sustainable food security. Since that time, 193 countries have endorsed this common set of principles – now called the Rome Principles – in a collective effort to combat the reality of global hunger and food insecurity.

The Rome Principles are the basis of our Initiative and guide both our diplomatic and our development work. We commit to:

- Invest in country owned-plans focusing on results-based programs;
- Strengthen strategic coordination among key stakeholders;
- Ensure a comprehensive approach;
- Leverage the benefits of multilateral institutions; and
- Deliver on sustained and accountable commitments.

By investing according to the Rome Principles, based on our preliminary analysis, L'Aquila donors' pledges of a combined \$22 billion can increase significantly the incomes of at least 40 million people, including 13 million people living in extreme poverty on less than \$1.25 per day. Our diplomatic efforts are critical to transforming this promise into a reality. Today, I will focus on three of the main diplomatic components of Feed the Future: donor accountability, donor coordination, and whole-of-government action.

In the year since global leaders at L'Aquila announced their renewed commitment to agricultural development and food security, we have made significant progress in holding donors accountable. Our Ambassadors and embassy staff are reaching out regularly to encourage donors to fulfill their financial pledges and commitment to the Rome Principles. We also participated in the G8 Accountability Report, issued at the G8 Summit in Muskoka a few weeks ago, which includes a description of donor pledges made at L'Aquila. The Report highlights the collective action that we and other donors have taken since L'Aquila, including increased financial commitments to food security through both bilateral and multilateral mechanisms. Countries including the United States, Australia, Spain and Canada committed significant proportions of additional funds to food security. The Report also illustrates the limited capacity of some countries to commit new resources, highlighting the critical importance of strategic coordination to achieve greater efficiency and greater impact. Perhaps most importantly, our work around accountability emphasizes that this is not a just U.S. initiative, but rather a global initiative. Other countries recognize that it is in our collective interest to tackle the root causes of hunger and poverty. With other donor countries and development partners, we are making shared investments in our future.

Beyond donor accountability, we have increased donor coordination – at country, regional and global levels. At the country level, where the rubber hits the road, we have increased coordination through participating in the development of rigorous country-owned investment plans for increased agricultural growth and food security. Consistent with the Rome Principles, developing countries have initiated inclusive multi-stakeholder processes to develop comprehensive national agricultural and food security investment plans. Not only are these country-owned and evidence-based plans, they provide a coordination mechanism for all stakeholders to organize and align existing and new investments in support of them. These plans improve coordination efforts and maximize synergies among governments, development partners, civil society and the private sector.

In Africa, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) has played the leading role in the investment plan process. This past June, Ambassador Garvelink and I traveled to participate in one of the high level CAADP events where twelve African countries and the regional body Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) presented their country investment plans. The meeting in Dakar, Senegal, and co-hosted by Spain and ECOWAS, had high level participation from 13 development partner nations, dozens of institutions (including the Rome-based agencies), the multilateral development banks, and representatives from civil society and the private sector. In the plenary sessions and in bilateral meetings with countries such as Canada, UK, the EU and others, it was clear that the donor community is committed to coordinating and increasing transparency through the investment plan process.

In Asia, the U.S. provided critical support to the development of a country plan in Bangladesh, where over 40 percent of children suffer from chronic undernutrition, and where undernutrition causes two out of every three child deaths. At a high-level meeting this May, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh endorsed increased coordination among stakeholders around the challenge of reducing hunger and spurring agriculture-led growth. I recently returned from a forum in Manila where representatives from Asian governments and organizations listened to Bangladesh's experience and discussed building momentum in the region. Donors, including Australia and the Asian Development Bank, expressed commitment to accelerating our efforts and coordination in Asia, where the greatest number of hungry people live.

At the global level, we have worked with G-20 countries, the World Bank, other multilateral organizations and civil society organizations to establish the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP). This multilateral fund will help millions of poor farmers grow more and earn more so they can lift themselves out of hunger and poverty. In less than a year since the G-20 Leaders called for this fund at the Pittsburgh Summit, it is already operational and making high impact investments in poor countries. The USG pledge of \$475 million has mobilized pledges and contributions totaling \$880 million from a variety of governments as well as private foundations. The GAFSP recently awarded \$224 million in grants to support the technically-reviewed country investment plans of five low-income countries – Bangladesh, Haiti, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Togo. These grants will help countries increase the use of improved seed varieties and fertilizer, strengthen irrigation and water management, and improve the road networks that farmers use to transport their crops to market. A key element of our multi-year strategy is to continue U.S. investments in the GAFSP to leverage additional donor support from other partners.

Finally, I would like to highlight how whole-of government action is integral to Feed the Future. In his April testimony to Congress, Deputy Secretary Lew discussed how an expansive whole-of-government approach can significantly increase the impact of our programs. We have a working committee from State, USAID, USDA, MCC, Treasury, Peace Corps, and others in our regular meetings. The members of the interagency team bring their expertise to bear on our shared task of sustainably reducing poverty and hunger. For example, we are drawing on USDA's experience and expertise in agricultural statistics to help establish baselines for our work in several countries. We are working with MCC to identify places where our programs can build on their existing investments in infrastructure and land tenure.

Our efforts also benefit from a strong commitment at the cabinet level, including Secretaries Clinton, Vilsack and Geithner and Administrator Shah. All have put concrete actions behind their words of encouragement and support. Secretary Geithner's leadership was crucial for the establishment of the multi-donor trust fund, and Secretary Vilsack has been a strong advocate for a robust research agenda and has offered crucial staff and other resources to implement this Initiative. Secretary Clinton and Administrator Shah have spoken out repeatedly about how food security is at the heart of our efforts to elevate development as a pillar of our foreign policy, and have stressed with their foreign counterparts the importance of creating a policy environment that supports investment in agriculture. The work already underway through Feed the Future demonstrates our new vision for development.

This September, leaders from around the world will gather to assess our progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to chart a path to accelerate our progress toward meeting them. To highlight our leadership and commitment, Secretary Clinton and her Irish counterpart will host an event during the Millennium Development Goals Review Summit that highlights the connections between agriculture, nutrition and food security. Feed the Future, and the global initiative it supports, contributes to the first MDG of halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. If we continue our efforts to ensure mutual accountability and coordination, we can achieve sustainable progress toward a more prosperous and stable world.