

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

between

**THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)**

and

**THE AUSTRALIAN AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AusAID)**

Introduction

1. Australia and the United States have a strong and multi-faceted alliance of long standing based on shared strategic interests and values. Our bilateral relationship and related formal cooperation arrangements already encompass such areas as foreign policy, defence and security, and trade and investment. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is intended to extend our successful collaboration specifically to include international development cooperation.
2. Achieving real progress on international development requires new approaches and new partnerships. By working together at both the strategic and operational levels, AusAID and USAID (the "Participants") can extend the impact and increase the efficiency of their programs – and thus achieve better outcomes.
3. This MOU provides a framework for partnership aimed at helping developing countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals, move toward sustainable and private sector-led growth, reap the benefits of technological change and innovation, and escape conflict and instability.
4. The MOU articulates partnership principles, strategic objectives and priority areas of future collaboration. It capitalises on the commonalities between our objectives and approaches and establishes a basis for ongoing dialogue and cooperation between the Participants.
5. The MOU is not a treaty and is not intended to give rise to rights or obligations under international law.

Partnership Principles

6. The Partnership should be guided by the following principles:
 - a) an emphasis on pursuing cooperation opportunities that are of mutual benefit to the Participants and result in outcomes that could not have been achieved by either party working alone;
 - b) a commitment to create professional relationships characterised by mutual respect, honesty and trust, and a sharing of ideas and open communication at all levels;
 - c) recognition of the depth and range of international development experience that each Participant brings to the partnership;

- d) a commitment to consult on issues of shared interest, and to seek out opportunities for cooperation when working in multilateral forums and in developing countries;
- e) respect for the different mandates, institutional settings, and organisational cultures of each Participant; and
- f) a commitment to pursue best practices in international development policy-making and program delivery.

Strategic Objectives

7. The Participants have the following strategic objectives in common:
- a commitment to accelerated action on global poverty reduction, within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals;
 - a commitment to the promotion of sustainable, private sector-led economic growth;
 - a commitment to build technical and scientific capacity in developing partner countries to address and achieve development goals;
 - a commitment to support research and innovation with respect to key development challenges so as to promote the development of new ideas and mechanisms and the involvement of new actors;
 - a commitment to effective global action on climate change in and by developing countries;
 - a commitment to evidence-based and context-specific approaches to engaging with partner countries;
 - a commitment to building the capacity of developing partner governments to accelerate and sustain the delivery of basic services including health, education, and water and sanitation;
 - a commitment to work together at the country level in ways that minimise the burdens imposed on partner governments and guard against fragmentation of development efforts; and
 - a commitment to robust approaches to performance measurement and accountability for development outcomes.

Priority Areas for Cooperation

8. The Participants intend to work together in pursuit of shared international development priorities where this is in their mutual interests. The specific priorities below are identified as a basis for bilateral dialogue on cooperation opportunities. This list is intended to be indicative rather than exhaustive, and is expected to be modified over time.

	<i>Priority area</i>	<i>Objective</i>
a)	Maternal and child health and family planning	To work together in regions of shared interest, including Southeast Asia and the Pacific, to help the international community achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 4 and 5 by 2015.
b)	Food security and agricultural water management	To work together to improve the coherence of international action on food security consistent with the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative and advocate for efforts to improve agricultural productivity, including through joint support for research and innovation.
c)	Malaria prevention and control	To explore opportunities for collaboration in malaria prevention and control, including in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.
d)	Climate change adaptation and mitigation	To explore opportunities for closer cooperation on global action on climate change, including strategic engagement with emerging economies and collaborative initiatives in specific countries – including Indonesia and the Pacific island countries.
e)	Conflict / post-conflict situations	To explore opportunities for cooperation in Afghanistan, and other conflict/post conflict areas and share experience more generally on conflict / post-conflict issues.
f)	Development cooperation in the Pacific	To explore opportunities for strengthening development coordination and improving development outcomes in the Pacific region consistent with the principles of the Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development

		Cooperation in the Pacific.
g)	Gender	To explore opportunities for collaboration in ensuring equality and empowerment of women and girls and ending violence against women, including in Melanesia.
h)	Education	To pursue an ongoing dialogue on the potential for cooperation on specific initiatives in countries and regions of mutual interest, or at the global level.
i)	Operational level partnerships	To explore opportunities for practical collaboration on programs including delegated cooperation arrangements, jointly funded activities, joint analysis and assessments and complementary engagement strategies.
j)	Performance measurement	To exchange perspectives and operational experiences relevant to strengthening performance measurement and accountability.

9. The Participants plan to commence their enhanced collaboration with a flagship initiative in support of one or more of the priority areas and based on such foundational criteria as: a substantial and measurable development impact; demonstrable additionality; an appropriate degree of geographic specificity; an approximate cost envelope; an indication of likely delivery partners; and a broad delineation of the division of labour that is envisaged between the Participants. Discussions are to focus on four areas in particular:

- agricultural research and innovation to improve food security, with particular attention to opportunities for joint work in sub-Saharan Africa;
- cooperation on stabilisation, reconstruction and development in Afghanistan, including in the province of Oruzgan;
- climate change and natural resource management, with particular attention to opportunities for joint work in Indonesia; and
- maternal and child health and family planning, with particular attention to opportunities for joint work in the Asia-Pacific region and/or sub-Saharan Africa.

Coordination and Implementation

10. The Participants intend to maintain a rolling joint action plan as a tool for management of their partnership. In addition to program-level cooperation, the plan will identify opportunities for joint analysis, staff exchanges or other collaborative working arrangements.
11. The Participants are to each assign responsibility for management of their partnership to a senior officer. For AusAID, responsibility will rest with the Deputy Director General, Sustainable Development and Partnerships Division. For USAID, it will rest with the Director of the Office of Donor Engagement, Bureau of Policy, Planning and Learning.
12. These senior officials are to regularly review the status of cooperation under this MOU, including through an approximately annual high-level dialogue to review achievements and agree on next steps. The Administrator of USAID and the Director General of AusAID intend to seek opportunities to discuss the progress of the partnership at mutually convenient times, such as in the margins of international high-level events at which both are present.
13. AusAID and USAID intend also to pursue closer working relationships at the country level, particularly in countries and regions identified as priorities for collaboration.

Duration

14. This MOU is to come into effect on the date of signature on the two original copies.
15. The MOU may be terminated by one or both of the Participants proposing that the partnership has served its purpose and requesting its discontinuation.

Amendment

16. This MOU may be modified at any time by an exchange of letters between the Participants.

SIGNED:

**The United States Agency for
International Development**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rajiv Shah", written over a horizontal line.

Rajiv Shah

Administrator

Date: 6/10/10

**The Australian Agency for
International Development**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter Baxter", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Baxter

Director General

Date: 10/6/10