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# The Nine Principles of Development

A Mandatory Reference for ADS Chapters  
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## **Principles of Development and Reconstruction Assistance**

*These principles guide U.S. development and reconstruction assistance. They are fundamental to the success of assistance as an instrument of U.S. foreign policy and national security. The principles are not a checklist, but a summary of the characteristics of successful assistance to achieve development objectives including economic growth, democracy and governance, and social transition.*

### **Ownership**

Build on the leadership, participation and commitment of a country and its people.

### **Capacity-Building**

Strengthen local institutions, transfer technical skills and promote appropriate policies.

### **Sustainability**

Design programs to ensure their impact endures.

### **Selectivity**

Allocate resources based on need, local commitment and foreign policy interests.

### **Assessment**

Conduct careful research, adapt best practices, and design for local conditions.

### **Results**

Focus resources to achieve clearly defined, measurable and strategically-focused objectives.

### **Partnership**

Collaborate closely with governments, communities, donors, NGOs, the private sector, international organizations, and universities.

### **Flexibility**

Adjust to changing conditions, take advantage of opportunities, and maximize efficiency.

### **Accountability**

Design accountability and transparency into systems and build effective checks and balances to guard against corruption.