

## **MFAN Applauds Passage of Kerry-Lugar Amendment to Restore Critical International Affairs Funding to Budget Resolution**

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**April 2, 2009 (WASHINGTON)** – *This statement is delivered on behalf of the [Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network](#) (MFAN) by MFAN Co-Chairs [Steve Radelet](#) and [David Beckmann](#):*

MFAN applauds the Senate's unanimous passage of the "Kerry-Lugar amendment" to the FY10 budget resolution, which restored \$4 billion to the International Affairs account and maintained the level of funding that was originally requested by President Obama.

The amendment's sponsors, Sens. John Kerry (D-MA) and Richard Lugar (R-IN), the respective chairman and ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, deserve special recognition for their leadership. The amendment shows that they believe the United States must stay deeply engaged with the rest of the world, and we are particularly heartened that it allows for continued U.S. global development programs that alleviate poverty, fight disease, create opportunity, and foster sustainable security for people in poor countries.

We stand ready to support Senators Kerry and Lugar as they work to keep America engaged in the world and make sure our international affairs investments are made as strategically and effectively as possible. One of the best ways to do this will be modernizing the outdated U.S. foreign assistance system. As Senator Kerry said recently, "we must...[initiate] a foreign aid reform process that will make our interventions more effective and efficient."

*For more information on MFAN's detailed foreign assistance modernization plan, please visit [www.modernizingforeignassistance.net](http://www.modernizingforeignassistance.net).*