



Millennium Challenge Corporation

Reducing Poverty Through Growth

CEO Paul Applegarth's Remarks at Ambassadorial Reception (As Prepared)

I would like to thank all of you who were able to join us this morning to recognize the countries selected to submit proposals for the Millennium Challenge Account for this fiscal year.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the representatives who were able to be here today from this year's Millennium Challenge Account eligible countries, which are Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Georgia, Ghana, Honduras, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Senegal, Sri Lanka, and Vanuatu

This reception is to honor their countries' continued commitment to wise and just rule, to the health and well-being of their people, and to the promotion of sound economic policies that encourage entrepreneurship and stimulate growth.

We look forward to the opportunity to build partnerships, and to provide support as your countries identify and overcome impediments to growth, and to create together – in the words of our president-- “an ever-widening circle of development.” Development is an important pillar of President Bush's vision of America's relationship with the world, and the Millennium Challenge Account initiative is a key component of the framework of US assistance to emerging countries.

I'd like to welcome the representatives of this year's Threshold Program eligible countries. We encourage these countries to take the opportunity to submit proposals to improve policies that are directly linked to creating an enabling environment for poverty reduction and growth. We look forward to the chance to work together to make that possible.

Shortly, the Secretary of State and our Chairman Colin Powell will join us and make a few remarks. I'll be back to introduce him when he arrives. Immediately following the Secretary's remarks, I would like to ask the Millennium Challenge Account eligible country representatives to assemble for a very quick group photo. In the interim, please enjoy the refreshments.