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Education for Development and Democracy Initiative (EDDI) Meeting, 11/22/99

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Mtg**EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY
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E-mail: SMOTEN@USAID.GOV****DATE : November 10, 1999****TO: Ms. Sandy Thurman****ATT: Cheryl****FAX NUMBER: 202/456-2439****PHONE NUMBER: 202/456-2959****FROM: Dr. Sarah E. Moten
Coordinator****NUMBER OF PAGE(s) including cover 3****COMMENTS: I look forward to our meeting on Monday, Nov. 22, 1999 at
~~11:00am~~**



U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

The Education for Development and Democracy Initiative (EDDI) is designed to improve the quality of and technology for African education to assist with Africa's integration into the world community of free-market democracies. This intergovernmental initiative is a result of President William Clinton's March 1998 visit to Africa and reflects his commitment to strengthen educational systems and democratic principles, and to fortify and extend the vital developmental partnership between America and Africa.

EDDI, coordinated at the National Security Council level, is an organized effort among the Department of State, U. S. Agency for International Development, and the Peace Corps, with the Department of Agriculture, Department of Defense, Department of Education, Department of Labor and Environmental Protection Agency playing supporting roles. EDDI will focus efforts in Botswana, Ghana, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, and Mali, but also includes all other countries in the region.

Four decades of development experience have made it clear that one of the most important determinants of development success is the level of education or human resource development of a country. Unfortunately, the African education systems have largely been unable to meet effectively the challenges created by a rapidly growing school-age population and quality has deteriorated. Universities have suffered from uncertain funding. The challenge is to make universities more relevant, primary systems more efficient and equitable, and skills training more widely available. In doing so, Africa will be better placed to take advantage of future economic growth and trade opportunities.

EDDI will work to underscore democratic institutions, free and open markets, an informed and educated populace, a vibrant civil society, and a relationship between state and

society that encourages pluralism, participation, and peaceful conflict resolution. There are four strategic objectives in the democracy sector: (a) rule of law and respect for human rights strengthened; (b) credible and competitive political processes encouraged; (c) development of a politically active civil society promoted; and (d) transparent and accountable government institutions encouraged. Progress in all four areas is necessary to achieve sustainable democracy. EDDI will work to encourage democracy based on intrinsic values that rest in the ideals of liberty, personal and civic freedom, and government of, for, and by the people.

In the new information age, hierarchies are no longer going to be the best paradigm for organizing either thought or action. Information is going to be provided by people and institutions without regard to location or formal relationships. The Democracy Network will include both non-governmental organizations, such as human rights groups, press associations, lawyers' associations, and governmental bodies such as parliaments, local government authorities, and judges. Education Networks will include universities, educational research institutions, ministries of education, teachers association. These networks will be strengthened through activities such as training, exchanges and study tours, electronic connectivity, and technical support.

Activities that will be funded by EDDI include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Resource Centers
2. School-to-School Partnerships
3. University Partnerships
4. Democracy Partnerships
5. Technology Partnerships
6. Young Entrepreneurs Training
7. Girls' Mentoring Networks
8. Ambassadors Scholarships for Girls

For more information, please contact:

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