

Sean Mulvaney
Nominee
for
USAID Assistant Administrator for Management
before the
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
October 30, 2007

Mr. Chairman, ranking member Senator Lugar, and other Senators of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you this afternoon. I respectfully request that my remarks be included in the record.

On July 16, 2007, President Bush nominated me for the position of Assistant Administrator for Management at the U.S. Agency for International Development. I am honored by his confidence in me and am appreciative of the support that has been given me during the nomination process..

At this time, I would like to acknowledge and thank my family for their support. Without their love and encouragement, I would not be here. I would like to recognize my wife, Susan, and our two lovely daughters, Kate and Rachel, as well as my sisters Sue and Lisa, who are all here today. I would also like to thank my mother, Kay Mulvaney, who was unable to attend, and my deceased father, James.

As a former staff member in the House of Representatives, I understand the importance of this hearing and the role it plays in our constitutional process. If confirmed by your committee, I pledge my best in helping the Agency modernize to keep it the world's premier development agency.

In his National Security Strategy of 2002, the President stated that "including the world's poor in an expanding circle of development – and opportunity – is one of the top priorities of U.S. international policy." Since then, he has nearly tripled the resources allocated to development initiatives. Secretary Rice has reaffirmed his mandate to elevate development. It now plays a key role in our national security architecture as part of the three "D's" - defense, diplomacy, and development.- and is vital to her vision of "transformational diplomacy."

The humanitarian and development mission of this country has been and will be continue to be a moral imperative of this country. Post 9-11, it is also a national security imperative.

If confirmed as Assistant Administrator for Management, I will hold a position that is critical to the functioning of USAID because it provides the tools with which our development professionals work. It oversees 6 major operational units that include Financial Management, Acquisitions and Assistance, Information Technology, Administrative Services, Overseas Management Staff, and Management Policy, Budget, and Performance. Generally speaking, the Bureau is responsible for strengthening and maintaining Agency management systems.

The management function is integral to every other operational unit within the Agency. It is a service provider, an enabler, and a facilitator in the pursuit of U.S. foreign assistance objectives to advance democracy, prosperity, and human well being in the world's developing countries. Every other operational unit of the Agency is a customer of the Management Bureau. Without good logistical support, USAID is stymied in its efforts to catalyze the full range of America's public and private capabilities and the resources it allocates to the cause of development.

If confirmed for this position, I see myself as playing a small but pivotal role in helping to improve the lives of countless individuals by improving the management practices of USAID. I can assure you that I am energized and exhilarated by the tasks that lie before me and the opportunity to bring my professional experience to bear in the service of my country.

In my professional career to date, I have had a set of experiences that have drawn upon many different skills. I worked on Capitol Hill for ten years in several positions covering a range of office, committee, and leadership functions with a focus on foreign policy, international economic policy, appropriations, and budgeting.

Five of these years were dedicated to assisting a former chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State Department and Foreign Operations. That experience enabled me to build a solid knowledge of the U.S. foreign assistance process and development practice. I also developed a clear understanding of Executive Branch operations and the special role

that Congress plays in the design and implementation of U.S. development policy abroad.

As a complement to this public policy experience, I obtained a masters degree from Thunderbird, the American Graduate School for International Management. I also worked in brand management for a worldwide consumer products and pharmaceutical firm, Glaxo Smithkline. The combination of broad public policy experience, particularly in the legislative area of U.S. foreign assistance, as well as my private sector management experience has prepared me for the serious responsibilities I would assume as Assistant Administrator of Management at USAID.

Should the Senate chose to confirm me for this position, it would be an honor to serve side by side with the roughly 8,000 dedicated USAID employees who at great risk and personal sacrifice answer the development challenges around the world. I will endeavor to serve them with the same distinction and purpose that they serve the American people.

In closing, I want this Committee to know that, if confirmed, I intend to make myself fully available to consult with interested staff and members on management challenges at USAID and proposed decisions. This is part of a personal policy of mine to pursue communications with all major stakeholders interested in improving the management of the Agency.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement before the Committee. I now welcome any questions that you and the other Senators here today may have for me.

Thank you.