



News from Congresswoman
Nita M. Lowey
Chairwoman, State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee

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**Statement of Chairwoman Nita M. Lowey
Subcommittee on State Foreign Operations and Related Programs
February 25, 2010**

I welcome back to our Subcommittee, Secretary Clinton. As always, it's an honor to have you with us. Your dedicated service and tireless efforts have taken you to over 47 countries in just one year, and your hard work as our nation's chief diplomat, is respected and appreciated and has had an enormous impact. After many years of decline, global attitudes about the United States are on the rise. According to the most recent Pew Research Center survey:

"The image of the United States has improved markedly in most parts of the world.... In many countries opinions of the United States are now about as positive as they were at the beginning of the decade."

Our challenges are many, and your effective representation of the United States facilitates stronger multilateral partnerships to address global threats like instability in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Yemen as well as Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Diplomacy, Development, and Domestic Needs

Along with defense, diplomacy and development are essential elements of our national security strategy. With this budget request, the Administration seeks diplomacy and development funding levels that will result in longer-term savings as we transition from the military to civilians in Iraq and work to prevent instability by addressing the root causes of conflict. But as we strive to foster greater stability and security overseas through "Smart Power", we face pressing domestic needs. While there are signs of recovery in the economy, with 10 percent unemployment, the mounting federal debt and budget deficit, the creation of jobs and the provision of economic security for American families must be the primary focus of this Congress.

There is no doubt that this will make it difficult to sustain and expand all the priorities laid out in the President's budget request. Yet, through our appropriations and budget process I am optimistic we can balance our domestic and international priorities.

Accountability and Oversight

If we are to increase our assistance in this time of need, we must ensure every dollar is well spent. I am troubled by recent SIGAR, SIGIR and OIG reports on democracy assistance and police training in Iraq, large power projects in Afghanistan, and development programs in FATA. The 2011 budget and 2010 supplemental request for significant increases in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq require accountability to the U.S. taxpayer. Despite the difficult operating environments, to gain the trust- and funding- from this Congress, recommendations of the Inspector Generals' should be implemented expeditiously.

Madam Secretary, in this context we turn to the President's fiscal year 2011 budget request for the programs and activities within the jurisdiction of the State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Subcommittee. At a total of \$56.6 billion it is \$5.4 billion, or 11 percent, above the comparable fiscal year 2010 level, with over two thirds of the increase for diplomacy and development in the "front line states" of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq. The balance of the increase continues the rebuilding of civilian staff at the Department of State and USAID and prioritizes three key issues: global health; climate change; and food security.

Rebalancing Civilian and Military Roles

I am particularly pleased the budget rebalances the roles between the Department of Defense and the Department of State. The request of \$1.2 billion for the Pakistan Counterinsurgency Capability Fund, coupled with the doubling of funding for the Complex Crises Fund in lieu of funding for DOD's section 1207, should ensure the State Department's effective evaluation and implementation of these programs in the context of our overall foreign policy.

Development Assistance

Increases for critical development, global climate change, food security, and global health are clearly aimed at creating the necessary conditions in developing countries for the growth of democracy, economic expansion and ultimately increased stability, priorities we all share.

I applaud your emphasis on global health, which has proven to be one of our most effective interventions. While nearly 2.8 million people became infected with HIV/AIDS in 2008, this figure reflects a 20% decline in new infections compared to 2000. Clearly our efforts are making a difference. PEPFAR's foundation in accountability and results is reflected in the Administration's Global Health Initiative. By reorienting USAID's global health programs, they will complement one another as well as the investments made by other country donors and the private sector like the Gates Foundation, Clinton Global Initiative, Nike, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Education

Unfortunately the budget did not prioritize basic education, an issue that we both have championed for many years. Education is the essential foundation for health, economic development, gender equality and long-term security. I am concerned the requested cuts of nearly \$100 million for this critical priority could compromise our development goals. This Subcommittee will examine this proposal very closely. I hope you will work with us to restore funding to this program.

In your remarks, I hope you'll address questions regarding:

1. the Administration's strategy for stopping Iran's quest for nuclear weapons;
2. the justification for supplemental funding in light of previous assurances that regular appropriations would address recurrent needs; and,
3. Yemen's ability to be a consistent partner in our fight against al-Qaeda.

Conclusion

Finally, I want to thank the State Department for its efforts to coordinate the response in Haiti. All of us are following the humanitarian response closely and are moved by the spirit and resilience of the Haitian people. We look forward to working with you to ensure that adequate resources are provided for the humanitarian response. Reconstruction activities must be preceded by careful planning, oversight and guarantees that the money will be well-spent.

Thank you again for your service, and I would now like to turn to my esteemed Ranking Member, Kay Granger.

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