The Lugar Center

Dedicated To Making A Difference:
Solving Global Issues
WMD Non-Proliferation
Global Food Security
Foreign Aid Effectiveness
Bipartisan Governance
Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to The Lugar Center, a non-profit organization that is committed to advancing positive solutions and fostering bipartisan dialogue on issues that I believe are critical to the well-being of our country and the world. These include strengthening arms control and non-proliferation efforts, expanding global food security, improving the effectiveness of foreign assistance, and promoting bipartisan governance.

Throughout my career, I have found that difficult problems are not always well understood and solutions may require ideas that challenge political and societal assumptions. For example, many were skeptical when Senator Sam Nunn and I worked to establish a program to help the former Soviet Union safeguard and destroy its massive stockpiles of nuclear weapons and materials. Likewise, innovative solutions are necessary to improve global food security, an issue that is elemental to international political stability, our hopes for progress in global development, and the welfare of hundreds of millions of individuals, including children.

Global and domestic problems do not pause while we struggle with partisan divisions in our own political system, which is why we must bolster the capacity of leaders and citizens to overcome partisan divisions that hinder good governance.

I am excited about the work of The Lugar Center as we seek to develop new ideas, facilitate meaningful dialogue, build consensus, and collaborate with like-minded partners. I welcome your support of this important work.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Lugar
President, The Lugar Center
The Lugar Center (TLC), a 501 (c) (3) organization located in Washington, DC, was established in 2013 as a platform for an informed debate on national and global issues. The Center is designed to be a prominent voice on issues that framed much of Senator Lugar’s career. It seeks to educate the public, global policymakers, and future leaders on critical issues such as the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, food security, foreign aid effectiveness, and bipartisan governance.

TLC is dedicated to proposing solutions to global problems that will define the 21st century. It seeks to bridge ideological divides and provide a forum for timely commentary by respected experts. TLC is committed to thoughtful analysis and civil dialogue that facilitates bipartisan governance.

Senator Lugar’s leadership in the Senate provides him with a powerful and respected voice within the policy community. In his 12 years as Chairman or Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and his 16 years as Chairman or Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, he shepherded some of the most prominent foreign policy and agriculture legislation through Congress.

TLC senior staff members bring many decades of policy and political experience to the work of the Center. That experience includes positions with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, personal offices in both the House and the Senate, and the White House. TLC staff members have served as Chief of Staff to House Appropriations Subcommittee Chairmen, as Chief of Staff and Legislative Director in a Senate office, as a Specialist in foreign assistance at the Congressional Research Service, and as Deputy Staff Director and Senior Professional Staff Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.
With a congressional perspective and foreign policy background, Senator Lugar and the TLC staff seek to influence foreign policy debates by situating its core issues within a national security framework. In working to influence the public, policymakers, and future leaders, it is necessary to provide compelling evidence on how U.S. security and foreign policy objectives benefit from continued U.S. global leadership.

The Lugar Center advocates for evidence-based approaches and policy options to build a more peaceful and prosperous world. The Center’s approach begins with the understanding that change is located at the intersection of policy, process, and politics. Great ideas have often foundered on dysfunctional politics or missed opportunities due to procedural roadblocks. TLC works to help the policy community understand how to bring these three dynamics into alignment to maximize prospects for success.

TLC’s staff of senior policy experts lead and coordinate collaborative work in the policy communities that form the basis of the Center’s work. TLC teams up with grassroots, national, and international organizations to advance its goals. TLC also works with a number of prominent Indiana and Washington, D.C.-based universities to help shape future leaders. Its university affiliations provide it with access to cutting-edge research and analysis, and the Center embraces the scientific and research-based capabilities that these universities bring to joint projects.

As highlighted in the following pages, we have applied our expertise to several critical issues challenging prosperity, security, and development in the 21st Century. Solutions to these problems are complex, yet vital, for ensuring a stable world and advancing human progress. We are enthusiastic about conquering these challenges.

Zambian farmer benefits from USAID program using a treadle pump to irrigate her crops.
The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remains the number one security threat facing the United States and the international community.

The Lugar Center is devoted to the principle that calamities involving weapons of mass destruction are preventable if responsible governments, organizations, and individuals dedicate themselves to the painstaking work necessary to constrain this threat. The Lugar Center is inspired by the work of Senator Richard G. Lugar, who for more than two decades has been a leader in nearly every important non-proliferation and arms control initiative undertaken by the United States.

Senator Lugar was the co-author of the landmark Nunn-Lugar Program passed in 1991. This program has worked cooperatively with Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belarus and other nations to safely secure and dismantle vulnerable stockpiles of weapons and materials of mass destruction in the former Soviet Union. It has assisted in the deactivation of more than 7,600 nuclear warheads; the elimination of 2,000 intercontinental missiles; and the destruction of 1,000 missile launchers. The program has helped to secure innumerable biological pathogens, and it is proceeding with a project to destroy almost two million chemical weapons.

Senator Lugar led the passage of legislation expanding the scope of the original Nunn-Lugar program so that it could meet threats anywhere in the world. For example, Nunn-Lugar has destroyed chemical weapons in Albania and Libya, provided security to African research labs studying dangerous pathogens, and facilitated WMD security agreements in East Asia. The Program exists as an important resource for responding to proliferation emergencies and building ties to countries that want help contending with WMD stockpiles and infrastructure. Senator Lugar was at the forefront of efforts to evaluate and pass arms control agreements including the START agreements, the INF Treaty, the Chemical
Weapons Convention, the Moscow Treaty, and others. He was the lead Republican fighting for the successful ratification of the New START agreement with Russia in 2010.

The Lugar Center seeks to educate citizens, students, and leaders on the risks of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, biological, and radiological weapons and materials. The Center emphasizes especially the security of these weapons and the construction of international arms control agreements and norms designed to reduce their numbers and prevent their use. It works to ensure that the international community maintains the technological and human capabilities and political will necessary to peacefully inventory, inspect, safeguard, and deactivate weapons of mass destruction when such opportunities present themselves.

The Lugar Center joins with like-minded organizations to develop policy proposals that further these goals. The Center advocates for resources to support non-proliferation objectives and for measures to reduce the bureaucratic and political obstacles that sometimes inhibit national and international efforts to reduce the WMD threat. It fosters bipartisan dialogue on arms control issues and the future of the United States’ own nuclear weapons. It also promotes the U.S. government’s engagement with foreign officials and governments on securing their cooperation for protecting WMD materials and advancing arms control initiatives.
More than 840 million people across the globe are defined as chronically hungry today. With the world’s population expected to top 9 billion people by 2050 we face a major challenge in sustainably producing enough food to eliminate hunger. But, it’s not just population growth that is driving demand. Global food security is affected by a number of intertwined factors. Continued growth in a wealthier and urban global population will increase demand for varied diets with a higher protein content. At the same time food productivity will be hampered by the effects of climate change, energy price volatility, and pressures on land and water resources. Many of these challenges will be particularly felt by smallholders in some of the poorest regions of the world.

Concurrent with these alarming trends, political and social factors have created obstacles to the advances necessary to meet the rising demand for food. Investments in agriculture in both high and low income countries have tumbled for several decades. While funding trends have improved in recent years, equally troubling are cutbacks in research into new technologies, farming techniques, and seed varieties that could increase yields, cope with changing climatic conditions, battle new pests and diseases, and increase the nutritional value of staple crops.

Equally troubling, many governments especially in Europe and Africa have rejected biotechnology advances that are necessary to meet future demand. Opposition to genetic engineering contributes to hunger in Africa in the short run and virtually ensures that much of the continent will lack the tools to adapt their farming to changing climatic conditions in the long run. Such advanced technologies should be available to all farmers who choose to use them.

Without sustained attention, recurring price volatility and food shortages will contribute to political instability as witnessed by food riots and related events since 2008. Mass migration and intensifying health issues stemming from malnutrition will likely exacerbate the circumstances surrounding these shortages. U.S. diplomatic efforts to maintain peace will be far more difficult wherever food
shortages contribute to extremism and conflict. Hopes for economic
development in poor countries will continually be frustrated if populations are
unable to feed themselves.

In order to meet the 2050 challenge in ways that benefit all people, regardless
of their place of birth, cultural or religious heritage, gender or economic status,
we must recognize the value of differing approaches and seek to accommodate those
approaches in ways that make sense. In some cases this will entail low
technology solutions; in other cases it will involve the use of GMOs.

The Center’s activities support a more prominent role for science, including high,
low- and no-technology options, and the better dissemination of best practices,
while prioritizing the empowerment of smallholder farmers, many of whom are
women, who make up the vast majority of the world’s poor.

There must also be a role for science to protect global biodiversity by preserving
local crops, often referred to as orphan or neglected crops, as important sources
of nutrition. Further, the health of forests for climate change adaption and
agroforestry for soil quality and crop productivity must be fully integrated into
global food security approaches.

The Center works to keep these issues at the center of policy debates in
Washington and world capitals. TLC partners with NGOs, agricultural universities,
and the private sector to translate scientific advances for more robust public policy
deliberations. The Center believes that we will never achieve global stability and
prosperity as long as there are hungry people at home and abroad.
The United States has been a leader in providing foreign assistance throughout the developing world for more than 50 years. While this aid represents only about one percent of our national budget, it has resulted in the transitioning of some countries from impoverished to middle income to full trading partners of the United States. In other instances complex issues of extreme poverty, severe hunger, corrupt governments or failed states have provided mixed results for our investments.

Foreign assistance remains an important tool for international cooperation. Thriving economies benefit the United States in a number of ways ranging from business and trade opportunities to global stability. Our aid programs reflect the humanitarian nature of the American people.

A key component of aid effectiveness is the focus on sustainable development outcomes that place a premium on broad-based economic growth, democratic governance, and innovations and systems that meet basic human needs.

Until recently, foreign assistance has been provided primarily by western governments and nongovernmental organizations. However, the role of foreign assistance is changing as new actors and norms for cooperation come on line. At the same time, the current period of budget austerity for both the United States and European donors requires that traditional donors identify the areas and approaches that have the greatest promise for impact. This means finding more sophisticated ways to coordinate activities among traditional and emerging donors and low income countries the United States seeks to assist. It requires that we understand and can take advantage of the growing role of trade and the private sector. Governments and organizations need to be more transparent and accountable with their aid dollars. And there needs to be a greater willingness on their parts to adjust programs and projects should evaluations show a lack of impact. Further, U.S. aid programs need to align, when appropriate, with the development plans of host countries.
Through its leadership in the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network (MFAN) and other like-minded efforts, the Center works to keep the issue of modernization of U.S. foreign assistance programs at the forefront, situating their importance within U.S. foreign policy and national security goals. The Center seeks to hold government programs accountable for efficiency and effectiveness objectives outlined in the President’s Policy Directive on Global Development (PPD). A key component is the focus on sustainable development outcomes that place a premium on broad-based economic growth, democratic governance, as well as innovations and systems that meet basic human needs through greater focus and selectivity of U.S. aid programs.

Senator Lugar and Center staff have taken on a leadership role in MFAN. The network, a coalition of international nongovernmental organizations and leading think tanks, is working together to support more effective foreign aid that includes key principles of greater transparency, accountability, and learning, as well as country-led ownership by aid recipients.

The Center works to educate government leaders, students, and citizens on specific policies that should be pursued to more effectively alleviate global poverty. TLC endeavors to not just educate policymakers on the value of foreign assistance done well, but seeks to provide compelling arguments on why such programs are in the best interests of the United States. The Center’s work emphasizes the importance of a strengthened international economic engagement to broader U.S. foreign policy objectives of a more prosperous, peaceful and stable world.
Bipartisan Governance

The performance of the United States Government and the security and economic well-being of the American people have suffered because of the intensifying partisanship that has afflicted political processes and societal debates in recent years. This partisanship frequently has subordinated good governance to political combat and locked leaders into inflexible positions. We have seen innumerable examples of both parties failing the most basic tests of governance, including the 2013 government shutdown, the inability to enact a long-term deficit reduction program, reliance on the fiscal cliff sequester, the near abandonment of a bill-by-bill appropriations process, and repeated failures to pass an annual budget resolution.

Faced with reflexive partisan roadblocks, Congress also has frequently retreated from legislating on foreign policy. Treaty ratification during the Obama Administration has come to a near standstill. For many years, comprehensive Foreign Affairs Authorization bills have received low priority for floor time and leadership attention. Congress is largely failing to pursue systematic and timely reviews of the most strategically important questions in foreign policy. In the process, it is weakening its capacity to function as either a partner or as a constructive critic of the Executive Branch in foreign affairs.

This partisanship in Washington and its amplification in media outlets competing for the attention of partisan-based audiences are exacerbating divisions within American society, as a whole. Attempts to vilify political opponents as disloyal and redefine policy disagreements as failures of character or even scandals have become increasingly common. Political incivility, in turn, undercuts the ability of parties to work together, makes the achievement of unity in times of crisis more difficult, and increases the chances of politically motivated violence.

This dysfunction within our government and political system requires not just awareness and patience, but solutions. The Lugar Center is dedicated to incentivizing public officials to put governance first, fostering more meaningful
policy debates, encouraging civility in political speech, and promoting structural reforms that reduce partisanship.

We acknowledge that adversarial political parties and contentious elections are unavoidable elements of the American political system. Indeed, the Founders were realists who understood the power of factionalism, parochialism, and personal ambition. They understood that an effective government could not be based on good intentions. Accordingly, they designed a system that would prevent power from accumulating in a few hands. But they knew that the efficient operation of such a Republic would require most elected officials to have a dedication to governance, and they trusted that leaders would arise in every era to make their vision work.

The Lugar Center’s programs on bipartisan governance are grounded on the belief that leaders and citizens can act in a bipartisan manner irrespective of their party loyalties, their ideology, or their individual interests.

Bipartisanship is sometimes inaccurately defined as the pursuit of centrist outcomes. But there is no contradiction between holding strong ideological views and embracing bipartisan principles. Bipartisanship is a way of approaching leadership that prioritizes governance, values consensus when possible, fairly evaluates ideas outside one’s own ideology, tempers one’s political rhetoric, and seeks opportunities to work with the other party.

Embracing bipartisanship does not require leaders to alter their political principles. But it does require them to ensure that their responsibility to govern is not paralyzed by their ideology or their pursuit of partisan political advantage. Through research and commentary, The Lugar Center seeks to encourage bipartisanship among elected officials and inform the public on the negative impact of partisanship in our government. We develop and promote proposals designed to increase national unity and mitigate the effects of partisanship. And we work with like-minded organizations to create opportunities for bipartisan dialogue, with special emphasis on foreign affairs.
Senator Richard G. Lugar is a fifth generation Hoosier who served 36 years in the U.S. Senate. He retired in 2013 as the longest serving member of Congress in Indiana history and the 17th longest serving Senator in U.S. history. In the Senate, he exercised leadership on critical issues including nuclear non-proliferation, global food security, energy independence, foreign assistance reform, NATO expansion, preservation of the federal school lunch program, and immigration reform. He played an instrumental role in enacting U.S. sanctions on the Apartheid government of South Africa, and he was a key figure in establishing U.S. opposition to the Marcos regime’s attempt to steal the 1986 election in the Philippines. He led numerous efforts to ratify arms control treaties including the INF Treaty, the START Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the New START Treaty.

In 1991, Senator Lugar forged a bipartisan partnership with Senator Sam Nunn (D-GA) to pass the Nunn-Lugar Program, which was devoted to securing and destroying weapons of mass destruction in the former Soviet Union. Under Lugar and Nunn’s active encouragement and oversight, this effort grew into a cornerstone of U.S. non-proliferation efforts worldwide and earned Lugar and Nunn multiple Nobel Peace Prize nominations.

Senator Lugar graduated first in his class at both Shortridge High School in Indianapolis and Denison University in Granville, Ohio. He attended Pembroke College at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. He volunteered for the U.S. Navy in 1957, ultimately serving as an intelligence briefer for Admiral Arleigh Burke, Chief of Naval Operations. As the two-term mayor of Indianapolis (1968-75), Lugar envisioned the unification of the city and surrounding Marion County into one government. Unigov, as his plan was called, set the city on a path of long-term economic growth.

Senator Lugar holds 46 honorary university degrees. He has been honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, an Honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire, and the Federal Cross of Merit (Verdienstkreuz) from the Federal Republic of Germany. He and his wife, Charlene, were married September 8, 1956. They have four sons and 13 grandchildren.
“…Your legacy will endure in a safer and more secure world, and a safer and more secure America. And we pray that this nation produces more leaders with your sense of decency and civility and integrity. We are grateful to you.”

—President Barack Obama
November 2013, White House Presidential Medal of Freedom Ceremony

“There is nobody who’s spent more energy in more worthy ways to try to make the world safer than Dick Lugar.”

—Secretary of State John Kerry

“Indeed, Senator Lugar commands the highest respect not only from his peers in the Senate but around the world, for his deep knowledge of foreign policy, national security, agriculture, and trade.”

—Senator Mitch McConnell

“Senator Dick Lugar was a towering figure in the Senate for nearly three decades. Fortunately his commitment to public service continues through the creative work of The Lugar Center.”

—Dr. John Hamre, CSIS President, CEO, and Pritzker Chair

“Dick Lugar’s extraordinary record, knowledge, skill and dedication to the well-being of humanity make this center one of the most promising developments on the horizon.”

—David Hamburg, President Emeritus
Carnegie Corporation of New York

“The Lugar Center will, without doubt, make a significant contribution to solving critical problems confronting our nation.”

—George Shultz
Former Secretary of State
The Lugar Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization. To learn how you can support our work, please visit www.thelugarcenter.org and click on “Connect and Support.”