

TAKE ACTION: PETITION

PICTURE NEW LEADERSHIP ON GLOBAL POVERTY



Dear Presidential Candidate:

Now, more than at any other time in recent history, the moral leadership of the United States depends on a foreign policy agenda that prioritizes ending global poverty and promoting more just relations between wealthy and impoverished countries. The United States has joined with nearly every nation in the world to commit to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to end extreme poverty by 2015.

In order to achieve these goals, the next U.S. president and the new Cabinet can take leadership on global poverty and international debt by:

- **Appointing a Secretary of Treasury who will prioritize global poverty.** The new Treasury Secretary should work within the IMF, World Bank and other international financial institutions leaders to provide full debt cancellation to all the impoverished countries that need it to fight poverty, without harmful economic conditions. The Secretary should also work with international partners to address the issue of odious and unjust debts and to support a new framework for responsible financing in the future.
- **Reforming Foreign Assistance and creating a new cabinet-level Department for Global Development.** This department would bring together all U.S. foreign assistance initiatives from the over twenty government agencies where they currently reside, and coordinate policy with foreign assistance efforts remaining in other departments. Such a department could help to meet the development realities of the 21st century and balance long-term, poverty-focused development with the strategic defense and diplomatic concerns of the Department of Defense and Department of State. Ultimately, this new department should assume responsibility for international debt issues, and oversight over the World Bank and IMF's work on development in impoverished nations.

These commitments represent the kind of bold moral leadership that the U.S., and the world, needs to promote true global prosperity and security in the 21st century. We need a president who understands that fighting global poverty is not only the right thing to do; it is also the smart thing to do. Economic prosperity and opportunity for the poor is the most promising path to political freedom and security, and the most effective way to elevate America's reputation around the world.

Signed:

NAME	EMAIL	ADDRESS	PHONE