

Dr. Rajiv J. Shah Bio

Dr. Rajiv Shah currently serves as a Senior Advisor to the Chicago Council and as a Distinguished Fellow at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. A recognized leader in American foreign policy, Shah previously served as the 16th Administrator of the US Agency for International Development, where he led the efforts of nearly 10,000 staff in more than 70 countries. He has been credited with transforming a government agency through creative public-private partnerships and the application of innovative new technologies to solve the world's most intractable development challenges. Dr. Shah led President Obama's Feed the Future and Power Africa initiatives and refocused America's global health partnerships to end preventable child death on global scale. These efforts earned support from Republicans and Democrats across the political spectrum for delivering real results -- reducing hunger, saving lives, and improving America's standing in many parts of the world. Dr. Shah also managed the government's humanitarian response to global catastrophes, from the Haiti earthquake to the Ebola epidemic, and served on President Obama's National Security Council. Previously, Dr. Shah was the Undersecretary and Chief Scientist in the U.S. Department of Agriculture where he launched the National Institute for Food and Agriculture and at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where he led efforts in global health, agriculture and financial services for the poor. One important effort, the creation of the International Finance Facility for Immunization, has been credited with reshaping the global vaccine market and saving millions of lives. Dr. Shah is a graduate of the University of Michigan, the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and the Wharton School of Business. Twice unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate, Shah has earned numerous awards and honorary degrees and has regularly appeared in the media. The thoughts represented by Mr. Shah during his testimony will reflect his own extensive expertise and personal experience, but the thoughts represented are not necessarily that of the Council.