

## **Plank on Foreign Aid**

Submitted by DA-India  
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*Note: This plank is based on a full resolution that will be voted on at the April Global Caucus.*

Democrats Abroad believes it our moral and humanitarian obligation, as well as in our own national interest, to combat global poverty and assist in situations of humanitarian crisis.

America's security and safety depend on a world where poverty is eradicated and the innate dignity of individuals is protected. America's interests are served by being perceived as assisting the world's vulnerable according to their needs and as a principled agent of change to alleviate needless suffering and mortality, rather than being perceived as nation which provides aid to only those from whom we seek to curry favor or strategic, political or religious advantage or support. America's credibility is enhanced when we use constructive diplomacy and incentives to create stability in the world, as an alternative to the threat and use of military force as the preferred option. We:

DEPLORE the fact that the United States contributes the least aid in terms of GNP percentage (0.22 percent in 2005) of all the industrialized nations in the world.

DEPLORE the fact that President George W. Bush has politicized foreign assistance programs to conform to a political agenda and religious preferences that have eroded our international standing, particularly in developing and emerging countries, where the vast majority of the world's population lives.

RECOGNIZE our moral obligation to assist the world's most vulnerable people -- 2.7 billion who struggle to survive on less than two dollars a day -- who suffer from desperate poverty and a crushing need for basic necessities.

RECOGNIZE the generosity of the American people and their desire to end extreme poverty in the world.

FAVOR enacting policies that provide aid to the world's most vulnerable based on their needs, in a manner which is neutral, impartial and will serve to end bias in the provision of humanitarian and development aid.

FAVOR joining the international community's support for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

FAVOR meeting the United Nations target of 0.7 percent of GNP for overseas development assistance.