



SEATTLE  
INITIATIVE FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

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Contact: Karen Kirchgasser  
202/338-8700  
202/549-6847 (cell)

Lee Keller  
206/799-3805 (cell)

**SEATTLE INITIATIVE FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS NEW VOICE FOR  
ADDRESSING GLOBAL POVERTY  
*National Effort to Build Support for New Global Development Strategy Launched***

(Washington, D.C.) The Seattle Initiative for Global Development today announced a national effort to engage business and civic leaders in the cause of eliminating extreme global poverty and issued a call for increased U.S. leadership and investments in economic growth and human development in the world's poorest countries.

“Eliminating extreme global poverty is the most effective way to address the gravest challenges facing the world at present – from HIV/AIDS to terrorism, from environmental degradation to regional instability,” said former U.S. Senator and Seattle Initiative Co-Founder Dan Evans. “Its elimination is the single most important step we can take in realizing a better future for the United States and the world.”

The Seattle Initiative, founded by Evans, Bill Gates, Sr., former EPA Administrator Bill Ruckelshaus, and CEO of Global Partnerships Bill Clapp and supported by many members including former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John Shalikashvili, will undertake a range of organizing and educational activities that will engage business and civic leaders along with national policymakers in the debate, discussion and development of a new global development policy. Through their campaign, they will build public support and create public will for a new global development strategy.

“Long-term peace in the world is ultimately and completely dependent on eliminating global poverty,” Gates said. “We need to start a real discussion in the United States about the elimination of global poverty. It is not going to happen unless people who live here decide that it needs to happen.”

To guide the discussion, the Seattle Initiative released its policy brief – *Building a Better World: A New Global Development Strategy to End Extreme Poverty* – that offers a case for why the private sector voice should support poverty elimination and why our nation's leaders should make global development a national priority.

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“The private sector has an enormous stake in a peaceful, stable global future and we have a role to play in making that happen,” said Ruckelshaus. “While some might think that ending extreme poverty is a pie in the sky dream, it is actually a very practical objective that can be accomplished faster and for far less cost than one would expect.”

Central to a new global development strategy is the role of U.S. leadership in several key areas in the developing world. They are: investing in people through improved health, better education, and enhanced economic opportunity; investing in countries by supporting good governance and open political and economic systems; making markets work by opening the global marketplace to poor countries and poor people; and encouraging new initiatives that incorporate innovative approaches and public-private partnerships.

“Our central premise is that without U.S. leadership on global development issues, half of the world’s population is locked out of earning a decent living and enjoying basic health care and education,” Clapp said. “Instability, poverty, and violence are the enemies of prosperity and security. And, as a nation, we should care, not only because it’s the right thing to do but because it’s in our own security and economic interest to do so.”

In a series of meetings with members of Congress and administration officials including National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, the Seattle Initiative is calling for the United States to pledge a fair share of the additional \$40-60 billion per year that is estimated to be needed from donor nations to really reduce global poverty. They suggest the United States could begin the leadership role by pledging an additional \$20 billion annually, which would be a more proportionate share of the world economy. Currently, the United States commitment to development is approximately \$10 billion annually.

The Seattle Initiative was established in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, when a group of influential Northwest business and civic leaders joined together to look at the role of the United States in the world and how it might address its most critical challenges. After meeting with leading voices and authorities in the field of international development over the course of the following year they concluded that eliminating extreme global poverty is the most effective way to address the world’s challenges.

“We may not, by ourselves, in this one small group in this one city, bring an end to global poverty but we could be the match that lights the torch that ultimately accomplishes that end,” Evans said.

For more information on the Seattle Initiative for Global Development or to download a copy of the policy brief, *Building a Better World: A New Global Development Strategy to End Extreme Poverty*, visit the Seattle Initiative for Global Development Web site at [www.seattleinitiative.org](http://www.seattleinitiative.org)