GLOBAL HEALTH AS A HUMAN SECURITY CHALLENGE
Sylvia Mathews Burwell

I am going to expand our conversation a little bit to include broader development issues beyond health. I will try to do three things very quickly. One, explain why global health and development matter to all of us at just the top level; two, convey the magnitude of the problem at a very high level; and three, talk a little bit about some solutions that work and make us optimistic.

Why do we believe that there can be change in the field of development, and why this is important? My colleague, I think, went very deep into the questions of security and economics. Bob Zoellick also touched upon the security and economic importance of these issues yesterday during our agricultural conversations.

There's a third reason that these issues are important: they matter morally. Supporting health and development is the right thing to do. I come from a private foundation. At the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, when we get up every day and do our work, we do it because of reason number three. We are motivated by the belief that all lives have equal value, and that is why we put our resources to the things we do.

From the perspective of a country, it is a little bit like Alexis de Tocqueville's "self-interest well understood." In the sessions, we have spoken a lot about the impact of the reputation of the United States in the world, and how our reputation represents the values that we hold as a nation. Global health and development are places where we can express those values well and effectively. The President's work on AIDS and the Millennium Challenge Corporation are two efforts on that front that the current administration deserves credit for.

Now to the magnitude of the problem: Every 30 seconds, a child dies of Malaria. Just think about the time we've spent discussing issues today, and then think about that number. Another number: Every day last year 6,800 people came down with HIV/AIDS, and 96 percent of those people were in the developing world. Another number, in terms of trying to make these things real, is that 4,400 children a day die of diarrheal illness.

You don't see those numbers in the newspapers every day. If that were a plane crash in any of our countries, you would read about it. When you think about those numbers related to other things that are happening, it gives you a sense of the magnitude of the problem in a real way that you can feel and understand on a daily basis.

The problem is large, but there are solutions that work. I want to mention a book called *Millions Saved:*
Proven Successes in Global Health. It includes 20 case studies of things that have worked in health. I mentioned a number of them in my paper, but this book is a whole compilation of things that actually have worked with proven impact and results.

I want to touch today on two success stories in health and development: the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, and the Green Revolution that took place in agriculture. I will just say, in terms of malaria as a success, at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation we say that we hope we can help make sanitation as sexy as malaria. That is an indication that we believe malaria has come to be an issue that people talk about, people mention, and people think about.

The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization is an organization that has helped immunize over 100 million children and prevent 2.9 million deaths in children by getting immunizations into the developing world. How does it work, and what are the elements of success? It is funded by the developed world. It is also funded by private donors, like the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. There is a technical board that receives plans from countries on proposals for immunizing children, and those are approved, and then funds flow. The way the funds flow is important, though, and that is a declining amount so that you are getting countries to take over. Once they see results that they can use to convince their finance ministers, they will take over the spending and continue the program.

What are some of the elements of success? One, this effort brought major players to the table. One of those major players is sitting right here today – Carol Bellamy, who at that time was at UNICEF. We brought all of the players to the table and said, "Can we work on this issue together?"

I think another point that helped bring people together was that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation put $750 million on the table to start the organization, and that money was available if we could figure out a way for all of us to work together, and we did. But we always envisioned that this would be a long-term effort with multiple contributors, and that has happened. While the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have given $1.5 billion, we are no longer the majority donor. Those are some of the ways that this type of effort can really work and bring people together.

From there, let me turn to agriculture. We spent some time on that issue yesterday with Bob Zoellick. Many people here probably know and recognize the success of the Green Revolution in Asia and parts of Latin America. In India, for example, from 1965 to 1995, rural poverty declined from nearly three out of five to about one in three during that period. Much of that is attributable to an increase in agricultural productivity. In most all of the developed world, we have seen a pattern of increasing agricultural productivity and development, leading to long-term development. Two important shortcomings I would highlight are that it did have some negative environmental impacts, and it didn't focus on the smallest of farmers.

The Green Revolution did not take hold on the continent of Africa for a number of reasons. Africa has greater crop diversity, 80 percent of its agriculture is rain-fed versus irrigated, and the water is much more
limited, so there were a number of things.

Having said that, we believe the Green Revolution is something that can succeed in Africa. That's why we have invested together with the Rockefeller Foundation in the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa. As you read in my paper, AGRA works across the entire value chain, from seeds and soil to farm management practices. And we're learning from the last Green Revolution. For example, we know that if you increase productivity, you have to be able to ensure there is someone or something there to purchase it.

This is my first time at the Trilateral Commission, so I didn't know if one is supposed to close with actions, but it is my nature, so I will.

The first, in terms of things for you all to think about when you leave, is to actually make time to learn about the issues of development. You all are experts in so many different places, but take the time to learn a little more deeply about these problems, their causes, and the solutions.

Second, consider that the solutions are long-term. I think often people want quick turnaround and results that legislators and executive branches can run on. The people in this room are the people who can say, "These things take time, we have to back them over time," and so your voice in that is very important.

Third, make sure that, as you think about these problems, you think about the developing world and those countries as partners, not as recipients, because long-term solutions have to be based on the economic growth, the markets, and the sustainability of these countries on their own. Increasing health and development contributions now is essential, and so is ensuring that in addition to more aid we have more effective aid. But if we are going to solve these problems for the long term, they have to be solved in partnership with our partners taking on the problems for the long term.

Sylvia Mathews Burwell is President of Global Development programs at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.