

Excellencies, ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen. I'm Carol Lancaster, not only the dean of the School of Foreign Service but a former USAID deputy administrator. So it gives me a very special pleasure to welcome all of you here today.

There are few in the world who do not believe that the survival of children until their fifth birthday and beyond is a compelling and essential goal for all of humankind. Every child deserves a fifth birthday with health, with safety, with love, and with prospects for education and hopes for a bright future. That's why this conference is so important.

It's also why we at Georgetown are especially honored to host this conference and welcome all of you today. We are also expanding our engagement in international development and global health to educate the future generation of leaders in this important area.

It's now my pleasure to introduce the administrator of USAID, Dr. Rajiv Shah. At first, I think we all thought he must be 103 he's done so much. He is a medical doctor. He has a business degree. He is an expert on agriculture and worked for the Department of Agriculture. He worked for a number of years for the Gates Foundation. And now he is the administrator of USAID. So it's with great pleasure that I welcome Rajiv Shah.