



April 11, 2014

Dear Colleague:

Five years ago, in the wake of a devastating crisis in food prices, world leaders committed to fight global hunger and poverty by reversing a decades-long decline in agriculture investment in developing countries through sustained financial and technical assistance. The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) – a multi-donor trust fund and partnership among developing countries, development partners, civil society, and the private sector – uses innovative approaches to help the world’s poorest farmers produce more food and earn higher incomes so they can lift themselves and their communities out of poverty and hunger.

Since GAFSP was established in 2010, we have seen sustainable reductions in global rates of hunger and malnutrition, but the challenge of meeting the global demand for food is just as pressing as ever. By 2050, it is estimated the world will need to produce 60 percent more food to feed a global population of more than nine billion. Smallholder farmers and others living in poverty in the world’s poorest countries remain particularly vulnerable to food price shocks and are likely to face increased competition over land, water, and other resources as a result of climate change.

GAFSP is tackling these challenges by pooling donor resources to finance country-led agriculture and food security investment strategies in the world’s poorest and most food insecure countries. GAFSP targets countries with high levels of poverty and hunger that have already contributed some of their own resources to developing and implementing long-term food security plans reflecting country ownership and priorities. The selection of projects is based on a rigorous, competitive process that generates results. GAFSP’s current portfolio is expected to improve the livelihoods of at least 13 million farmers across 25 countries in Latin America, Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. Early results have been promising, with rural incomes increasing by over 400 percent in some countries. However, demand from countries far exceeds available resources – GAFSP has received \$4 billion in grants proposal requests and awarded \$913 million to date, out of total available resources of \$979 million.

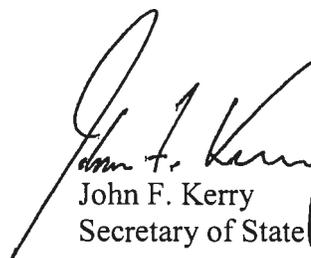
Recognizing the potential of the GAFSP model and the need for additional funding, the United States issued a challenge to other countries in 2012: for every \$2 from other donors, the United States is committed to contribute \$1 to GAFSP, up to a total U.S. contribution of \$475 million. To date, other donors have committed \$230 million in new pledges. An additional \$720 million from other donors is required to meet our funding challenge. We hope your government will join the United States and other donors by pledging funds to GAFSP to help boost agricultural incomes and reduce global hunger.

As Secretary of State and Secretary of the Treasury, we are proud to champion this innovative program. We call upon you, our partners, to join us in supporting the work of GAFSP. Together, we can make progress in the effort to eradicate global hunger and poverty.

Sincerely,



Jacob J. Lew
Secretary of the Treasury



John F. Kerry
Secretary of State

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Joe Hockey, M.P.
Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Australia
Canberra, Australia

The Honorable Julie Bishop
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Barton, Australia

The Honorable Michael Spindelegger
Minister of Finance
Vienna, Austria

The Honorable Sebastian Kurz
Federal Minister for European
and International Affairs
Vienna, Austria

The Honorable Joe Oliver
Minister of Finance
Ottawa, Canada

The Honorable Christian Paradis
Minister of International Development
and La Francophonie
Ottawa, Canada

The Honorable Michel Sapin
Minister of Economy and Finance
Paris, France

The Honorable Laurent Fabius
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Paris, France

The Honorable Wolfgang Schäuble
Federal Minister of Finance
Berlin, Germany

The Honorable Gerd Müller
Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation
and Development
Berlin, Germany

The Honorable Michael Noonan
Minister for Finance
Dublin, Ireland

The Honorable Eamon Gilmore, T.D.
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin, Ireland

The Honorable Pier Carlo Padoan
Minister of Economy and Finance
Rome, Italy

The Honorable Federica Mogherini
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Rome, Italy

The Honorable Taro Aso
Minister of Finance
Tokyo, Japan

The Honorable Fumio Kishida
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Tokyo, Japan

The Honorable Jeroen Dijsselbloem
Minister of Finance
The Hague, Netherlands

The Honorable Lilianne Ploumen
Minister for Foreign Trade
and Development Cooperation
The Hague, Netherlands

The Honorable Siv Jensen
Minister of Finance
Oslo, Norway

The Honorable Borg Brende
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Oslo, Norway

The Honorable Hyun Oh-Seok
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Strategy and Finance
Seoul, Korea

The Honorable Yun Byung-Se
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Seoul, Korea

The Honorable Luis de Guindos Jurado
Minister of Economy and Competitiveness
Madrid, Spain

The Honorable Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Madrid, Spain

The Honorable Anders Borg
Minister of Finance
Stockholm, Sweden

The Honorable Hillevi Engström
Minister for International Development
Cooperation
Stockholm, Sweden

The Right Honorable George Osborne, M.P.
Chancellor of the Exchequer
London, United Kingdom

The Right Honorable Justine Greening, M.P.
Secretary of State for
International Development
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Mr. and Mrs. Bill Gates
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
500 Fifth Avenue North
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cc: The Honorable Joe Costello
Minister of State for Trade and Development
Dublin, Ireland