

Development and Peacebuilding: Reforming the Foreign Assistance Act Tuesday,
December 8, 2009 || 9:00AM – 10:30AM

The Foreign Assistance Act (FAA) is up for reform for the first time in its 48-year history. While the link between conflict and underdevelopment has become more apparent in recent years, the act, which created the US Agency for International Development, currently lacks any language that relates to the prevention and resolution of conflict. Many in the development and conflict resolution fields consider FAA reform an opportunity to address this lack, and create a more holistic, long-term global development effort. This forum will explore how best to capitalize on this opportunity, and how the peacebuilding community can contribute to creating a more effective US aid strategy. To what extent can we account for the integral relationship between peacebuilding and development in the new FAA?

* This forum will follow [Chatham House Rule](#) *

MODERATOR

SANDRA MELONE – Vice President, Search for Common Ground

Sandra Melone is Executive Vice President at Search for Common Ground, having served the organization in numerous capacities since 1995. Before coming to SFCG, she worked in human rights advocacy with Amnesty International and in international education. Sandra has given numerous presentations and led workshops on conflict prevention, resolution and transformation, mediation, negotiation, consensus-building, facilitation and cross-cultural communication. She has appeared on CNN, BBC, and Voice of America and has written articles on the media and conflict resolution; the role NGOs can play in the field of Track II diplomacy and reconciliation; and the complementarities of governmental, non-governmental, intergovernmental and private sector initiatives. She is a founding member of the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation (EPCPT) and of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO). She has served on the Board of the Fédération des Associations Internationales en Belgique (FAIB); and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP), where she currently serves as Board Vice Chair and head of the Membership Committee. She studied at the University of Chicago and Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich.

SPEAKERS

DIANA OHLBAUM – Senior Professional Staff Member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Diana Ohlbaum is a Senior Professional Staff Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which is chaired by Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA/28). Her responsibilities include foreign aid reform and oversight of all foreign assistance agencies, budgets and programs. From 1984-1999 and 2004-2006, she served as a foreign policy advisor to Senator Paul S. Sarbanes (D-MD) and as Democratic Staff Director of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on International Economic Policy, Trade, Oceans and Environment. In that capacity, she played a central role in efforts to rewrite the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and helped to preserve USAID as an independent agency. Dr. Ohlbaum served as Deputy Director of USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives from 1999-2001, Director of Public Policy for InterAction from 2001-2002, and an independent consultant on sustainable development, humanitarian relief and conflict prevention from 2002-2004. She holds a B.A. in Russian from Amherst College and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Johns Hopkins University.

BRIDGET MOIX -- Legislative Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Bridget leads the Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict program, which focuses on building US diplomatic and development capacities to better prevent war and supporting international peacebuilding through the United Nations. The program also addresses specific conflicts, such as the crisis in Darfur, through a prevention lens. Bridget has worked for over twelve years on peace and conflict issues within the United States and international policy arenas. She began her career with FCNL as an intern in 1996 and worked as a Legislative Secretary from 2002-2006. She returned to FCNL in September 2008. Previously she worked with Oxfam America as a policy advisor on Sudan (2005), the Quaker United Nations Office in New York under a New Voices fellowship (2000-2002), the World Policy Institute's Arms Trade Resource Center (1998-2000), and the Quaker Peace Center in Cape Town, South Africa (1999). She recently returned to

Washington, DC after spending over two years in Mexico City where she directed the Casa de los Amigos, a small Quaker peace and hospitality center.

SUSAN REICHLER – Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator, USAID’s Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance

Susan Reichle (DAA/DCHA) assumed her current position in September 2009. DCHA includes 8 operational offices and manages more than \$2.6 billion worldwide with a staff of 500 experts based in Washington. Ms. Reichle is a career Senior Foreign Service officer who joined the USAID in 1991. She served in Haiti, Nicaragua and Russia as a democracy officer specializing in conflict and transition issues and just completed an assignment as the Mission Director at the US Embassy in Colombia. Immediately prior to going to Colombia four years ago, she was the Deputy Coordinator in the Department of State’s newly created Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization (S/CRS). In June 2004, Ms. Reichle was selected as a distinguished graduate of the National War College at the National Defense University. She also received the Colonel William R. Higgins Award for writing “*Lessons Learned from*

ABOUT THIS FORUM

Since 1999, the Conflict Prevention and Resolution Forum (CPRF) has provided a monthly platform in Washington for highlighting innovative and constructive methods of conflict resolution. CPRF’s goals are to (1) provide information from a wide variety of perspectives; (2) explore possible solutions to complex conflicts; and (3) provide a secure venue for stakeholders from various disciplines to engage in cross-sector and multi-track problem-solving. The CPRF is co-sponsored by a consortium of organizations that specialize in conflict resolution and/or public policy formulation.

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