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## **DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE: WHAT CAN IT DO TO HELP?**

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I think it's probably important I mention that I happen to be the chair of the Biofortification group. I see a number of my colleagues. We've got a group of folks funded by Gates, the World Bank and USAID that are driving a whole set of issues. We love to see the biofortification word up there. More about that later.

As I listened to the presentations today, which are outstanding, I thought to myself, let me step back and see if there's some key lessons that we can pick up from the last 40, 50 years – because we've learned a lot. We shouldn't forget the progress, for example, that's occurred in Asia and Latin America we talked about in terms of food but more broadly. We haven't had the progress in Africa certainly that we need, but there are some lessons that I think are in the context of the more technical issues that have been discussed. Let me list very briefly what I think are ten key lessons.

One: That the individual's ambition, willingness to work for themselves and their families, is the fundamental resource, power to bring change. And what folks like us do is try to figure out how to get things out of the way, or in some way or the other, giving capacity.

Two: We know that economic reforms, changes, fiscal monetary policies, rule of law – the work that Hernando Desoto has done is just excellent – all these things really are important. They may be adapted differently here and there, lots of disputes, but frankly, almost all serious people who have dug into this know that you've got to have fundamentally sound economic policies.

Third: That training and education and institutions that people fit into, is so powerful. Ted Schultz a generation ago, more than that, did that wonderful work that laid all this out. We know this, and we just never can forget it. It tends to be long term. It's not always to get funding for, but people do matter is the core.

A fourth lesson, and we've seen so much of this, this morning: Technology. When you look at history – don't just look over the last twenty, thirty, forty years – when you look over hundreds of years, change in technology has been more often than not a significant reason for

changes in civilization. It is a lesson that we can't forget. We talked about biotech, Green Revolution, those things I obviously think, soil fertility, are important. So too is the malaria vaccine. We've got to get a malaria vaccine. Technology, a key driver. Money needs to go in there.

Fifth: We know that physical infrastructure, whether it be roads, information technology, those are key things. Norman Borlaug was talking last night to me, as he was a group of people, about how – and we mentioned this morning – if you don't have the roads to the rural area, it's hard to make it work. If you don't have electricity – how many of us have been in little villages one time, and then five years later after the electricity was in, have gone back in, or a road into the place. It's just a whole different world.

Sixth lesson: There has to be a long-term view. In Africa, if we're not careful, the emergencies drive out the long-term effort. The transfer of goods and services, that's the short term. Now, we all know the lesson – we teach how to fish, not to give fish – but it's not easy to always remember it. But it's a key lesson.

Seventh lesson: You've got to have political stability and security. I liked the point made earlier today that there's a threshold. It's not an incremental thing. You've got to get to a threshold point.

Eighth lesson: Agriculture production where there's a significant rural population must be part of the equation, and it's surprising how we have to learn that lesson almost every generation again. Those of us who have been in this business, we've seen it, and frankly we've fallen away from it in Africa in the last 15, 20 years, at least the donor community has. We know – there's lots of studies now – that show when a farmer, man, woman, produces more, they eat some of it and they sell some of it, and the proceeds from those sales are a multiplier effect. That is a well-documented fact these days. You have the sustained increases of production. A lot can be said about what happened to China about those increases of production that began in the seventies.

Ninth lesson: It's going to cost money. And it's going to cost not just donor money but allocations within a country, and savings, domestic savings within countries. This costs money. Think of it as three components: donors, the government allocations, and policies that generate domestic activity.

And the last lesson is: You just need to get at it. I mean, as I step back and had the pleasure of working with these things all these decades, it seems to me those are the lessons. We know them, and there's wonderful people that are willing to work hard at this, and we just can't forget them.

Now, my last set of comments, which will be brief is: We've had these successes around the world. Where we haven't had the success is in Africa. It's a whole separate speech as to why, but it would be an aberration if we couldn't do in Africa, if the Africans with our help, couldn't do in Africa what's happened in Latin America and in Asia. There are still problems there, of course, but we've got to do this in Africa.

It must have a significant food or agricultural production and rural income component. Two-thirds of the population of Africa live in rural areas, so it must have that. And I have with me for very brief comments here – there ought to be more, but our schedule is so tight –  
Ambassador Abdoulaye Diop.

**Ambassador Abdoulaye Diop**  
**Embassy of Mali**

Good morning, everyone. I apologize. I don't speak English very well. And I think that I come first to this conference to learn, and I was not supposed to give a lecture this morning. I think I have learned a lot. I think everything about the agriculture, how to cut hunger and poverty in Africa have been said from different lectures this morning. I think that Professor McPherson gave us also some lessons that we must learn. We must keep this lesson.

I just want to insist on two or three key elements that are the most important things from our point of view. He insisted on the point which is the partnership. I think that a partnership is very, very critical to address the development issues in Africa. Assistance is critical, but the most important thing is the partnership. The partnership means that both sides should bring something on the table, and it should be not only between the governments, but we should include the private sector, the civil society, the development community, but all the partners.

The one thing that I want to insist on, on the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa is – in the previous decades we saw that it was some kind of mistrust between the governments, especially African government and the development community, the NGOs mainly. With this partnership we have the linkage between the civil society and the African government to insist on what should be the ownership. I think that the ownership is something critical because the African government or the government in general should be the engine for the development to try to get all the energy in the society to achieve our goals. That is really something, but the government cannot do all the things. We have to relate to the other partner, because the political environment in Africa has changed now. We have a government who speaks to the civil society. The government can try to energize all the energy in the society to talk to a partner to show the way and also to accept the critics, because we are in the democratic system. This is something really very critical from my point of view.

I want also to insist on one key element, is that we cannot solve the agriculture or the hunger problem if we don't have a holistic approach, because we cannot insist literally on the productivity or the production issues. We have to address the problem from the production to the marketing issues. And also we have to insist on the health and education. Dr. Borlaug insisted on it this morning. We have also to have our availability of health and educational services.

We have to also insist on how to build the capacities, how to get all the partners together, because sometimes we are talking only about the development assistance, but that is not all. Today we have to get the private sector in the process. Now to get all this together to have the holistic approach so that we cannot have something missed in the process.

These are only some points I want to make, but I am not expert on the issues. I come to learn first.

Thank you.

**Ambassador Armando Pangune**  
**Ambassador to the United States from Mozambique**

Good morning. Thank you very much. I think that after seeing and listening to presentations by various experts on how Africa can come out of its hunger difficulties, I thought of what I should say. I listened to one specifically who said that the potential is not enough to feed the stomach of the people, which means Africa... reached potential, but those potentials must be developed in order to be useful to the people. This is only possible if, amongst the Africans themselves we are aware of this reality and are ready to work together with their partners from the international cooperation.

But this said, it's not enough. I think that for our international partners, it's also very important to understand the background of the difficulty that the African countries have, which means all the distortions which are inherited from the colonial situation in neglecting education and so on – this is part of the reason why the resources that African people possess, cannot use them for their production. The right to food and the right for all people to have access to adequate food is recognized internationally as the only instrument to get rid of hunger, also has a moral imperative. But this also makes economic sense to eradicate hunger for as long as people are undernourished, they cannot achieve their potential and they will remain with ill health and all other benefits will be compromised.

You know, I speak on behalf of Mozambique, and Mozambique has managed to achieve certain levels of development, and given to the commitment by the leadership – especially by the president of Mozambique, who is part of this Partnership to Cut Hunger And Poverty in Africa by leading his own government to tackle the real issues to fight hunger. And this commitment he has also shown that it is possible to... power by giving up a mandate to which he was entitled to continue. But he thought it was time for him to stay in the background so that he could give a chance to the younger generation with more energy, exercise and skills so that this fight against hunger can be progressing. So that this is the way, this new mentality that he talked about is able to lead us to better progress in fighting hunger.

And I thank you.

**Peter McPherson**

When people say that there's no progress in Africa – and we read all the bleak headlines – here are ambassadors from two countries where there are democratic elections, a willing change of power where people do lead, where there's economic changes, where there's growth. And while they are two excellent examples, there are several others, and we congratulate them. That's the basis of a partnership that, in our view, would make sense.