

**IN SUPPORT OF RESTORATION OF FULL FUNDING FOR THE UNITED STATES
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

A Resolution of Witness

TEXT OF THE MOTION

WHEREAS the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is the international humanitarian and development arm of the U.S. government which assists in countries facing the greatest needs by alleviating poverty, starvation, disease and other crises¹; and

WHEREAS USAID was established by then-President John F. Kennedy in 1961 as an independent agency, with the two-pronged goal of countering Soviet influence during the Cold War and running various foreign assistance programs²; and

WHEREAS USAID delivers billions of dollars annually in humanitarian aid overseas in funding that provides a critical lifeline to more than 100 countries at only a small fraction of the overall U.S. federal budget³; and

WHEREAS the more than \$40 billion in combined appropriations managed by USAID in fiscal year 2023 amounted to less than 1% of the federal budget⁴; and

WHEREAS in fiscal year 2023, USAID provided assistance to about 130 countries with the top 10 recipients being Ukraine, Ethiopia, Jordan, Congo, Somalia, Yemen, Afghanistan, Nigeria, South Sudan & Syria⁵; and

WHEREAS because American security is tied to stability and economic advancements in other nations, the United States has more than a mere altruistic interest in supporting USAID whose programs address a wide range of needs, from women's health to clean water in vulnerable nations around the world⁶; and

WHEREAS investment in USAID's humanitarian program is a far more cost-effective peacekeeping tool than military spending⁷; and

WHEREAS in recent years, USAID has also provided significant humanitarian and economic support to Ukraine and countries affected by Russia's invasion, as well as humanitarian assistance in the Gaza Strip⁸; and

WHEREAS the freeze on support for USAID puts millions of children and adults at mortal risk by abruptly cutting off lifesaving HIV treatment and malaria prevention programs, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa⁹; and

WHEREAS while USAID programs are suspended, shipping containers packed with lifesaving antibiotics and antimalarial drugs are being held at the Port of Sudan, essential medicines are expiring in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and 33,000 metric tons of American-grown soybeans intended to treat severe malnutrition overseas are being diverted to warehouses where they may rot or be destroyed by vermin before they reach those in need¹⁰; and

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44 **WHEREAS** as Christ reminds us in Matthew 25:40, “whatever you did unto the least of these, you
45 did unto me”; and

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47 **WHEREAS** recent Executive Branch decisions have paused or altogether terminated USAID’s
48 humanitarian as well as conservation efforts in places of great need¹¹; and

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50 **WHEREAS** through the Parable of the Good Samaritan in the Gospel of Luke, Christ taught us to
51 love our neighbors as we love ourselves

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53 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of
54 Christ considers it a moral imperative that our nation honor its commitment to assist in meeting the
55 needs of our less fortunate neighbors insofar as it is within our ability to do so.

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57 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of
58 Christ declares United States Agency for International Development (USAID) program
59 implementation, with its “world peace dividend,” represents both a moral responsibility and a
60 sound use of tax dollars.

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62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ
63 acknowledges historical and political challenges exist related to the implementation of USAID’s
64 mission, but recognizes that USAID has provided essential, life-saving public health and
65 humanitarian aid to marginalized communities around the globe.

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67 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of
68 Christ calls on the U.S. Congress to continue full funding for USAID.

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70 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of
71 Christ calls on the presidential administration to immediately restore the distribution of US foreign
72 aid from the direct control of the U.S. Department of State to USAID, release any and all
73 restrictions on the ability of USAID and its administrators to fully implement its programs, and
74 seek programmatic independence for federally funded humanitarian assistance.

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76 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Thirty Fifth General Synod of the United Church of
77 Christ calls on the presidential administration to expedite USAID delivery of food, medicine, and
78 other humanitarian supplies to those deemed to be in immediate need.

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80 **FUNDING:** Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the
81 overall mandates of the affected ministries and the funds available.

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83 **IMPLEMENTATION:** The Officers of the Church, in consultation with appropriate ministries or
84 other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

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¹See *Records of the Agency for International Development (RG 286)*;
<https://www.archives.gov/research/foreign-policy/related-records/rg-286>

² See *Records of the Agency for International Development (RG 286)*;

<https://www.archives.gov/research/foreign-policy/related-records/rg-286>

³ See *What Does USAID Spend Money on? List of Potential Cuts*; <https://www.newsweek.com/usaidspending-money-list-potential-cuts-2029572>

⁴ See *What is USAID? How it works and what could happen if Trump and Musk shut it down*; <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/what-is-usaid-trump-musk-shut-down-budget-funding-dogercna190441>

⁵ *What is USAID, the government agency targeted by Trump and Elon Musk?*; <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/02/02/usaids-musk-trump-faq/>

⁶ See *The Closure of USAID: Is America Surrendering Its Foreign Aid Soft Power?*; <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2025/02/10/the-closure-of-usaid-is-america-surrendering-its-foreign-aid-soft-power/>

⁷ See *Food for Peace Showed How Foreign Aid Can Benefit Both the U.S. and the World*; <https://time.com/7275593/food-for-peace-showed-foreign-aid-benefit-both-us-and-world/>

⁸ See *Why shutting down USAID could have major impacts on Gaza aid*; <https://abcnews.go.com/International/shutting-usaid-major-impacts-gaza-aid/story?id=118393336>

⁹ See *The Consequences of USAID Funding Cuts on HIV/AIDS Programs in Africa: Challenges and Strategies for Sustaining Progress*; <https://www.medreport.foundation/post/the-consequences-of-usaid-funding-cuts-on-hiv-aids-programs-in-africa-challenges-and-strategies-for>

¹⁰ See *Crucial aid sits in warehouses worldwide as USAID employees are told to stop working*; <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/politics-news/trump-usaid-upheaval-paralyzing-global-delivery-food-medicine-rcna190565>

¹¹ See *USAID cuts are hitting global conservation projects hard*; <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/usaids-cuts-are-hitting-global-conservation-projects-hard/ar-AA1E8Sq0>