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WELCOME REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR JAMES F. MORIARTY ANNUAL IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS' RETREAT

Radisson Garden Hotel

May 26, 2009

Assalamu alaykum, and good morning. I am pleased to be here at the USAID Annual Implementing Partners' Retreat. I recognize many familiar faces and some new ones as well. I welcome you all to this annual event where we meet our partners, express our appreciation for your work, and discuss ways to further refine our efforts to help Bangladesh develop. With a population of 150 million people in an area of 60,000 square miles, Bangladesh is one of the world's most densely populated countries. It faces many problems but has unlimited potential.

Bangladesh is an important friend and ally to the United States. We have a longstanding relationship with this country and have provided more than 5 billion U.S. dollars in aid since Bangladesh's independence. Our annual development assistance programs average \$100 million. Our overall annual budget for Bangladesh currently stands at about \$160 million dollars. We will continue this strong bond of friendship and look forward to working with Bangladesh to achieve its goal of a better and more prosperous future for all of its citizens.

Secretary of State Clinton recently highlighted U.S. foreign policy goals. She stated: *"Our priorities are clear. We are deploying the tools of diplomacy and development along with military power. We are securing historic alliances, working with emerging regional powers, and seeking new avenues of engagement. We are addressing the existing and emerging challenges that will define our century: climate change, weak states, rogue regimes, criminal cartels, nuclear proliferation, terrorism, poverty, and disease. We are advancing our values and our interests by promoting human rights and fostering conditions that allow every individual to live up to their God-given potential."*

President Obama, in his budget proposal to Congress, announced that the United States intended to double Foreign Assistance by 2015. The U.S. Government is committed to funding key programs that advance U.S. foreign policy goals. This includes significantly increasing funding for programs that address global climate change, food security, basic education, health, and poverty reduction. USAID provides assistance in close collaboration with you, our implementing partners, and with the Government