

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2965

To increase the United States financial and programmatic contributions to promote economic opportunities for women in developing countries.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY (for herself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

---

## A BILL

To increase the United States financial and programmatic contributions to promote economic opportunities for women in developing countries.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Global Resources and Opportunities for Women to  
6 Thrive Act of 2007” or the “GROWTH Act of 2007”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of  
8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings and statement of policy.

- Sec. 3. Microenterprise development assistance for women in developing countries.
- Sec. 4. Support for women's small- and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries.
- Sec. 5. Support for private property rights and land tenure security for women in developing countries.
- Sec. 6. Support for women's access to employment in developing countries.
- Sec. 7. Trade benefits for women in developing countries.
- Sec. 8. Exchanges between United States entrepreneurs and women entrepreneurs in developing countries.
- Sec. 9. Assistance under the Millennium Challenge Account.
- Sec. 10. Growth Fund.
- Sec. 11. Data collection.
- Sec. 12. Support for local, indigenous women's organizations in developing countries.
- Sec. 13. Report.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Women around the world are especially vul-  
 4 nerable to poverty. They tend to work longer hours,  
 5 are compensated less, and have less income stability  
 6 and fewer economic opportunities than men.

7 (2) Women's share of the labor force is increas-  
 8 ing in almost all regions of the world. Women com-  
 9 prise more than 40 percent of the labor force in  
 10 eastern and southeastern Asia, sub-Saharan Africa,  
 11 and the Caribbean, nearly a third of the labor force  
 12 in Central America, and nearly two-fifths of the  
 13 labor force in South America. About 250 million  
 14 young women will enter the labor force worldwide  
 15 between 2003 and 2015.

16 (3) Women are more likely to work in informal  
 17 employment relationships in poor countries com-  
 18 pared to men. In sub-Saharan Africa, 84 percent of

1 female non-agricultural workers are informally em-  
2 ployed compared to 63 percent of men. In Latin  
3 America, 58 percent of women are informally em-  
4 ployed compared to 48 percent of men. Informal em-  
5 ployment is characterized by lower wages and great-  
6 er variability of earnings, less stability, absence of  
7 labor organization, and fewer social protections than  
8 formal employment.

9 (4) Changes in the economy of a poor country  
10 affect women and men differently; women are dis-  
11 proportionately affected by long-term recessions, cri-  
12 ses, and economic restructuring and they often miss  
13 out on many of the benefits of growth.

14 (5) International trade can be an important tool  
15 of economic development and poverty reduction and  
16 its benefits should extend to all members of society,  
17 particularly the world's poor women.

18 (6) Promoting fair labor practices for women,  
19 and access to information, education, land, credit,  
20 physical capital, and social services is a means of  
21 boosting productivity and earnings for the economies  
22 of developing nations. For example, according to the  
23 World Bank, in sub-Saharan Africa, inequality be-  
24 tween men and women in employment and education

1 suppressed annual per capita growth during the pe-  
2 riod 1960–1992 by .8 percentage points per year.

3 (7) Expanding economic opportunity for women  
4 in developing countries can have a positive effect on  
5 child nutrition, health, and education, as women  
6 often invest their income in their families. Increasing  
7 women’s income can also decrease women’s vulner-  
8 ability to HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, and  
9 trafficking, and make them more resistant to the im-  
10 pact of natural disasters.

11 (8) Economic opportunities for women, includ-  
12 ing microfinance and microenterprise development  
13 and the promotion of women’s small- and medium-  
14 sized businesses, are a means of generating gainful,  
15 safe, and dignified employment for the poor.

16 (9) Women play a vital, but often unrecognized,  
17 role in averting violence, resolving conflict, and re-  
18 building economies in post-conflict societies. Women  
19 in conflict-affected areas face even greater challenges  
20 in accessing employment, training, property rights,  
21 credit, and financial and non-financial resources for  
22 business development. Ensuring economic oppor-  
23 tunity for women in conflict-affected areas plays a  
24 significant role in economic rehabilitation and con-  
25 solidation of peace.

1           (10) Given the important role of women in the  
2           economies of poor nations, poverty alleviation pro-  
3           grams funded by the Government of the United  
4           States in poor countries should seek to enhance the  
5           level of economic opportunity available to women in  
6           those countries.

7           (b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is, therefore, the  
8           policy of the United States to actively promote develop-  
9           ment interventions that enhance economic opportunities  
10          for women, including programs and policies to—

11           (1) promote women’s ability to start micro,  
12           small, or medium-sized business enterprises, and en-  
13           able women to grow such enterprises, particularly  
14           from micro to small enterprises and from small to  
15           medium-sized enterprises, or sustain current busi-  
16           ness capacity;

17           (2) promote the rights of women to own, man-  
18           age, and inherit property, including land, encourage  
19           adoption of laws and policies that support the rights  
20           of women to enforce these claims in administrative  
21           and judicial tribunals, and address conflicts with  
22           customary laws and practices to increase the secu-  
23           rity of women’s tenure;

24           (3) increase women’s access to employment, en-  
25           able women to access higher quality jobs with better

1 remuneration and working conditions in both infor-  
2 mal and formal employment, and improve the qual-  
3 ity of jobs in sectors dominated by women by im-  
4 proving the remuneration and working conditions of  
5 those jobs; and

6 (4) bring the benefits of international trade pol-  
7 icy to women in developing countries and ensure  
8 that trade policies and agreements adequately reflect  
9 the respective needs of poor women and men.

10 **SEC. 3. MICROENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE**  
11 **FOR WOMEN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.**

12 (a) AUTHORIZATION; IMPLEMENTATION; TARGETED  
13 ASSISTANCE.—

14 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 252(a) of the  
15 Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.  
16 2211a(a)) is amended—

17 (A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end  
18 before the semicolon the following: “, including  
19 specific activities to enhance the empowerment  
20 of women, such as leadership training, basic  
21 health and HIV/AIDS education, and literacy  
22 skills”;

23 (B) in paragraph (3)—

1 (i) by adding at the end before the  
2 semicolon the following: “, including  
3 women”; and

4 (ii) by striking “and” at the end;  
5 (C) in paragraph (4)—

6 (i) by adding at the end before the pe-  
7 riod the following: “, including initiatives  
8 to eliminate legal and institutional barriers  
9 to women’s ownership of assets, access to  
10 credit, access to information and commu-  
11 nication technologies, and engagement in  
12 business activities within or outside of the  
13 home”; and

14 (ii) by striking the period at the end  
15 and inserting “; and”; and

16 (D) by adding at the end the following new  
17 paragraph:

18 “(5) microfinance and microenterprise develop-  
19 ment programs that—

20 “(A) specifically target women with respect  
21 to outreach and marketing; and

22 “(B) provide products specifically to ad-  
23 dress women’s assets, needs, and the barriers  
24 women encounter with respect to participation  
25 in enterprise and financial services.”.

1           (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 252(b)(2)(C)  
2 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.  
3 2211a(b)(2)(C)) is amended—

4           (A) in clause (ii)—

5           (i) by striking “microenterprise devel-  
6 opment field” and inserting “microfinance  
7 and microenterprise development field”;  
8 and

9           (ii) by striking “and” at the end;

10          (B) in clause (iii)—

11          (i) by inserting after “competitive”  
12 the following: “, take into consideration  
13 the anticipated impact of the proposals on  
14 the empowerment of women and men, re-  
15 spectively,”; and

16          (ii) by striking the period at the end  
17 and inserting “; and”; and

18          (C) by adding at the end the following new  
19 clause:

20           “(iv) give preference to proposals from  
21 providers of assistance that demonstrate  
22 the greatest knowledge of clients’ needs  
23 and capabilities, including proposals that  
24 ensure that women are involved in the de-



1 sign and implementation of services and  
2 programs.”.

3 (3) TARGETED ASSISTANCE.—Section 252(c) of  
4 the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.  
5 2211a(c)) is amended in the first sentence by adding  
6 at the end before the period the following: “, par-  
7 ticularly women”.

8 (b) MONITORING SYSTEM.—Section 253(b) of the  
9 Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2211b(b)) is  
10 amended in paragraph (1), by inserting after “perform-  
11 ance goals for the assistance” the following: “on a sex-  
12 disaggregated basis”.

13 (c) MICROENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT CREDITS.—  
14 Section 256(b)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961  
15 (22 U.S.C. 2212(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end  
16 before the semicolon the following: “, with an emphasis  
17 on clients who are women”.

18 (d) REPORT.—

19 (1) CONTENTS.—Section 258(b) of the Foreign  
20 Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2214(b)) is  
21 amended by adding at the end the following new  
22 paragraph:

23 “(12) An estimate of the potential global de-  
24 mand for microfinance and microenterprise develop-  
25 ment for women, determined in collaboration with

1 practitioners in a cost-effective manner, and a de-  
 2 scription of the Agency’s plan to help meet such de-  
 3 mand.”.

4 (2) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—Section 258  
 5 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.  
 6 2214) is amended—

7 (A) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
 8 section (d); and

9 (B) by inserting after subsection (b) the  
 10 following new subsection:

11 “(c) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—All information  
 12 in the report required by this section relating to bene-  
 13 ficiaries of assistance authorized by this title shall be  
 14 disaggregated by sex to the maximum extent practicable.”.

15 **SEC. 4. SUPPORT FOR WOMEN’S SMALL- AND MEDIUM-**  
 16 **SIZED ENTERPRISES IN DEVELOPING COUN-**  
 17 **TRIES.**

18 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State, acting  
 19 through the Director of United States Foreign Assistance,  
 20 shall—

21 (1) where appropriate, carry out programs,  
 22 projects, and activities for enterprise development  
 23 for women in developing countries that meet the re-  
 24 quirements of subsection (b); and

1           (2) ensure that such programs, projects, and  
2 activities that are carried out pursuant to assistance  
3 provided under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act  
4 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) meet the require-  
5 ments of subsection (b).

6           (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements referred to  
7 in subsection (a) are the following:

8           (1) In coordination with developing country  
9 governments and interested individuals and organi-  
10 zations, encourage or enhance laws, regulations, en-  
11 forcement, and other practices that promote access  
12 to banking and financial services for women-owned  
13 small- and medium-sized enterprises, and eliminate  
14 or reduce regulatory barriers that may exist in this  
15 regard.

16           (2) Promote access to information and commu-  
17 nication technologies (ICT) with training in ICT for  
18 women-owned small- and medium-sized enterprises.

19           (3) Provide training, through local associations  
20 of women-owned enterprises or nongovernmental or-  
21 ganizations in record keeping, financial and per-  
22 sonnel management, international trade, business  
23 planning, marketing, policy advocacy, leadership de-  
24 velopment, and other relevant areas.

1           (4) Provide resources to establish and enhance  
2           local, national, and international networks and asso-  
3           ciations of women-owned small- and medium-sized  
4           enterprises.

5           (5) Provide incentives for nongovernmental or-  
6           ganizations and regulated financial intermediaries to  
7           develop products, services, and marketing and out-  
8           reach strategies specifically designed to facilitate and  
9           promote women’s participation in small and me-  
10          dium-sized business development programs by ad-  
11          dressing women’s assets, needs, and the barriers  
12          they face to participation in enterprise and financial  
13          services.

14          (6) Seek to award contracts to qualified indige-  
15          nous women-owned small and medium-sized enter-  
16          prises, including for post-conflict reconstruction and  
17          to facilitate employment of indigenous women, in-  
18          cluding during post-conflict reconstruction in jobs  
19          not traditionally undertaken by women.

20 **SEC. 5. SUPPORT FOR PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS AND**  
21                                   **LAND TENURE SECURITY FOR WOMEN IN DE-**  
22                                   **VELOPING COUNTRIES.**

23          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, acting  
24          through the Director of United States Foreign Assistance,  
25          shall—

1           (1) where appropriate, carry out programs,  
2 projects, and activities for the promotion of private  
3 property rights and land tenure security for women  
4 in developing countries that—

5           (A) are implemented by local, indigenous  
6 nongovernmental and community-based organi-  
7 zations dedicated to addressing the needs of  
8 women, especially women’s organizations; and

9           (B) otherwise meet the requirements of  
10 subsection (b); and

11          (2) ensure that such programs, projects, and  
12 activities that are carried out pursuant to assistance  
13 provided under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act  
14 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) meet the require-  
15 ments of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph  
16 (1).

17          (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements referred to  
18 in subsection (a) are the following:

19           (1) Advocate to amend and harmonize statutory  
20 and customary law to give women equal rights to  
21 own, use, and inherit property.

22           (2) Promote legal literacy among women and  
23 men about property rights for women and how to ex-  
24 ercise such rights.

1           (3) Assist women in making land claims and  
2           protecting women’s existing claims.

3           (4) Advocate for equitable land titling and reg-  
4           istration for women.

5           (c) AMENDMENT.—Section 103(b)(1) of the Foreign  
6 Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151a(b)(1)) is amend-  
7 ed by inserting after “establishment of more equitable and  
8 more secure land tenure arrangements” the following: “,  
9 especially for women”.

10 **SEC. 6. SUPPORT FOR WOMEN’S ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT**  
11 **IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.**

12           The Secretary of State, acting through the Director  
13 of United States Foreign Assistance, shall, where appro-  
14 priate, carry out the following:

15           (1) Support activities to increase women’s ac-  
16 cess to employment and to higher quality employ-  
17 ment with better remuneration and working condi-  
18 tions in developing countries, including access to in-  
19 surance and other social safety nets, in informal and  
20 formal employment relative to core labor standards  
21 determined by the International Labor Organization.

22           Such activities should include—

23                   (A) public education efforts to inform poor  
24 women and men of their legal rights related to  
25 employment;

1 (B) education and vocational training tai-  
2 lored to enable poor women to access opportuni-  
3 ties in potential growth sectors in their local  
4 economies and in jobs within the formal and in-  
5 formal sectors where women are not tradition-  
6 ally highly represented;

7 (C) efforts to support self-employed poor  
8 women or wage workers to form or join inde-  
9 pendent unions or other labor associations to  
10 increase their income and improve their work-  
11 ing conditions; and

12 (D) advocacy efforts to protect the rights  
13 of women in the workplace, including—

14 (i) developing programs with the par-  
15 ticipation of civil society to eliminate gen-  
16 der-based violence; and

17 (ii) providing capacity-building assist-  
18 ance to women's organizations to effec-  
19 tively research and monitor labor rights  
20 conditions.

21 (2) Provide assistance to governments and or-  
22 ganizations in developing countries seeking to design  
23 and implement laws, regulations, and programs to  
24 improve working conditions for women and to facili-

1       tate their entry into and advancement in the work-  
2       place.

3 **SEC. 7. TRADE BENEFITS FOR WOMEN IN DEVELOPING**  
4                   **COUNTRIES.**

5       In order to ensure that poor women in developing  
6 countries are able to benefit from international trade, the  
7 President, acting through the Secretary of State (acting  
8 through the Director of United States Foreign Assistance)  
9 and the heads of other appropriate departments and agen-  
10 cies of the Government of the United States, shall, where  
11 appropriate, carry out the following in developing coun-  
12 tries:

13               (1) Provide training and education to women in  
14 civil society, including those organizations rep-  
15 resenting poor women, and to women-owned enter-  
16 prises and associations of such enterprises, on how  
17 to respond to economic opportunities created by  
18 trade preference programs, trade agreements, or  
19 other policies creating market access, including  
20 training on United States market access require-  
21 ments and procedures.

22               (2) Provide capacity building for women entre-  
23 preneurs, including microentrepreneurs, on produc-  
24 tion strategies, quality standards, formation of co-



1       operatives, market research, and market develop-  
2       ment.

3               (3) Provide capacity building to women, includ-  
4       ing poor women, to promote diversification of prod-  
5       ucts and value-added processing.

6               (4) Provide training to official government ne-  
7       gotiators representing developing countries in order  
8       to enhance the ability of such negotiators to formu-  
9       late trade policy and negotiate agreements that take  
10      into account the respective needs and priorities of a  
11      country's poor women and men.

12              (5) Provide training to local, indigenous wom-  
13      en's groups in developing countries in order to en-  
14      hance their ability to collect information and data,  
15      formulate proposals, and inform and impact official  
16      government negotiators representing their country in  
17      international trade negotiations of the respective  
18      needs and priorities of a country's poor women and  
19      men.

20 **SEC. 8. EXCHANGES BETWEEN UNITED STATES ENTRE-**  
21 **PRENEURS AND WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN**  
22 **DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.**

23              (a) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.—The Secretary of  
24 Commerce shall, where appropriate, encourage United

1 States business participants on trade missions to devel-  
2 oping countries to—

3           (1) meet with representatives of women-owned  
4           small- and medium-sized enterprises in such coun-  
5           tries; and

6           (2) promote internship opportunities for women  
7           owners of small- and medium-sized businesses in  
8           such countries with United States businesses.

9           (b) DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—The Secretary of  
10 State shall promote exchange programs that offer rep-  
11 resentatives of women-owned small- and medium-sized en-  
12 terprises in developing countries an opportunity to learn  
13 skills appropriate to promoting entrepreneurship by work-  
14 ing with business counterparts in the United States.

15 **SEC. 9. ASSISTANCE UNDER THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE**

16 **ACCOUNT.**

17           The Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Chal-  
18 lenge Corporation (MCC) shall seek to ensure that con-  
19 tracts and employment opportunities resulting from assist-  
20 ance provided by the MCC to the governments of devel-  
21 oping countries be fairly and equitably distributed to  
22 qualified women-owned small and medium-sized enter-  
23 prises and other civil society organizations led by women,  
24 including nongovernmental and community-based organi-  
25 zations, including for infrastructure projects, and that

1 such projects facilitate employment of women in jobs not  
2 traditionally undertaken by women.

3 **SEC. 10. GROWTH FUND.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, act-  
6 ing through the Director of United States Foreign  
7 Assistance, shall establish the Global Resources and  
8 Opportunities for Women to Thrive (GROWTH)  
9 Fund (hereinafter in this section referred to as the  
10 “Fund”) for the purpose of enhancing economic op-  
11 portunities for very poor, poor, and low-income  
12 women in developing countries with a focus on—

13 (A) increasing women-owned enterprise de-  
14 velopment;

15 (B) increasing property rights for women;

16 (C) increasing women’s access to financial  
17 services;

18 (D) increasing women in leadership in im-  
19 plementing organizations, such as indigenous  
20 nongovernmental organizations, community-  
21 based organizations, and regulated financial  
22 intermediaries;

23 (E) improving women’s employment bene-  
24 fits and conditions; and

1 (F) increasing women's ability to benefit  
2 from global trade.

3 (2) ROLE OF USAID MISSIONS.—The Fund shall  
4 be available to USAID missions to apply for addi-  
5 tional funding to support specific additional activi-  
6 ties that enhance women's economic opportunities or  
7 to integrate gender into existing economic oppor-  
8 tunity programs.

9 (b) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—The Fund shall be  
10 available to USAID missions to support—

11 (1) activities described in title VI of part I of  
12 the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2211  
13 et seq.), as amended by section 3 of this Act;

14 (2) activities described in sections 4 through 7  
15 of this Act; and

16 (3) technical assistance and capacity-building to  
17 local, indigenous civil society, particularly to carry  
18 out activities that are covered under paragraphs (1)  
19 and (2), for—

20 (A) local indigenous women's organizations  
21 to the maximum extent practicable; and

22 (B) nongovernmental organizations and  
23 regulated financial intermediaries that dem-  
24 onstrate a commitment to gender equity in their  
25 leadership either through current practice or

1 through specific programs to increase the rep-  
2 resentation of women in their governance and  
3 management.

4 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be  
6 appropriated to carry out this section \$40,000,000  
7 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as may be nec-  
8 essary for each of the fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

9 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pur-  
10 suant to the authorization of appropriations under  
11 paragraph (1)—

12 (A) are authorized to remain available  
13 until expended; and

14 (B) are in addition to amounts otherwise  
15 available for such purposes.

16 **SEC. 11. DATA COLLECTION.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, acting  
18 through the Director of United States Foreign Assistance,  
19 shall—

20 (1) provide support for tracking indicators on  
21 women's employment, property rights for women,  
22 women's access to financial services, and women's  
23 enterprise development, including microenterprises,  
24 in developing countries; and

1           (2) where practicable track all United States  
2 foreign assistance funds to local indigenous non-  
3 governmental, community-based organizations, and  
4 regulated financial intermediaries in developing  
5 countries, including through subcontractors and  
6 grantees, disaggregated by the sex of the head of the  
7 organization, senior management, and composition  
8 of the boards of directors;

9           (3) encourage United States statistical agencies  
10 in their work with statistical agencies in other coun-  
11 tries to provide support to collect data on the share  
12 of women in wage and self-employment by type of  
13 employment; and

14           (4) provide funding to the International Labor  
15 Organization (ILO) for technical assistance activities  
16 to developing countries and for the ILO to consoli-  
17 date indicators into cross-country data sets.

18       (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
19 Amounts made available to carry out section 10 of this  
20 Act are authorized to be made available to carry out this  
21 section.

22 **SEC. 12. SUPPORT FOR LOCAL, INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S OR-**  
23 **GANIZATIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.**

24       (a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 102 of the Foreign As-  
25 sistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151–1) is amended—

1           (1) in subsection (a) by inserting after the  
2 ninth sentence the following new sentences: “Be-  
3 cause men and women generally occupy different  
4 economic niches in poor countries, activities must  
5 address those differences in ways that enable both  
6 women and men to contribute to and benefit from  
7 development. Throughout the world, indigenous,  
8 local, nongovernmental and community-based organi-  
9 zations and regulated financial intermediaries are es-  
10 sential to addressing many of the development chal-  
11 lenges facing countries and to creating stable, func-  
12 tioning democracies. Investing in the capacity of  
13 such organizations and in their role in the develop-  
14 ment process, including that of women’s organiza-  
15 tions, shall be an important, cross-cutting objective  
16 of United States bilateral development assistance.”;  
17 and

18           (2) in subsection (b)—

19           (A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end  
20 the following new sentence: “The principles de-  
21 scribed in this paragraph shall, among other  
22 strategies, be accomplished through partner-  
23 ships with local, indigenous nongovernmental  
24 and community-based organizations and regu-

1           lated financial intermediaries that represent the  
2           interests of poor women and poor men.”; and

3                   (B) in paragraph (6), by adding at the end  
4           the following new sentence: “Investing in the  
5           capacity and participation of local, indigenous  
6           nongovernmental and community-based organi-  
7           zations dedicated to addressing the needs of  
8           women, especially women’s organizations, shall  
9           be an important strategy for achieving the prin-  
10          ciple described in this paragraph”.

11          (b) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of State, acting  
12       through the Director of United States Foreign Assistance,  
13       shall, where appropriate—

14               (1) improve the integration of capacity building  
15           and technical assistance activities for local, indige-  
16           nous nongovernmental organizations and commu-  
17           nity-based organizations in developing countries  
18           within project proposals that will include the partici-  
19           pation of locally based partners, especially women’s  
20           organizations and other organizations leading wom-  
21           en’s empowerment initiatives, to promote the long-  
22           term sustainability of projects;

23               (2) provide information and training to local in-  
24           digenous organizations focused on women’s em-  
25           powerment, especially women’s organizations, in



1 countries in which USAID missions are located in  
2 order to—

3 (A) provide technical assistance regarding  
4 availability of United States international as-  
5 sistance procurement procedures; and

6 (B) undertake culturally-appropriate out-  
7 reach measures to contact such organizations;

8 (3) encourage cooperating agencies, imple-  
9 menting partners, and subcontractors, to the max-  
10 imum extent practicable, to provide sub-grants to  
11 local indigenous organizations that focus on women’s  
12 empowerment, including women’s organizations and  
13 other organizations that may not have previously  
14 worked with the Government of the United States or  
15 one of its partners, in fulfilling project objectives;

16 (4) work with local governments where appro-  
17 priate to conduct outreach campaigns to formally  
18 register unofficial local nongovernmental and com-  
19 munity-based organizations, especially women’s or-  
20 ganizations; and

21 (5) support efforts of indigenous organizations  
22 focused on women’s empowerment, especially wom-  
23 en’s organizations, to network with other indigenous  
24 women’s groups to collectively access funding oppor-

1           tunities to implement United States international as-  
2           sistance programs.

3 **SEC. 13. REPORT.**

4           (a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than June 30,  
5 2009, the Secretary of State, acting through the Director  
6 of United States Foreign Assistance, shall submit to Con-  
7 gress a report on the implementation of this Act and the  
8 amendments made by this Act.

9           (b) **UPDATE.**—Not later than June 30, 2011, the  
10 Secretary of State, acting through the Director of United  
11 States Foreign Assistance, shall submit to Congress an  
12 update of the report required by subsection (a).

13           (c) **AVAILABILITY TO PUBLIC.**—The report required  
14 by subsection (a) and the update required by subsection  
15 (b) shall be made available to the public on the Internet  
16 websites of the Department of State and the United States  
17 Agency for International Development.

○