

Launch of the CSIS Commission on Smart Global Health Policy

April 21, 2009

About the Commission

Building upon the successful 2007 CSIS Smart Power Commission, CSIS launched on April 21, 2009 the CSIS Commission on Smart Global Health Policy, which will develop recommendations for a long-term, strategic U.S. approach to global health, culminating in a Commission report to be released in early 2010. The Commission is the first assembly of diverse, high-level opinion leaders and strategic thinkers to examine the future of U.S. global health investments both during the worsening global economic crisis and as the Administration and Congress map out new foreign policy priorities. The Commission operates from the premise that investments in health, while benefitting people first, advance rising U.S. foreign policy, security, economic and development stakes, of direct import to long-term U.S. national interests. It sees the United States at a pivotal turning point in seeking effective, new instruments to enhance the United States' standing in the world and better the lives of the world's citizens, especially the poor. It begins with the belief that the United States has exceptional scientific, leadership, and financial assets to score major future gains in global health, and that true success can only be created over time through a set of focused, balanced priorities sustained over the next decade and beyond.

The Commission is co-chaired by Dr. Helene Gayle, President and CEO of CARE, and Admiral William J. Fallon, former Commander of both the U.S. Central Command and U.S. Pacific Command. J. Stephen Morrison and Lisa Carty, director and deputy director, respectively, of the CSIS Global Health Policy Center, will manage the Commission's work. The Commission plans to meet twice in 2009 and will also travel internationally in order to view first hand the significant advances of recent years as well as remaining challenges. In addition, the Commission will also hold public fora in Research Triangle, North Carolina; San Francisco, California; and Seattle, Washington to better inform its deliberations and to highlight how these centers of excellence generate new knowledge, skills, jobs and external partnerships essential to U.S. leadership in global health.

Why a Smart Global Health Policy?

The United States in recent years has shown unprecedented, historic leadership on global health, and today expends more than \$7.5 billion per annum for that purpose, accounting for more than thirty percent of U.S. foreign assistance. This has generated an impressive, fresh record of achievement, a platform on which to build into the future. U.S. global health investments have improved the lives of millions, enhanced the stability of fragile societies, and strengthened the United States' standing in the world while inspiring like-minded leadership from others.

Today, however, the world economic crisis calls into question whether it will be possible to preserve and accelerate existing achievements. At the same time, the advent of a new administration presents the opportunity to build upon recent success, rationalize foreign assistance and create new signature approaches. The Commission on Smart Global Health Policy brings together over two dozen leading figures from government, the private sector, finance, media philanthropy, and the foreign affairs and public health communities to

identify the priority initiatives for a smart strategic approach. It will examine how to achieve higher efficiencies in U.S. programs and the means to better measure impacts. It will examine the paths to innovate strategically: strengthening the business-government collaboration in the quest for new technologies and programmatic interventions; and operationally integrating health and broader development investments in ways that have not yet been realized. The Commission will put a special focus on how a more robust U.S. diplomacy – a new multilateralism – might better optimize U.S. influence. It will ask where there are opportunities for accelerated action in areas such as maternal and child health, and how the United States might become far more effective in protecting youth from pernicious threats such as HIV or tobacco. And it will seek to secure the future through better global surveillance and response capacities and new, more sustainable financing mechanisms.

Related Work

On the occasion of the April 21, 2009 launch of the CSIS Commission, the CSIS Global Health Policy Center is releasing a series of related analytical writings on its website, www.csis.org/globalhealth. These papers, soon to be followed by other commissioned analyses, cover a range of topics: the quest for new technologies; the proliferation of U.S. university programs in global health; evolving thought on global security and its relationship to global health; U.S. military programs on global health; and major trends in the Americas and Africa.