



Armenian National Committee of America
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

August 15, 2019

Hon. Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to follow up on your correspondence to me last year expressing appreciation for the Armenian National Committee of America's (ANCA) proposal that the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) explore a new Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) focused compact with the Republic of Armenia. We very much appreciated the enthusiasm you expressed, in your May 17, 2018 letter to the ANCA, to "advance the many shared interests" between the United States and the Republic of Armenia.

With the Millennium Challenge Corporation welcoming a talented new Chief Executive Officer, Sean Cairncross, we believe the time is ripe to take the first concrete steps towards a STEAM focused MCC compact for public schools across Armenia. Similar to the very successful Science, Technology, Engineering and Math focused MCC compact that was recently concluded in the Republic of Georgia, a new compact for Armenia, focused on education, would help strengthen and sustain political and economic progress in the wake of its recent democratic transition.

With respect to moving forward with a new MCC compact for Armenia, the ANCA would respectfully request that the U.S. Department of State, in cooperation with other appropriate federal agencies, formally ask that the World Bank transparently review and, as warranted, revise its classification of Armenia as an upper middle income country. This highly contentious determination - made in the face of the vast and persistent poverty outside of Yerevan and across the Armenian countryside - makes Armenia ineligible for MCC grants.

On behalf of the ANCA, I want to thank you for your past correspondence citing the enduring friendship between the American and Armenian peoples. We look forward to working with you, in your capacity as Chair of the MCC Board of Directors, to advance this friendship by initiating a constructive dialogue with respect to a new STEAM focused MCC compact for Armenia's public schools and the many thousands of promising students that they serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Raffi Haig Hamparian".

Raffi Haig Hamparian
Chairman

cc: Sean Cairncross, Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation