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**MILLENNIUM PROJECT HUNGER TASK FORCE: LAUNCH OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup>  
CENTURY UNIQUELY AFRICAN GREEN REVOLUTION**

**Mr. Tiffin Harris**

President  
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Thank you very much, Dr. Swaminathan. I must say it's a great honor to share this podium with you and to be a part of this proceedings. Des Moines is my hometown, and to see it transformed this way into a center of excellence, if you will, for the fight for food security in the world is really quite heart-warming for me.

I'm here actually representing the Millennium Development Goals Technical Support Center, which was recently formed in June of this year in Nairobi, Kenya, under the auspices of the Millennium Project and the Earth Institute at Columbia University. It's directed by Dr. Glen Denning who has as a passion in his life the scaling up of technologies that work in order to achieve impact on the ground in Africa and elsewhere.

The purpose of the Center is to advise and guide governments and technical agencies in the development of strategies for reducing poverty and hunger and to develop action plans for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. We're initially focused on five countries in Africa: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

The first major initiative of the Center was to help facilitate, if you will, a major seminar, high-level seminar, presidential level, in early July. There were over 500 participants, seven heads of states from Africa. A large number of ministers, world-class scientists and development specialists were present, as were a number of representatives from the donor community.

One of the key outcomes from that particular seminar was a presentation by Kofi Annan, Secretary General to the United Nations, in which he called all of us to action. I would encourage strongly that you pick up a copy of his presentation out here at the resource desk because he summarizes quite succinctly the key issues that are facing Africa and what needs to happen, both in terms of political breakthroughs and in terms of technical activities in order to achieve Africa's own Green Revolution.

Now, it's my responsibility here to, I think, bring things from the general down to the specific. Dr. Swaminathan talked about walking the talk, and we have a short video here that is very much focused on just that, walking the talk. It is a video that was produced with the

Ministry of Health in Ghana, and I want to just quote from the introduction that she gave when she presented this, just to drive home the point and try and personalize this a little bit.

She said that “In Sub-Saharan Africa, as in most parts of the world, the vulnerable groups most affected by hunger are women, especially those who are pregnant or lactating, and children under the age of five. In Sub-Saharan Africa more than 40 million children are severely stunted for their ages, and this stunting affects both their physical and mental development. Within the next sixty seconds,” she said, “11 children under the age of five will die from hunger-related causes. And by the time I finish this short presentation” (which was 15 minutes for her), “165 children will have died as a result of hunger. Now, that’s roughly equivalent to about half of the number of people in this room losing a child to hunger in a 15-minute period. That’s unconscionable in today’s world. Being severely underweight,” she went on, “is the leading cause globally of human mortality and morbidity and impacts on both the quality of life and economic development of any society.” Being a Ghanan, she went to Ghana for her example here, and she said that, “In Ghana an initiative that directly links local food production with local school lunch feeding programs is proving to be very successful. The learning ability of the children in the program is being dramatically improved, and demand for local food production is considerably enhanced.”

Again, this is an example of walking the talk. It’s one of the recommendations that’s come out of the Hunger Task Force that was referred to by Dr. Swaminathan, and we have a short video now that I’d like to show you that will give you an insight into what’s happening in one village. And keep in mind that this is only one village. This needs to be scaled up to hundreds of thousands of villages across Africa.

[VIDEO]