

INFORMATION

USAID General Notice  
AA/PPC  
May 22, 1995

**SUBJECT: New Partnerships Initiative**

USAID's New Partnerships Initiative (NPI) was announced by Vice President Al Gore on March 12, 1995 at the Social Summit in Copenhagen. In mid-April, USAID Deputy Administrator Carol Lancaster--who serves as NPI Coordinator--presented the attached draft prospectus for the initiative to the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid (ACVFA).

As described in the attached summary overview and draft prospectus, the goal of NPI is to build local economic, political and social capacity in developing countries so that they may take full responsibility for the sustainability of their development efforts. This goal will be pursued by providing an integrated framework for USAID to work in partnership with diverse public and private sector actors in fostering a supportive enabling environment, as well as building grassroots capacity in three critical areas: NGO empowerment, small business partnership and democratic local governance. Guidance will be issued to the missions shortly regarding the criteria to be used in identifying activities which fit within the NPI framework.

The concepts of participation and partnership underlie the philosophy of NPI and build upon extensive Agency experience. Specific ideas relating to the initiative are being sought from a wide range of nongovernmental partners, other donors, USAID field personnel and USAID/W staff. For example, how can NPI be implemented in a manner that: (1) enhances local capacity; (2) reflects a new partnership arrangement; (3) spurs management reforms even further; and (4) supports USAID's sustainable development objectives?

Currently, an intensive effort is underway to elaborate policy, programs and vehicles for NPI by July 15. Cathryn L. Thorup has been named Deputy Coordinator for the initiative and heads the NPI Steering Committee, which coordinates and integrates the work of the NPI task forces. The task force leaders are: Len Rogers (NGO Empowerment), John Wilkinson (Small Business Partnership), and Larry Garber (Democratic Local Governance).

In keeping with the participatory spirit of NPI, the steering committee and the task forces are comprised of members representing not only USAID but a broad range of development partners. These include U.S. private voluntary organizations, U.S. and local nongovernmental organizations, universities, foundations, small businesses, local officials, and other donors. All members have been asked to express their individual views rather than to take group decisions; decisions will be taken, as appropriate, by the task force and steering committee leaders in conjunction with other USAID officials. A current list of

participants follows the attached draft prospectus.

As part of our efforts to ground-truth this initiative, we are working closely with a number of field missions and are inviting at least one Mission Director per week to meet with the Steering Committee. In addition, we will hold two Public Consultations with our development partners in order to provide an open forum for generating ideas and sharing expertise. The first consultation will be held on Thursday, May 25 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in Room 1408 NS. We urge you to transmit this information to your colleagues both inside and outside the Agency and encourage their participation.

We have included here a summary description of NPI suitable for distribution, the initial draft prospectus (also a public document), and a list of the current participants.

To further facilitate the exchange of information and generation of ideas among a broad array of partners, an electronic discussion group (NPI-NET) has been set up on the Internet. We welcome you to contribute your ideas both through this interactive forum as well as directly to NPI team leaders/task force members.

**Point of Contact:** For additional information on NPI, NPI-NET or the Public Consultations, contact Danielle Roziewski at 202-736-4306, by internal e-mail (Danielle.Roziewski@pol.par@aidw) or external e-mail (droziewski@usaid.gov).