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**Martin O'Malley,
Democrat**

Hello, I'm Martin O'Malley. Democratic candidate for president of the United States. And former governor of Maryland. I want to thank the Circle of Protection for giving me the opportunity to share a vision for our world without hunger, and without poverty.

Everyday Americans inspired by their faith Christian, Jewish, Muslim alike. Are working to lift millions of people from a cycle of desperation. They're improving lives both in struggling neighborhoods here at home. And whether they're delivering vaccinations to remote towns. Or providing warm meals in a big city. Our nation's faith communities are united by the same basic core values.

A belief in the dignity of every person. And a belief in our own responsibility to advance. And protect the common good that we share as one people.

These principles were enshrined in the Constitution of our country by our founding documents. And it calls upon future generations of all Americans to do their part. To lift up their fellow citizens.

Sadly today too many of our brothers and sisters in this economy are being left behind. Many of us are actually worse off than we were 10 years ago. Over 45 million Americans are living in poverty today. Even in the most prosperous nation in history, too many families face a very uncertain tomorrow. Unsure of whether they'll be able to get that next meal for their kids. Or next paycheck, ever. We need to do far more to lift up our neighbors from the cycle of fear.

And empower more Americans to contribute to the shared prosperity that is the common good of our country. We can do this by raising the minimum wage. By paying overtime again for overtime work. And by creating, an American jobs agenda.

To build a new clean, green renewable energy future. And by making affordable college debt free. And option for every family in the United States of America. And also by getting 11 million of our neighbors out of the shadow economy. Which is a drag on our wages. And instead on the books in the open economy. By passing immigration reform.

In this interconnected world, we also know that ending poverty, and hunger is a global challenge. And a global imperative for us as Americans. And we need to lead an ambitious global agenda that's a match for the challenge.

Inspired by the Millennium Development Goals, the United States in collaboration and partnership with like minded people around the world. Have been able to cut extreme poverty and child deaths in half over the past 25 years. That's one of the greatest leaps every achieved in human history. And yet, more than a billion people in Asia, African, and Latin America still live on less than \$1.25 a day. All of them extremely vulnerable to outbreaks of violence, disease, and famine.

That is why as president, I would lead our efforts to end extreme poverty, hunger and preventable child and maternal deaths. All within the next 15 years on our planet. This is something we can do. This is something we must do. In partnership and collaboration with other nations around this world.

To be successful we also have to involve more Americans here at home from all walks of life in the calling of development. And in the cause of development. Scientists, and students, entrepreneurs. And engineers, doctors and deacons. We have to support more American businesses that create opportunities in emerging markets. And we have to adequately fund our diplomatic, and our development agencies. Particularly USA ID and the State Department. Simply put the cause of ending poverty, and hunger represents not only the fulfillment of our founding principles.

It is also, what we must do to make ourselves safe at home. And to give our children a more prosperous future.

I'm constantly inspired by faith leaders who take up this cause every single day. One person at a time. And I will do all that I can do bring more American to share in this great work.

Thank you very much.

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