Dear International Grantmaker:

The Council on Foundations is pleased to invite you to participate in a one-day meeting focused on the U.S. International Grantmaking Project (USIG), which seeks to facilitate responsible and effective international grantmaking by easing legal, administrative and informational barriers. USIG is a joint project of the Council and the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL).

The meeting will take place December 8, 2005 from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm at the Embassy Suites Hotel O’Hare-Rosemont, 5500 North River Road, Rosemont, Illinois, near Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport (telephone: 847/678-4000). The purpose of the gathering is to review the accomplishments of the USIG Project to date and to explore how we can address more effectively current and anticipated challenges to international grantmaking. Significant progress has been made in some areas, notably the wealth of legal and practical information now available on the USIG website (www.usig.org) as well as clarification of certain IRS rules. But there is clearly more that needs to be done, both to develop the website further and to tackle outstanding issues facing international grantmakers such as anti-terrorism compliance, measuring effectiveness and ensuring accountability. An agenda for the December 8th meeting follows this invitation.

In 1996 a group of international grantmakers and legal experts met in New York with the Council on Foundations to discuss how they could work together to overcome obstacles to international grantmaking. Out of this initial discussion, the USIG Project was born. Four years ago the Council convened a USIG meeting in San Francisco where the input we received about barriers to international grantmaking as well as key legal and operational challenges was invaluable in shaping the USIG strategic plan for 2002-2005. It is now time to strategize about the next three years of USIG, and we hope that you will join with other international grantmaking leaders, program officers, grants administrators, board members, legal advisors, affinity groups, and others interested in this topic to advise us on how we can make the USIG Project even more responsive to your needs and the realities of international giving.

Because of the technical nature of some of these issues, each grantmaking organization is encouraged to send a program person, grants administrator and/or in-house legal counsel, if you have one. We hope you will participate in this meeting. Please RSVP by November 18 to Patricia Marshall (email: marsp@cof.org, telephone: 202/467-0442). If you have any questions about the meeting or the USIG Project, contact Rob Buchanan by phone at 202/467-0391 or by email at buchr@cof.org.

With best wishes,

Rob Buchanan
Director, International Programs
Council on Foundations

Cornelia Higginson
USIG Co-Chair
Acting President
American Express Foundation

Josh Mintz
USIG Co-Chair
Vice President and General Counsel
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
AGENDA
United States International Grantmaking (USIG) Meeting
Embassy Suites Hotel O’Hare-Rosemont
5500 North River Road, Rosemont, Illinois 60018
December 8, 2005

9:30 – 9:45  Welcome and Introductions

9:45 – 10:30  Overview of International Grantmaking: Growth, Change Challenges and Opportunities

10:30 – 10:45  Review of USIG Project: History, Objectives and Accomplishments

10:45 – 11:00  Break

11:00 – 12:00  Current USIG Activities:

  Website - How can we make this tool even more useful?
  Advocacy - Are we addressing the most critical legal and regulatory issues?
  Good Practices – Are we highlighting the right practices and doing it in the most useful way?

12:00 – 1:30  Lunch
Speaker: Andrea N. Keller, Policy Advisor
  Terrorist Financing & Financial Crimes
  Department of the Treasury
Topic: Anti-Terrorism Issues and International Grantmaking: Perspectives from the Treasury Department

1:30 – 2:30  Accountability in International Grantmaking
Discussion and Feedback on Draft Principles of Accountability for International Philanthropy

2:30 – 2:45  Break

2:45 – 3:45  Strategic Planning for USIG 2006-2008
Identification of Specific Issues and Priorities (breakout groups)
  - Legal
  - Administrative
  - Program

3:45 – 4:15  Breakout Groups Report Back

4:15 – 4:30  Next Steps, Final Comments, and Wrap-up