Reforms to U.S. foreign assistance should be conducted jointly by Congress and the Administration, in consultation with the development community—and guided by these principles, a comprehensive review of U.S. efforts, and a coherent Global Development Strategy.

Foreign assistance is vital to advancing U.S. interests — promoting security, economic opportunity, and our moral values — by helping to protect human dignity and ensure that countries can meet the needs of their people.

**Structural Requirements**

The following features are critical to making U.S. development more effective, efficient, and accountable:

- An independent lead agency. The U.S. should have an independent lead agency that is headed by a Cabinet-rank official. It should be exclusively focused on global development and humanitarian response for the U.S. Government.

- Strong policy, planning, and budget authority. The lead agency should be empowered to craft its own policy, planning, and field-based analysis to support long-lasting economic growth and development.

- Accountable, transparent, and efficient functions. All agencies should have the capacity to evaluate programs, the flexibility to reduce duplication when needed, and the ability to reinforce success by scaling up best practices.

- Selective and focused presence. Aid should be focused on countries where the greatest need and where aid can do the most good. As conditions in countries change, the nature of our assistance and field presence should change with it.

- Sufficient resources. Sufficient resources should be allocated for technical, sector, and geographic programs, the flexibility to reduce duplication when needed, and the ability to reinforce success by scaling up best practices.

**Principles of U.S. Foreign Assistance**

To maximize effectiveness and efficiency, U.S. foreign assistance should be carried out by agencies that follow these basic principles:

1. Foreign assistance structures should uphold diplomacy and development as distinct but equal.
2. Foreign assistance should help create the conditions under which it is no longer necessary.
3. Foreign assistance should be focused on countries where the need is greatest or where it can have the most impact.
4. Foreign assistance should be transparent and accountable to American taxpayers and local stakeholders.
5. Foreign assistance should tap the best practices in development across the U.S. Government and international partners.

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