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For Immediate Release

ICRW Statement on Verveer Confirmation

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 3, 2009 – *ICRW President Geeta Rao Gupta released the following statement on the confirmation of Melanne Verveer as ambassador-at-large for global women's issues at the U.S. State Department.*

ICRW congratulates Melanne Verveer on her confirmation as the first ambassador-at-large for global women's issues. Her appointment is a powerful acknowledgment of how important women are to our foreign policy goals for economic development, health, equality and peace.

Through her work at the White House, Vital Voices Global Partnership and the U.S. Catholic Conference, Ambassador Verveer has demonstrated her commitment to global initiatives on women's rights as human rights, democracy building, microenterprise development, and the education of women and girls. Her breadth of experience coupled with her ability to work across diverse cultural and political lines will be an enormous asset as she champions women's full and equal participation in societies around the globe.

The world has made progress in improving the lives of women. Still, we have so much more to do to ensure that every woman and girl has an opportunity to fulfill her potential. This will not be accomplished without the appropriate resources. Congress and the Obama administration should fully fund the Office of Global Women's Issues at the State Department because investments in women pay dividends that bolster families, communities and nations.

ABOUT ICRW: The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) is a leading Washington, D.C.-based international research organization with offices in India and Uganda that works to advance gender equality and human rights, fight poverty, and promote sustainable economic and social development for all. Learn more about ICRW and its work at www.icrw.org.

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