

Overheard at the 2013 Brookings Blum Roundtable

From former and current public officials...



Rajiv Shah

Administrator, United States Agency for International Development

"America plays a unique leadership role in global development—from working in fragile states to strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities to forging public-private partnerships in energy and agriculture. If we remain focused and results-oriented, we can help lead the world to end extreme poverty in the next two decades."

Madeleine Albright

Chair, The Albright Stonebridge Group

"In my recent work on forming public-private partnerships, I have discovered that coming to a consensus on an overall mandate, structure and sectoral focus is challenging but doable. What is much harder is building and maintaining trust between the public sector and the private sector, and I believe it is partially related to difficulties in determining who delivers what in a partnership and then actually following through. I am an optimist regarding public-private partnerships, but we must figure out how the efforts of the public and private sectors can complement each other in order to resolve these trust issues."



Mary Robinson

President, Mary Robinson Foundation—Climate Justice

Soon after I was appointed the United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region of Africa, the World Bank announced it would put up to \$1 billion aside for projects to help promote peace, security, cooperation and development, which I call a "Framework of Hope." But my primary concern is that these projects are going to be for mega-hydro energy and other large-scale ventures that may not lead to a tangible enough dividend for the poorest people in the region whose expectations have been raised that somehow it is going to be different this time."



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Carmen Niethammer

Seconded Gender Advisor to Odebrecht S.A.,
International Finance Corporation/World Bank

“When we at the IFC initially worked with commercial banks to figure out how to get finance into the hands of women entrepreneurs, what was really important was to talk about the business case for doing so. It turned out that many banks did not know that women were one of their fastest growing profitable customer segments. When women customers had a positive experience with the bank, they would often also bring the business of their entire family and have high referral rates—thus increasing financial returns for the commercial bank.”

John Podesta

Chair, *Center for American Progress* and the *Center for American Progress Action Fund*

“I think we have to pay attention to the fact that the poor are cut off from the economy even in places that are growing. If the global goal is to end extreme poverty, we need to think about how best to use the private sector to build economies that create connectivity, particularly to energy, finance, telecommunications, and transportation.”



Elizabeth Littlefield

President and CEO, *Overseas Private Investment Corporation*

“I think that as we look at US development policy, we need to look much more deeply at do we have the right resources, do we have the right incentives, do we have the right instruments, do we have the right focus and are those resources and instruments really in the right places? Or do we have an architecture that was designed fifty years ago for 21st century challenges?”

Laura Tyson

S. K. and Angela Chan Professor of Global Management,
Haas School of Business, *University of California, Berkeley*

“I am struck that the successful business models for serving the bottom of the pyramid are always partnerships. There is always a role of a public entity, whether it is a regional government, or a state government, or a national government. There is always a role of a grant-making or NGO entity, and there is always a role of a private, profit-motivated, commercially-motivated actor.”

