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## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

# **Announcement of Millennium Challenge Compact Eligibility for Moldova, Ukraine and Jordan**

As delivered by Ambassador Julie Finley  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
November 23, 2006

Mr. Chairman,

The United States announced that on November 8th, the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation selected two OSCE participating States and one OSCE Mediterranean partner to join the 22 nations now eligible for development assistance from the Millennium Challenge Account, otherwise referred to as the MCA.

The Millennium Challenge Account is an innovative approach to development assistance; it is designed to reward good performance and to create incentives for countries to adopt policies that create a foundation for long-term poverty reduction and economic growth.

Through their demonstrated, ongoing commitment to good governance and sound economic and social policies, Moldova, Ukraine and Jordan are taking the necessary steps to create, reinforce and maintain a policy environment in which the Millennium Challenge Corporation's assistance can help them reach specific goals of poverty reduction.

A country's selection for MCA Compact eligibility is based on sixteen independently measured and transparent benchmarks that have a demonstrated link to poverty reduction and economic growth. Selection is not a political reward, nor is it a guarantee of funding. It is a vote of confidence in the development decisions being taken in these countries, and an indication that the United States is ready to support this effort. We commend Moldova, Ukraine and Jordan for their selection, and look forward to supporting them as they initiate the process of creating their Compacts to reduce poverty.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.