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Michele Schimpp is the Chief Operating Officer and Senior Deputy in USAID's Office of Science and Technology, an independent organization reporting directly to the Administrator of USAID. The Office of Science and Technology leads and pioneers scientific, technological, research and innovative approaches to development challenges around the world.

From 2009-2012, Ms. Schimpp served as Deputy Assistant to the Administrator in the Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs, building USAID's capacity to respond alongside defense and diplomacy, to meet national security objectives through development in both countries. Ms. Schimpp represented USAID before U.S. government agencies, Congress, international donors, the United Nations, interest groups, research and academic organizations.

Over the previous four years, Ms. Schimpp served as a senior manager with USAID and the U.S. State Department, leading subject matter experts across a range of topics, including humanitarian assistance, agriculture, economic growth, health, education, energy, infrastructure, conflict, democracy and governance. She headed USAID's Office of Technical Support for Asia and the Middle East from 2007 to 2009, tracking trends, supporting the largest regional portfolio in the Agency, and developing initiatives to partner with the U.S. private sector to respond to the Sichuan Earthquake, and to support women's leadership in Muslim countries.

At the State Department from 2005-2007, Ms. Schimpp served as Director of the Office of Best Practices for the Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization (S/CRS) where she helped establish the new Office, developing policies and guidance on post conflict reconstruction, and applying lessons to interagency planning for priority countries such as Haiti and Cuba. On behalf of S/CRS, Ms. Schimpp led USG interagency working groups on a range of issues and liaised with a range of international partners to build post conflict response capacities, particularly within the UN, the UK, Canada, and the OAS.

Ms. Schimpp's subject matter expertise is in the area of democracy and governance. As a Foreign Service Officer, Ms. Schimpp was assigned to USAID's Office of Democracy and Governance from 1999-2005 where she was the Agency's Division Chief and Senior Advisor for Elections and Political Processes, and before that, Senior Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Strategies Division. Ms. Schimpp served in USAID's mission in Haiti from 1995-1999 as the Deputy Director for the Office of Justice, Democracy and Governance. Prior to joining USAID in 1994, Ms. Schimpp worked for the Academy for Educational Development where she led a multi-sectoral team researching development lessons, trends and policies.

Ms. Schimpp received her M.A. in Latin American Studies from the University of California at Berkeley in 1988 and her B.A. from George Washington University in 1986. In 2010, she completed Seminar XXI, sponsored by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and currently serves on the Alumni Advisory Board.