

Welcome to the Open House for USAID's Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment. It is so good to see you all here. We have been holding these meetings every six months. For this meeting, we decided to try something new. We wanted to broaden the reach of these events so that people who don't currently work with the E3 bureau would feel welcome to join us. Can I see a show of hands? Who is attending the E3 Open House for the first time? It is great to have you all here.

The schedule for this morning is as follows. We will wrap up this plenary session at around 10:00. We will then divide up into three concurrent panel sessions so that you can hear directly from the office directors about what their teams are working on. The panels will run until 11:00. We will continue with networking in the Atrium where all of the E3 offices have tables so you can talk to the staff individually. We also have tables staffed by the Management Bureau's Office of Acquisition and Assistance and the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU). Finally, there will be an optional information session at 11:30 where we talk about the Outcomes from the Global Climate Change negotiations in Paris and our new requirements for Climate Risk Screening.

Let me tell you a bit about E3. The Bureau is composed 300 staff in 12 technical offices and two support offices. Our technical mandate is quite broad. We have the lead in the Agency for 13 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and we support the rest of the Agency in the other four. We supplement our in-house technical expertise through grants and contracts with many of you. But we are also using innovative tools to tap the best ideas available. We are running three Grand Challenges for Development, one technical challenge, several co-creation Broad Agency Announcements, and we lead or are members of numerous international consortia to address important development challenges. You can see we cover a lot of territory. So we recently launched a new bureau operational strategy to articulate our collective purpose and our collective objectives. The chapeau of that strategy is our Bureau Mandate. Here it is.

We also have a brochure that you can pick up that tells you a bit about each of our offices.

Since we met last in July:

- We launched an innovative approach to civil society development called *localworks* that will be implemented in collaboration with 8-10 missions, five of which have been selected.
- We held an education summit with over 800 participants to discuss the use of data for improving learning outcomes and to review the achievements of the last five years: 30 million children reached by our reading programs and 6 million children with improved reading fluency
- We launched, with other donors and the private sector, a new Trade Facilitation Alliance to support developing countries move goods faster and cheaper
- The Development Credit Office finished the fiscal year having leveraged \$695 million, their second highest annual total
- We awarded 13 grants under the Powering Agriculture Grand Challenge.
- And, we awarded 16 grants under the Wildlife Crime Tech Challenge

That's just a few highlights. We've been busy.

At the same time, we've made some important changes to our leadership. Last July, you met Melissa Williams who had recently arrived as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for the economic growth offices. In September, Carrie Thompson joined E3 as the Deputy Assistant Administrator covering the environment portfolio. With Carrie's arrival, Chris Holmes has been able to focus his energies as the DAA and Agency Coordinator for the water sector. We've also had a couple additions among the office directors. Evelyn Rodriguez-Perez joined us as the new director of the education office, and Reed Aeschelman joined as the new office director for energy and infrastructure. Victor Bullen is our new Agency Environment Coordinator and he is leading a new unit conducting congressionally mandated environmental and social reviews of World Bank programs.

As you know, our Assistant Administrator Eric Postel was tapped to fill in as the Assistant to the Administrator for the Africa Bureau back in October 2014 and then he was asked to serve as the Associate Administrator. Eric is with us today and it is my pleasure to invite him to come to up to talk all of you.