

Global Development through Aid, Partnerships, Trade and Education: Recommendations from Global Washington

'Washington has important things to say about development and I am going to make sure that the other Washington listens.'

– Senator Maria Cantwell

'We really do want to be a laboratory, if you will, ... about how you can work together and effectively make sure that by working together the impact is greater than it would be, that the sum is greater than the parts.'

– Scott Jackson, PATH

On Tuesday, July 6, 2010, more than 400 people gathered in Seattle University's Pigott Auditorium to celebrate the launch of Global Washington's latest policy paper: ***Global Development through Aid, Partnerships, Trade and Education: Recommendations from Global Washington***. Prepared in response to a request from Washington State Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray and based on a series of policy dialogues with 45 local development experts, the paper provides specific recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of US foreign assistance based on the principles of 1) transparency and accountability, 2) consolidation and coordination, 3) local ownership and 4) aid targeting to reduce poverty in communities most in need.

The concern: An antiquated, fragmented foreign aid system, currently pursuing 33 objectives, 75 priorities and 247 directives, implemented through 28 government entities, often working at cross-purposes with US trade and other policies, and ill equipped to adequately meet the food, health, sanitation and education needs of the more than 1.4 billion people worldwide living in poverty.

The core recommendations:

- Develop a national global development strategy designed to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals
- Align trade and energy policy with development goals, including expanded access for developing countries to the US market and enhanced trade capacity building assistance
- Streamline the process for partnering with the US government to promote public-private partnerships
- Support policies that promote study abroad, international research collaboration and language learning

As noted by Global Washington Founder and Board President Bill Clapp, what makes this policy paper unique is the engagement of a diverse set of stakeholders from business, nonprofit, government, foundation and academic sectors in developing these cross-cutting recommendations that explicitly link aid, trade and education policy in ways previously not articulated. The panel, who shared highlights of the

policy recommendations, reflected Global Washington's broad-based collaboration: Jennifer Potter, President and CEO of the Initiative for Global Development, Steve Crane, President of Crane International Inc., Stephen Hanson, Vice Provost of Global Affairs at the University of Washington, and Scott Jackson, Vice President of External Relations at PATH.

Praise for the report & its recommendations

Seattle University President Stephen Sunborg, S.J. opened the event with welcoming remarks, reminding the audience of the international community residing just steps away from the university campus. Then featured speaker Senator Maria Cantwell took to the podium, commending Global Washington and its member organizations for their leadership on global development: 'I think the recommendations that you've made... are exactly the kind of accountability... that we need to have at the national level.' She emphasized the importance of foreign assistance and the need for action:

*'There are important issues here that you address from water scarcity, to sanitation, to global health, to food security, to poverty, to education, to maternal and child health, and **these are some of the most basic and life sustaining issues that demand the involvement as us as a nation** and certainly involve us here in Washington State.'*

Cantwell committed to sharing the report with President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah and her colleagues in the US Senate, and encouraging other Congressional leaders to share the report with their own constituencies across the country 'so that we can develop a real grassroots debate in our country about how our foreign aid and assistance policy should change.'

Following Cantwell's remarks, Bill Clapp moderated a half hour panel discussion with Global Washington policy dialogue working group members and Dr. Maura O'Neill, Senior Counselor to the USAID Administrator for Innovation, who remarked: 'I'm just struck by what deep expertise both across the public and private sector around global issues there are in Washington State and the need to continue to build that super highway between Washington DC and here so that we can iterate some of these ideas.'

The event concluded with questions from the audience regarding the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals, incorporating environmental and cultural sustainability into US trade goals, and the Administration's new Feed the Future initiative to enhance food security in the world's poorest regions.

Washington State is home to:

- The most diverse zip code in the country (98118), where 59 languages are spoken, according to the Census Bureau
- Nearly 200 nonprofits working on global development issues in 144 countries
- Highest proportion of Peace Corps volunteers
- Largest per capita exporter, making Washington the most trade dependent state in the country

*"In Washington, **this** Washington, we innovate. We develop new, cutting edge technologies and solutions and we have passionate people and generous donors."*

– Senator Maria Cantwell



Growing momentum and widespread support for global development

Within twenty-four hours of the policy paper launch, news of event had been syndicated more than 67 times by outlet websites including **FOX Business News, Puget Sound Business Journal, Kaiser Family Foundation Daily Global Health Report**, and two articles in the **Seattle Times**.

The enthusiasm at the event reflects strong national support for US foreign assistance to improve global development:

- 64% think the US government should make **efforts to improve health for people in developing countries**, with 80% are in favor of US government support for research on diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis and 77% support improving the health of mothers and children in poor countries
- 61% support **giving aid through international efforts** rather than the US acting alone¹
- 65% say the US government should be willing to commit **0.7% of the US GDP** to reducing poverty and disease and promoting economic development, especially in Africa²
- 71% think the US government should be willing to give \$50 a year per taxpaying household to achieve the **Millennium Development Goals**²

"The time is now. There's never been a more optimal time for advocates across the country and in Washington State to get involved in this dialogue, to weigh in, to let our voices be heard, both on the Hill with our representatives but also with the Administration, and I encourage everyone to get involved with this very important movement."

– Jennifer Potter, Initiative for Global Development

'US spending on foreign aid amounts to less than 1% of our federal budget, ...we know that we can do better, and we know that we can do more.'

– Senator Maria Cantwell

Become involved!

To learn more, a copy of the full policy paper, *Global Development through Aid, Partnerships, Trade and Education: Recommendations from Global Washington* is available on Global Washington's website:

<http://globalwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Global-Development-through-Aid-Trade-and-Education.pdf>

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For more information on becoming a member, contact **info@globalwa.org**

1 World Public Opinion. American Public Opinion and Global Health. May 20, 2009: http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/pdf/may09/WPO_IOM_May09_rpt.pdf

2 The PIPA/Knowledge Networks Poll. Americans on Addressing World Poverty. June 30, 2005: http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/pdf/jun05/WorldPoverty_Jun05_rpt.pdf

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