RENEWABLE NATIONS INSTITUTE

Proposed BUILD Program Expansion

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Purpose Statement:** The Global Challenge Award, Inc., d.b.a. Renewable Nations Institute (RNI), a Vermont-based not-for-profit corporation, is proposing to explore the feasibility of expanding the BUILD program (BUILD) at the Texas A&M College Station campus across a global network of colleges and universities under a *Climate Action Commitment Partnership* with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (EOSG), hosted by the Executive Office of the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
- **Statement of Need:** Healthcare infrastructure gaps—the lack of hospitals, clinics, medical equipment and reliable energy services—render health care inaccessible or substandard for approximately 1.2–1.3 billion people across 111–130 developing countries. Developing countries are in critical need for healthcare clinics, particularly in underserved rural regions; however, healthcare infrastructure expansion requires the integration of multiple development requirements, including financial sustainability, cultural alignment, workforce development, and technological support. Proposed BUILD program expansion will address the need for capacity building, technical assistance, decision support services, and adequate funding to effectively address healthcare infrastructure gaps.
- **Universal Healthcare Facility Electrification:** Globally, one billion people are served by healthcare facilities lacking access to electricity, and 4.6 billion people are served by healthcare facilities experiencing intermittent power outages. Healthcare facilities that lack access to electricity or experience intermittent power outages—defined as a power outage lasting a minimum duration of eight hours sixteen days a month—result in poor health care outcomes and a 43% increase in patient mortality. $4.9 billion is required to electrify off-grid healthcare facilities with clean energy technologies; an additional $10.2 billion is required in relation to daily electricity load assumptions at these facilities. $2.7 trillion is required to eliminate intermittent power outages in electrified healthcare facilities. Reference: Investment requirements for electrification of the 459,206 health-care facilities in 63 countries, by region, type and intervention level required (Energizing Health), page xxxii.
- ***Health and Energy Platform for Action:*** The *Climate Action Commitment Partnership* will support the implementation of the World Health Organization's *Health and Energy Platform for Action* (HEPA) across 63 developing countries in a Work College Program setting in collaboration with multisectoral consortium partners. *Work-Learning-Service* student interns will design, finance, construct, and deploy portable, containerized medical clinics and clean energy systems (thermal and electric power) with energy storage and telecommunication capacity. (See Vermont State University Capstone Project.)
- **Funding Mechanism:** Sustained project funding will be achieved under a combined healthcare facility and energy services contract finance model by leveraging the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), a climate finance agreement codified by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with an annual funding target of $1.3 trillion by 2035. A portion of revenue will provide paid BUILD *Work-Learning-Service* student internships under a proposed Work College Program model (Cornell Law).
- **New Business Models:** *Work-Learning-Service* student interns will develop new business models under the NCQG to mobilize private-sector financing for developing countries by advancing public-private partnerships that unlock large-scale investments through closer cooperation among private investors, public financial institutions, pension funds, philanthropies, governments, and sovereign funds. Developed countries have agreed to contribute NCQG financing of $975 billion annually by 2030.
- **International Powering Healthcare Leadership Council:** In collaboration with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Renewable Nations Institute will develop an International Powering Healthcare Leadership Council consisting of former and current First Ladies from the *Organization of African First Ladies* for Development (OAFLAD) and other governmental leadership networks to secure international cooperation to support global expansion of the BUILD program model.

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