

# **Millennium Challenge Corporation Eligibility Expansion Act (MCCEEA) of 2022**

## **Section-by-Section**

### **Section 1: Short Title**

### **Section 2: Modification of Requirements to Become a Candidate Country**

(2)(a)(1) Makes the core change to the country pool, defining the 125 poorest countries on a GNI-per-capita basis calculated by the World Bank. The methodology would remain consistent, but a larger number of countries would be eligible.

(2)(a)(2) Maintains the requirement that countries be eligible to receive U.S. foreign assistance to be part of the pool. This is in existing law as Section 606(a)(1)(b) of the current MCC authorizing statute.

(2)(b) Rule of construction regarding how waivers affect the determination under (a)(2). This is in existing law as 606(a)(4) of the current MCC authorizing statute.

### **Section 3: Conforming Amendments**

Section (3)(a) takes an existing requirement in that Lower Middle Income Countries receiving MCC assistance “identify a contribution, as appropriate, from the country relative to its national budget, taking into account the prevailing economic conditions” as part of their Compact agreements, and apply it to all candidate countries.

This change is one of the safeguards to ensure that all countries (particularly relatively wealthier countries that would potentially be added to the candidate pool) are making a proportionate contribution and that the selection process does not disadvantage countries that may have fewer resources.

Section (3)(b) ensures that the MCC’s requirement to report annually on which countries are part of the country pool will refer to the correct sections of the statute if the changes in Section 2 are enacted.

### **Section 4: Modification to Factors in Determining Availability**

This strengthens existing language in the Millennium Challenge Act regarding factors used by the MCC board by requiring the board to prioritize need and impact when evaluating factors such as the opportunity to reduce poverty and foster economic growth, and not merely consider them, when making selections.