



# Millennium Challenge Corporation

Reducing Poverty Through Growth

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **The Millennium Challenge Corporation Identifies Candidate Countries for FY05**

Washington, DC – Today, the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) identified seventy “candidate countries” for Fiscal Year 2005. Under MCC’s legislation, this is the first step in the process of choosing the countries that will be eligible for MCA assistance. The Board will subsequently determine which of these “candidate countries” will be eligible to apply for assistance based on their relative performance in ruling justly, investing in people, and encouraging economic freedom.

The Millennium Challenge Corporation Act provides that during FY 2005, countries are candidates for the MCA if they have a per capita income equal to or less than the historic ceiling of the International Development Association of \$1465 and are eligible to receive United States economic assistance under Part 1 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

“Today’s action by the MCC Board is another step forward in achieving MCC’s objectives of promoting good policy environments, economic development, and poverty reduction in the world’s poorest countries,” said MCC CEO Paul Applegarth.

The candidate countries include: Afghanistan, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, China, Comoros, Dem. Rep. of Congo, Rep. of Congo (Brazzaville), Djibouti, Arab Rep. of Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Rep. of Yemen, and Zambia.

MCC, a government corporation designed to work with some of the poorest countries in the world, is based on the principle that aid is most effective when it reinforces sound political, economic, and social policies that promote poverty reduction through economic growth.

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