

Global Vision

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FORMER US PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON

Five Star: The Clinton Global Initiative Fifth Annual Summit

REPORTING BY JEFFREY BRADFORD PHD

On Tuesday, September 22, 2009, President Bill Clinton opened the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI). This is an annual event held in New York City alongside the opening of the United Nations General Assembly that brings together global leaders from business, government, academia, science, religion, and nongovernmental organizations, including numerous heads of state, former heads of state, CEOs of multinational corporations, and prominent philanthropists.

This year's Annual Summit brought together a stellar array of Heads of State, politicians and celebrities motivated to do good for their fellow human beings including; More than 60 Current and Former Heads of State, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, Larry Summers, Valerie Jarrett, former United Nations Secretary Gen-

eral Kofi Annan, and former Vice-President Al Gore to join the CEOs of Cisco, The Coca-Cola Company, The Dow Chemical Company, Duke Energy Corporation, ExxonMobil, Florida Power and Light, Freeport-McMoran Copper & Gold Inc, General Electric, The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., Hess Corporation, JP Morgan Chase & Co., Nissan Motor, PepsiCo, Standard Chartered PLC, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Wellpoint, Inc., Western Union, Visa,

and Matt Damon, Quincy Jones, Alicia Keys, Wangari Muta Maathai, Demi Moore, Barbra Streisand, Muhammad Yunus, and Robert Zoellick.

The opening plenary session featured a panel of heads of state and world leaders framing the discussion for the four-day meeting around pressing global challenges, including energy & climate change, economic empow-

erment, education, and global health. President Clinton's opening remarks captured the mood following a challenging year economically, socially and politically for many nations representatives; "In the midst of a global financial crisis, it doesn't surprise me that more people are attending this meeting than ever before... Since 2005, it has become clear that CGI has found an effective model for addressing challenges around the world. Our members have made more than 1,400 commitments affecting more than 200 million people around the world. Because of their efforts, more than 10 million children have access to a better education, 48 million people have better health care, and more than 12 people million have safe drinking water. But there is still work to be done."

The President then moderated a panel discussion featuring Michelle Bachelet, president of the Republic of Chile, Mike Duke, president and CEO of Wal-Mart Stores, Muhtar Kent, chairman of the board and CEO of Coca-Cola, and Kevin Rudd, prime minister of the Commonwealth of Australia. The panel set the stage for the discussion over the following three days, much centered around four global challenges: economic empowerment, education, global health, and energy and climate change. Additionally on the opening day, Bill Clinton President Clinton announced the first two commitments of this year's meeting and gave a progress report on an ongoing commitment;

Firstly the efforts of Water.org, which is committed to bringing safe drinking water and sanitation to at least 50,000 people in Haiti over the next three years. The effort aims to enhance awareness of good hygiene practices among local communities, and focus on integrating sustainable water resources management into community practices. Water.org co-founders Actor Matt Damon and Gary White joined President Clinton on-stage to announce this commitment.

Global Give Back (supported by the Coca Cola corporation) Circle's founder, Linda Lockhart, appeared on stage with three young Kenyan women who have benefited

from the organization's commitment. Global Give Back Circle committed to helping adolescent girls in Kenya achieve financial and societal independence with the help of mentors, the local community, and financial partners. Already, 35 high school graduating seniors have been accepted to Universities across Kenya. The three women held the audience with a combination of poetry and music cleverly composed to highlight the benefit of the scheme and their appreciation for the effort.

A final surprise on the opening day of the Summit was a visit by current US President Barack Obama who gave a short speech acknowledging the importance of the Clinton Global Initiative and the need for service; "This week, even as we gather at the United Nations to discuss what governments can do to confront the challenges of our time, even as we're joined tonight by so many presidents and prime ministers - this Global Initiative reminds us what we can do as individuals: that you don't have to hold public office to be a public servant," President Obama said, adding: "That's the beauty of service - anyone can do it and everyone should try."

On the final day of the Annual Summit, President Clinton was joined by his wife, former First Lady and current Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton to report on the successes of the Summit. It was announced that by the end of the Summit CGI members in 2009 have made 284 new commitments valued at more than \$9.4 billion dollars. In total, these

commitments are projected to impact upon more than 200 million lives. Since 2005, members of the Clinton Global Initiative have made nearly 1,700 commitments valued at \$57 billion dollars. "I think we can say with some certainty that this model actually does work," President Clinton said. "People don't have to have the same politics, the same religion, or speak the same language to work together and to have an impact. We all have things to learn from each other. What we need is a shared mechanism to achieve common goals."

The impact of 2009 commitments, once fully implemented, are expected to have the following outcomes:

- 79 million people will generate sustainable income through self-employment or new job opportunities.
- \$5.4 billion will be invested in or loaned to small- and medium-sized enterprises
- 25.4 million people will have improved access to capital and financial services.
- 3.5 million small farmers will gain access to inputs, supports, and markets.
- 7 million women and girls will be reached through empowerment initiatives.
- 30 million children will gain access to education.
- 2 million girls will be reached through school enrollment efforts.
- 30 million metric tons of CO2 emissions will be cut
- 7 million people will be reached with clean energy.
- 1.5 million people will be engaged in efforts to promote climate change solutions.
- 83 million people will have increased access to health services.
- 17 million people will have increased access to maternal-child health and survival programs.
- 4.7 million children will benefit from malnutrition interventions.
- 40 million people will receive treatment for neglected tropical diseases.
- \$50 million will be raised to fund research and development of new vaccines, medicines, and diagnostics.
- 18 million people will have increased access to safe drinking water.



FORMER US PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON



CURRENT AND FORMER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA AND BILL CLINTON



ACTOR MATT DAMON



SINGER USHER