amendment for a supplemental comment period beginning on the hearing date (November 17, 2022) and closing approximately 14 days after the Department publishes the hearing transcript on EBSA’s web page. The Department will publish a Federal Register notice announcing that the hearing transcript is available on EBSA’s web page and when the supplemental comment period will close. Due to the time required to process and publish the hearing transcript, the supplemental comment period should provide interested parties with at least 30 additional days to comment on the Proposed QPAM Amendment.

Requests To Testify at the Hearing

Individuals and organizations interested in testifying at the public hearing must submit a written request to testify and a summary of their testimony by October 11, 2022. Requests to testify must include:

1. the name, title, organization, address, email address, and telephone number of the individual who would testify;
2. if applicable, the name of the organization(s) whose views would be represented;
3. the date of the requestor’s written comment on the Rule (if applicable); and
4. a concise summary of the testimony that would be presented.

Any requestors with disabilities requiring special accommodations for their testimony should contact Erin Scott Hesse at (202) 693–8546 after submitting their request (this is not a toll-free number).

The Department will organize the hearing into several moderated panels. Each individual or organization will be given 10 minutes to testify and should be prepared to answer questions regarding the testimony. EBSA will post an agenda containing the panel compositions and presentation times on www.regulations.gov, no later than November 15, 2022.

EBSA may limit the number of presenters based on how many testimony requests it receives. In that event, EBSA will ensure that the broadest array of viewpoints on all aspects of the Proposed QPAM Amendment is represented and will include in the public record all testimony summaries it receives.

Instructions for Submitting Comments and Requests To Testify

All written comments and requests to testify at the hearing should be sent to the Office of Exemption Determinations through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov using Docket ID number: EBSA–2022–0008 on or before October 11, 2022. Individuals and Organizations are encouraged to submit all comments and requests to testify electronically and not to follow such submission with paper copies. Comments and requests to testify will also be available to the public, without charge, online at www.regulations.gov, at Docket ID number: EBSA–2022–0008 and www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa. They also will be available for public inspection in the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N–1513, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20210; however, the Public Disclosure Room may be closed for all or a portion of the comment period due to circumstances surrounding the COVID–19 pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus.

Warning to Commenters and Requestors: All comments, requests to testify, and testimony summaries will be included in the public record without charge and will be made available online at www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided, unless the comment, request to testify, or testimony summary includes information claimed to be confidential or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. If you submit a comment, request to testify, or testimony summary, the Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) recommends that you include your name and other contact information, but DO NOT submit information that you consider to be confidential, or otherwise protected (such as Social Security number or an unlisted phone number), or confidential business information that you do not want publicly disclosed on your comment, request to testify, or testimony summary. However, if EBSA cannot read your comment, request to testify, or testimony summary due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EBSA might not be able to consider your comment or schedule you to testify. Additionally, the www.regulations.gov website is an “anonymous access” system, which means EBSA will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it. If you send an email directly to EBSA without going through www.regulations.gov, your email address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public record and made available on the Internet.

Customer Service Information: Individuals interested in obtaining information from the Department concerning ERISA and employee benefit plans may call the Employee Benefits Security Administration’s Toll-Free Hotline, at 1–866–444–3272 or visit EBSA’s website (www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa).

Signed at Washington, DC, this 1st day of September, 2022.

Ali Khawar,
Acting Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor.

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BILLING CODE 4510–29–P

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

[MCC FR 22–10]

Millennium Challenge Corporation Candidate Country Report for Fiscal Year 2023

AGENCY: Millennium Challenge Corporation.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 requires the Millennium Challenge Corporation to publish a report that identifies countries that are “candidate countries” for Millennium Challenge Account assistance during fiscal year 2023. The report is set forth in full below.

(Authority: 22 U.S.C. 7707(a))

Dated: September 1, 2022.

Thomas G. Hobenhaner,
Acting VP/General Counsel and Corporate Secretary.

Millennium Challenge Corporation

Candidate Country Report for Fiscal Year 2023

Summary

This report to Congress is provided in accordance with section 608(a) of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 7701, 7707(a) (the Act).

The Act authorizes the provision of assistance for global development through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) for countries that enter into a Millennium Challenge Compact with the United States to support policies and programs that advance the progress of such countries to achieve lasting economic growth and poverty reduction. The Act requires MCC to take a number of steps in selecting countries with which MCC will seek to enter into a compact, including determining the countries that will be eligible countries for fiscal year
(FY) 2023 based on (a) a country’s demonstrated commitment to (i) just and democratic governance, (ii) economic freedom, and (iii) investments in its people, (b) the opportunity to reduce poverty and generate economic growth in the country, and (c) the availability of funds to MCC. These steps include the submission to the congressional committees specified in the Act and publication in the Federal Register of reports on the following:

- The countries that are “candidate countries” for FY 2023 based on their per capita income levels and their eligibility to receive assistance under U.S. law and countries that would be candidate countries but for specified legal prohibitions on assistance (section 608(a) of the Act);
- The criteria and methodology that the MCC Board of Directors (the Board) will use to measure and evaluate the relative policy performance of the “candidate countries” consistent with the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of section 607 of the Act in order to determine “eligible countries” from among the “candidate countries” (section 608(b) of the Act); and
- The list of countries determined by the Board to be “eligible countries” for FY 2023, identification of such countries with which the Board will seek to enter into compacts, and a justification for such eligibility determination and selection for compact negotiation (section 608(d) of the Act).

This report is the first of three required reports listed above.

Candidate Countries for FY 2023

The Act requires the identification of all countries that are candidate countries for purposes of eligibility for MCC compact assistance for FY 2023 and the identification of all countries that would be candidate countries for purposes of eligibility for MCC compact assistance but for specified legal prohibitions on assistance. Under sections 606(a) and (b) of the Act, candidate countries must qualify as low income or lower middle income countries as defined in the Act.

Specifically, a country will be a candidate country in the low income category for FY 2023 if it

- has a per capita income that is not greater than the World Bank’s lower middle income country threshold for such fiscal year ($4,255 gross national income per capita for FY 2023);
- is among the 75 countries identified by the World Bank as having the lowest per capita income; and
- is not ineligible to receive United States economic assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the Foreign Assistance Act), by reason of the application of the Foreign Assistance Act or any other provision of law.

A country will be a candidate country in the lower middle income category for FY 2023 if it

- has a per capita income that is not greater than the World Bank’s lower middle income country threshold for such fiscal year ($4,255 gross national income per capita for FY 2023);
- is not among the 75 countries identified by the World Bank as having the lowest per capita income; and
- is not ineligible to receive United States economic assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act by reason of the application of the Foreign Assistance Act or any other provision of law.

Under section 606(c) of the Act as applied for FY 2023, a country with per capita income changes from FY 2022 to FY 2023 such that the country would be reclassified from the low income category to the lower middle income category or vice versa will retain its income status in its former category for FY 2023 and two subsequent fiscal years (FY 2024 and FY 2025). A country that has transitioned to the upper middle income category does not qualify as a candidate country.

Pursuant to section 606(d) of the Act, the Board identified the following countries as candidate countries under the Act for FY 2023. In so doing, the Board referred to the prohibitions on assistance to countries for FY 2022 under the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2022 (FY 2022 SFOAA) contained in Division K of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Pub.L. 117–103).

Candidate Countries: Low Income Category
1. Afghanistan
2. Angola
3. Bangladesh
4. Benin
5. Bhutan
6. Bolivia
7. Burundi
8. Cabo Verde
9. Cameroon
10. Central African Republic
11. Chad
12. Comoros
13. Congo, Democratic Republic of the
14. Congo, Republic of the
15. Côte d’Ivoire
16. Djibouti
17. Egypt
18. El Salvador
19. Gambia, The
20. Ghana
21. Guinea
22. Guinea-Bissau
23. Honduras
24. India
25. Kenya
26. Kiribati
27. Kyrgyzstan
28. Laos
29. Lebanon
30. Lesotho
31. Liberia
32. Madagascar
33. Malawi
34. Mauritania
35. Micronesia, Federated States of
36. Mongolia
37. Morocco
38. Mozambique
39. Nepal
40. Niger
41. Nigeria
42. Pakistan
43. Papua New Guinea
44. Philippines
45. Rwanda
46. Sao Tome and Principe
47. Senegal
48. Sierra Leone
49. Solomon Islands
50. Somalia
51. Tajikistan
52. Tanzania
53. Timor-Leste
54. Togo
55. Tunisia
56. Uganda
57. Ukraine
58. Uzbekistan
59. Vanuatu
60. Vietnam
61. Yemen
62. Zambia

Candidate Countries: Lower Middle Income Category
1. Algeria
2. Eswatini
3. Indonesia
4. Samoa

Countries That Would Be Candidate Countries but for Legal Provisions That Prohibit Assistance

Countries that would be considered candidate countries for purposes of eligibility for MCC compact assistance for FY 2023 but are ineligible to receive United States economic assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act by reason of the application of any provision of the Foreign Assistance Act or any other provision of law are listed below. This list is based on legal prohibitions against economic assistance that apply as of July 22, 2022.

Prohibited Countries: Low Income Category
- Burkina Faso is ineligible to receive foreign assistance due to concerns
relative to its record on human rights and pursuant to the military coup restriction in section 7008 of the FY 2022 SFOAA.

- Burma is ineligible to receive foreign assistance due to concerns relative to its record on human rights and pursuant to the military coup restriction in section 7008 of the FY 2022 SFOAA.
- Cambodia is ineligible to receive foreign assistance pursuant to section 7043(b)(2) of the FY 2022 SFOAA, which restricts (with limited exceptions) assistance to the Government of Cambodia unless the Secretary of State certifies that the Government of Cambodia is taking effective steps to strengthen regional security and stability and respect the rights and responsibilities enshrined in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia.
- Eritrea is ineligible to receive foreign assistance due to its human rights record.
- Haiti is ineligible to receive foreign assistance unless the Secretary of State provides a certification pursuant to section 7045(c)(1) of the FY 2022 SFOAA.
- Iran is ineligible to receive foreign assistance, including due to its status as a Tier 3 country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.).
- Korea, North of is ineligible to receive foreign assistance, including due to its status as a Tier 3 country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.).
- Mali is ineligible to receive foreign assistance pursuant to the military coup restriction in section 7008 of the FY 2022 SFOAA.
- Nicaragua is ineligible to receive foreign assistance, including due to its status as a Tier 3 country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.).
- South Sudan is ineligible to receive foreign assistance pursuant to section 7042(h)(2) of the FY 2022 SFOAA due to its human rights record.
- Sudan is ineligible to receive foreign assistance including due to the military coup restriction in section 7008 of the FY 2022 SFOAA.
- Syria is ineligible to receive foreign assistance, including due to its status as a Tier 3 country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.).
- Zimbabwe is ineligible to receive foreign assistance, including pursuant to section 7042(j)(2) of the FY 2021 SFOAA, which prohibits (with limited exceptions) assistance for the central government of Zimbabwe unless the Secretary of State certifies and reports to Congress that the rule of law has been restored, including respect for ownership and title to property, and freedoms of expression, association, and assembly.

Prohibited Countries: Lower Middle Income Category
- Sri Lanka is ineligible to receive foreign assistance pursuant to section 7044(e)(2) of the FY 2022 SFOAA, which restricts (with limited exceptions) assistance for the central government unless the Secretary makes certain certifications regarding actions taken by the Government of Sri Lanka and reports to the Committees on Appropriations.

Countries identified above as candidate countries, as well as countries that would be considered candidate countries but for the applicability of legal provisions that prohibit U.S. economic assistance, may be the subject of future statutory restrictions or determinations, or changed country circumstances, that affect their legal eligibility for assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act by reason of application of the Foreign Assistance Act or any other provision of law for FY 2023.