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PRESS RELEASE

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SHAKIRA AND ALAS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP WITH PAN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Washington, DC (October 23, 2007) –The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) will serve as the implementation and results review partner for the ALAS Foundation’s \$5 million program to improve quality of life for thousands of children in four Latin American countries. The foundation’s commitment to the three-year pilot program was announced by Colombian performing artist and ALAS co-founder Shakira Mebarak at the 2007 Clinton Global Initiative conference last month in Manhattan.

“I’ve seen firsthand many of the challenges facing Latin America, said Mebarak. “40 million children do not go to school. Over 400,000 children die each year from preventable causes. Almost 9 million children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition. These are challenging problems that no one person can address; but working together everyone can make a difference.”

The program unites ALAS, PADF, the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, to provide children and their parents with a range of services, including educational opportunities, early learning stimulation, nutrition and health. Other organizations wishing to participate as partners are encouraged to contact ALAS.

“We are excited about what a partnership like this can do to improve children’s lives in our hemisphere,” said Amy Coughenour, Deputy Director of PADF.

The partnership will raise a total of \$5 million for the program and has already secured \$3 million in funding from GAIN, and \$1 million from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation. The four countries for the pilot program will be selected later this year by the existing partners.

The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1962 through a unique partnership between the Organization of American States and private enterprise to promote, facilitate, and implement social and economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean through innovative partnerships and integrated involvement of the private and public sectors.

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About the ALAS Foundation

The ALAS Foundation is a non-profit and non-governmental organization established in Panama, founded by leading Latin American artists, that seeks to provide concrete actions to help improve the conditions of nutrition, health, and education with an emphasis on Latin American children. The Foundation calls on business leaders with socially responsible vision, civil society organizations, intellectuals, and international organizations to combine their efforts for this cause. Visit www.fundacionalas.org for more information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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