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ALLIANCE WELCOMES PRESIDENT OBAMA'S APPOINTMENT OF DR. RAJIV SHAH AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

November 11, 2009, Washington, D.C.—The Alliance for Global Food Security welcomes President Obama's nomination of Dr. Rajiv Shah as Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development and urges the Senate to quickly approve the nomination.

“USAID needs a strong leader who can reinvigorate the agency and take bold steps to build capacity in developing countries to alleviate poverty and overcome the underlying causes of hunger. We have every reason to believe that Dr. Shah can provide that leadership and vision and we look forward to working with him,” Carl Leonard, Chair of the Alliance and President of ACDI/VOCA said.

The Alliance has urged the Administration to make global food security a cornerstone of foreign aid efforts and to focus greater resources on agriculture, rural development, and nutrition in a manner that directly engages and benefits the poor. It also strongly supports U.S. food aid programs that can address urgent needs as well as contribute to longer-term development efforts. The announcement of a new global food security policy by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in September was a positive sign, but without a strong leader at USAID it would be impossible to fully develop and implement the plan.

According to Mr. Leonard, “As Dr. Shah was previously vetted by the Senate for his position as Under Secretary of Agriculture, this bodes well for a rapid nomination process.”

The members of the Alliance are private voluntary organizations and cooperatives that are committed to addressing hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity through the effective and accountable use of funds, food aid and other resources. They operate in approximately 100 developing countries, implementing relief and development programs that directly engage, support and build the capacity of local communities, enterprises and institutions.

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