

# STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2013

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## HEARINGS BEFORE A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS SECOND SESSION

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### SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS

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### **PART 4 TESTIMONY FOR THE RECORD**



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Printed for the use of the Committee on Appropriations

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<sup>1</sup> Chairman Emeritus

WILLIAM B. INGLEE, *Clerk and Staff Director*

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<sup>1</sup> Chairman Emeritus

WILLIAM B. INGLEE, *Clerk and Staff Director*

# Testimony for the Record

**STATEMENT BY**

**AMBASSADOR JAMES F. COLLINS**

**FORMER UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR  
TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**BEFORE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS,  
EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**March 30, 2012**

Madam Chairwoman:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Program of Research and Training for Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union, known as the Title VIII program. The Title VIII program is administered by the Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research. I request that the Committee recommends a continued level of \$5 million in funding for this authorized program in fiscal year 2013. I am also grateful to the Subcommittee for its longstanding bipartisan support of Title VIII.

At the outset, let me say that I do not receive any funding from the Title VIII program. I am testifying on behalf of the program because of my deep conviction that it clearly benefits U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives. I was honored to serve my country for nearly 12 years as America addressed critical issues that emerged from the end of the Cold War, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the beginning of the transition of the former communist societies of East Europe and Eurasia through the 1990s. I am now a Senior Associate, Diplomat in Residence, and Director of the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. I have served on several NGO Boards engaged in supporting the development of positive relations between the United States and the societies of the New Independent States.

### **HISTORY OF TITLE VIII**

Madam Chairwoman, the Title VIII Program from its inception has recognized that it is essential to our national security that America develop and sustain a cadre of experts on the societies and nations of Central and Eastern Europe and the vast and complex region that we formerly knew as the Soviet Union.

The Title VIII program has always received strong bipartisan support from the Subcommittee because the Congress clearly appreciated the fact that America's ability to realize our goals across Europe, the Middle East, and Asia have been and will remain intertwined with the societies and nations Title VIII addresses, and that we must maintain the expertise we need to conduct relations with this part of the world wisely and effectively.

The Title VIII program was enacted into law in 1983. Its basic purpose currently is to ensure that the American research capacity both for policymaking and academic purposes concerning the Former Soviet Union (FSU) and Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) is preserved and sustained.

The Title VIII program is carried out through a number of functional activities that include collaborative research involving American academics and policy analysts and their counterparts in the Eurasian and East European region; individual field research opportunities for American academic and policy analysts; language training in regional languages for American students and others making career commitments to the study and conduct of policy of and on the region; direct placement of American experts from the academic community in U.S. agencies and embassies; and seminars and publications produced for executive and legislative officials in Washington responsible for the conduct of U.S. policy toward the region.

The Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR) administers the program, and I believe they have done a fine job in managing a program that has sustained intellectual resources absolutely vital to our interests and security.

### **TITLE VIII PROGRAM**

Grants under Title VIII go to a wide variety of national, U.S. organizations as the principal means of implementation. These organizations design and administer competitions, drawing on experts from throughout the United States who evaluate the merits of individual and institutional proposals. Fairness in selection is assured through strict adherence to peer review procedures; selection committee members serve as experts familiar with the standards of quality governing research and writing in their fields and not as representatives of their educational or research institutions.

The integrity of the process is assured by strong conflict of interest guidelines that require selection committee members to recuse themselves in cases of such conflicts. These organizations distribute funds received from Title VIII to students, scholars and researchers in universities and research institutions around the country. The review mechanisms ensure that the most meritorious proposals are funded, without regard to the particular university or part of the country from which they come. These well-established procedures effectively prevent the channeling of the scarce federal funds to a small number of universities.

Teachers, researchers and students from over 500 universities and research institutions in the United States have received support under the program, covering every state in the United States and the District of Columbia. I would also like to emphasize that this program is extremely cost-effective. The national organizations administering Title VIII programs and the home institutions of grant recipients under the program are asked to share costs in a variety of ways. All recipients of Title VIII research funding are U.S. citizens.

The argument for continuing the Title VIII program can be put simply. Prudent policy making on these critical areas of the world requires both trained analysts working in government and a reservoir of expertise in academic communities on which these analysts can draw. It also depends on a sustained ability to train the next generation of scholars and public servants who will maintain our expertise and knowledge base on this region. This bank of expertise consists of senior scholars and researchers as well as those just embarking on their careers.

The Title VIII program has thousands of alumni in both academia and government. It has undeniable benefits for the practical crafting and conduct of foreign assistance programs in the region. For example, Title VIII-funded scholars and researchers have long helped administrations from both parties to develop U.S. foreign assistance programs for Eurasian and Central and East European countries.

The program has a number of notable alumni including two former Secretaries of State, Madeleine Albright and Condoleezza Rice. Other individuals have served as USAID project directors, National Security Council staff, and Departments of State and Defense advisors. Title

VIII alumni have also helped Congress make difficult decisions on appropriations for foreign assistance to the region through testimony before congressional committees.

Current research on such issues as human rights and legal reform in Russia, the changing role of Islam among the region's large Muslim population, and the continued development of Putin's Kremlin are clearly relevant to ongoing technical assistance objectives and projects as demonstrated by federal agencies' direct interest in working with Title VIII-funded researchers. Title VIII research is often immediately applicable to U.S. foreign policy and foreign assistance goals in the region.

### **CONTINUED NEED FOR TITLE VIII**

I believe that Title VIII should continue to be supported, for two reasons. First, as I noted previously, there is no future in which events in Eurasia and Central and Eastern Europe will not be critical to America's ability to achieve its foreign policy goals in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. We need only look at the place this region played as we pursued our goals in Afghanistan, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, or Ukraine to validate the need for effective research and analysis that assure our policy makers the best information and understanding available as they craft our approaches to this region and its nations. This year has brought tension between the United States and Russia on such issues as regime change and Iran's nuclear program, while our ability to work constructively with Russia on economic and cross-border security issues has grown more vital.

Second, as our country has responded to security threats from terrorism, the need for strengthened language capabilities and quality research capacity on the diverse cultures and nations in this region has become ever more apparent. The Title VIII program constitutes one of the few sustained U.S. investments aimed at developing and maintaining analysis and policy research on the states and societies of the Former Soviet Union and Southeast Europe. As we move into the challenges of the 21st century, Title VIII continues to adapt to evolving geopolitical environments and encourages American researchers to connect their projects to the work of the policy community and to countries and regions outside the traditional Cold War framework.

### **CONCLUSION**

Madam Chairwoman, I urge the members of the Subcommittee to continue their longstanding bipartisan support of the Title VIII program. I specifically recommend that the Subcommittee provide a sustained level of \$5 million in support for the authorized Title VIII program in fiscal year 2013. This is a needed investment in our future security. Thank you very much for your consideration.

**House Committee on Appropriations**  
**Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs**  
**Submitted by Mary Porterfield**  
**Board Chair, AFS Intercultural Programs USA**  
**Concerning Department of State Educational and Cultural Exchanges**  
**March 2012**

As Chair of the Board of Directors for AFS Intercultural Programs in the USA, I am thankful for the opportunity to submit testimony supporting the FY13 funding level of \$598 million requested by the Alliance for International, Educational & Cultural Exchange for the educational and cultural programs administered by the U.S. Department of State.

AFS (formerly the American Field Service), is a nonprofit, international exchange organization for students that operates in more than 50 countries, and organizes and supports intercultural learning experiences. Founded by volunteer ambulance drivers following WWII, and sustained to this day by an international cadre of tens of thousands of volunteers, we still believe in our core mission - exchanges help build a more just and peaceful world.

Many years ago, I opened my home in Kansas to a foreign exchange student. Like all of the families and individuals who host AFS exchange students, I volunteered. Many people asked why I signed up for such a commitment without compensation. As a high school Spanish teacher, I'd welcomed many students from overseas into my own school, and felt obliged to help facilitate the experience for others. I wanted to make a difference by exposing a foreign student to my culture, and offering them the guidance and support to thrive within it.

What I didn't count on, was how much I would benefit. I, too, learned about another culture, which in turn changed my perspective on my own. My daughter and her friends shared in the learning, and developed a greater appreciation for the benefits of living in a country like the United States. I developed bonds and friendships that continue to this day. Lastly, I had a ball! It was always a joy to see how the students I hosted found ordinary American traditions to be extraordinary.

I've now volunteered with AFS for 42 years, and served in a number of different roles. I've hosted five different students, conducted orientations, supported hundreds of students at the high school where I teach, and recruited other volunteers. Each year I meet scores of students that express one sentiment – studying abroad in high school was one of the best things they've ever done.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century skills imparted by the experience are becoming essential. The ability to speak another language, to navigate in a different cultural context, and to marshal a global perspective and competency in pressing world issues, are skills that the future leaders of the world will need to possess. It is no coincidence that forty seven current heads of government and chiefs of state are alumni of the International Visitor Leadership Program.

The sooner that skill set is acquired, the better. That's one of many reasons why it's important to make the exchange experience available to high school students. Since studying abroad often impacts career decisions, it's advantageous to have that knowledge before one enrolls in a university. Studies also show that studying abroad in high school increases the likelihood that one will pursue higher education to begin with. Additionally, high school students who have studied abroad are also more likely to continue foreign language learning.

A report just released by the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) cautions us to consider what is lost if we do not support these types of international opportunities. The report, entitled, "U.S. Education Reform and National Security," was compiled by a CFR-sponsored Independent Task Force consisting of thirty-one prominent education experts, national security authorities, as well as corporate leaders, and chaired by former head of New York City public schools Joel I. Klein and former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The task force concluded that the "lack of language skills and civic and global awareness among American citizens increasingly jeopardize their ability to interact with local and global peers or participate meaningfully in business, diplomatic, and military situations." According to task force chair Klein, American students are "ill prepared to compete with their global peers," and "educational failure puts the United States' future economic prosperity, global position, and physical safety at risk."

Increased international, educational experiences do not only improve US students' ability to compete in the global market place. Exchanges enhance our nation's foreign policy and security objectives as well, which is a hallmark of U.S. public diplomacy. When students have the experience of living with an American family who have voluntarily opened their homes to them, when they attend a school and make friends in a community that has welcomed them, they have more positive opinions about Americans. Some of America's strongest supporters abroad are those that have spent time in this country as a student or exchange visitor. The advantages of this impact are obvious in a world where impressions of Americans may motivate a range of behaviors.

In light of this, it is particularly crucial that we support exchange programs that work with students from developing countries. Nations with emerging economies are often distrustful of American foreign policy and interests. Engaging with young people from these areas of the world, fosters mutual understanding and respect, and encourages cooperation as opposed to conflict.

Considering all that is accomplished by supporting international exchange, the cost of doing so is minimal. The amount allocated to exchange programs in 2012 was a mere 0.016 percent of the entire federal budget. Those funds supported programs that allowed 8000 Americans to study languages critical to national security, such as Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, and Korean. (AFS is a proud co-sponsor of one such program, the National Security Language Initiative for Youth.) It

funded Education USA Advising Centers around the world, which fostered a flow of 723,277 international students to the U.S. in 2010-11. It made the transformative experience of studying abroad accessible to nearly 5000 exchange participants.

Without those funds, we simply couldn't do what we do. Donor dollars are not as plentiful as they used to be, and many students do not have the financial means to study in another culture. While the Alliance's request is only a miniscule portion of the overall budget, the amount is critically important to the students that we hope to serve.

Thank you again for the opportunity to express our support for the appropriation of \$598 million for Department of State educational and cultural exchange programs. I truly believe that AFS, and other exchange programs, has transformed the lives of millions of students, families, and individuals, and has helped make the world a better and safer place. We at AFS hope that your approval will allow this good work – that is indispensable to our nation's future - to continue.

**TESTIMONY OF HOWARD A. KOHR,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE (AIPAC) TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS STATE, FOREIGN  
OPERATIONS AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE**

**March 2012**

At this moment of growing danger and uncertainty in the Middle East, AIPAC believes U.S. security assistance to Israel is critically important to advancing American strategic interests in the region. With Iran nearing a nuclear weapons capability and the growth of additional threats to U.S. interests and Israel, our aid ensures that we are equipping our closest ally with the resources to defend itself. A strong Israel projects a strong America as the two allies face unprecedented change and challenges in the region. We strongly urge the Subcommittee to approve the president's request for fiscal year 2013 security assistance to Israel in the amount of \$3.1 billion as called for in the 2007 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States and Israel. We support approval of this aid in accordance with the legislatively mandated terms under which it has historically been provided, particularly provisions mandating the level of assistance, offshore procurement and early disbursal. We also support an overall vibrant, robust and bipartisan foreign assistance program as a critical tool to promote U.S. national security interests.

**Growing Turmoil, Increased Threats**

The Middle East is experiencing rapid change and instability. The security architecture that the United States and Israel have depended on for the past 30 years is now very much in question. Both the United States and Israel are contending with emerging threats and heightened traditional security challenges, including: Iran's continuing quest for a nuclear weapons capability, which could reach a critical point in 2012; violence in Syria—home to the largest stockpile of chemical weapons in the region; Hizballah expanding its military might and influence in Lebanon—with an arsenal of at least 55,000 rockets aimed at Israel; growing instability threatening the Jordanian leadership; political uncertainty in Egypt; sophisticated weaponry being smuggled to Hamas and other Iranian funded and trained terrorist groups in Gaza that continue to attack Israeli civilians with rockets; chaos in the Sinai; and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas reconciling with an unreformed Hamas, seeking unilateral statehood recognition at the United Nations and refusing talks with Israel. Amid these new realities, U.S. assistance to Israel, as the single most tangible expression of America's unshakeable support for our close ally, becomes more important than ever before. By supporting our top ally in the region, the United States ensures that it will have a strong, capable and reliable pro-American ally in the region as it grapples with a myriad of complex strategic issues in the Middle East.

**The United States and Israel: Stalwart Allies**

The United States and Israel face many of the same threats, including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the growth of state-sponsored terrorism and the spread of Islamic

radicalism. Our two countries have a close and intimate strategic relationship, which includes sharing cutting-edge technology and valuable intelligence, conducting combined military exercises, and researching and developing new weapons. The United States has also pre-positioned matériel in Israel for use in the event that the United States ever needs to respond quickly to a future Middle East conflict. American military aid has helped Israel ensure a qualitative military edge over Arab countries that sought Israel's destruction and waged wars against Israel. U.S. support has also helped prevent war, because Arab states contemplating attacks on Israel know that they will face a U.S. ally defending itself with the world's best weapons systems. In addition, U.S. support has helped advance peace by letting Israel's enemies know that there is no alternative to negotiations.

### **Israel: America's Strategic Partner**

In the post-9/11 world, Israel remains America's most reliable strategic partner in the Middle East. Israel and the United States work together to defeat common threats and realize America's regional and global policy objectives. Common threats range from terrorism, proliferation, and the spread of radical Islamist ideology to narcotics, counterfeiting, smuggling and cyber warfare.

Israel is a reliable democracy that shares America's values and worldview in a region often dominated by instability, radical forces, dictatorial regimes and extremist non-state actors. With no other country in the region—and few in the entire world—does the United States share the same level of strategic cooperation. American-Israeli cooperation begins with frequent high-level strategic relationships among senior political and military leaders and extends to combined military planning and exercises, intelligence-sharing and technological development. The historic American-Israeli alliance is perhaps the most stabilizing feature in an otherwise unusually unstable region.

Israel's presence in the region provides a de facto cost-effective guarantor of security well beyond its borders. Furthermore, Israel's military strength, central geo-strategic location and expanding coordination with the United States provide a strong deterrent against Iran and other radical forces that threaten America, its allies and regional and global U.S. objectives.

The United States and Israel should continue to work to enhance their strategic cooperation through joint military exercises, military exchanges, increasing the amount of pre-positioned U.S. military equipment in Israel, and the continued joint development of advanced weapons systems, especially in the vital missile defense arena.

### **Relationship Yields Important Technologies for Both Countries**

The close partnership between the United States and Israel has yielded important military technologies such as the Arrow anti-ballistic missile defense system that is currently deployed in Israel. Jointly developed by the two allies, the Arrow is among the world's most sophisticated missile shields. It is the only operational system that has consistently proven that one missile can shoot down another at high altitudes and supersonic speeds. Israel and the United States are also collaborating on the development of a quick-reaction defense system, known as David's Sling, to address the threats posed by short- and medium-range missiles and rockets rapidly spreading throughout the eastern Mediterranean Levant.

Similarly, Israel has developed the Iron Dome rocket defense system. Israeli civilians living in cities such as Sderot have been victimized by more than 7,700 indiscriminate rocket and mortar attacks. The Iron Dome uses small radar-guided missiles to intercept incoming Katyusha-style rockets. In 2011, recognizing the value of this system, the Obama administration requested—and Congress approved—\$205 million to help Israel fund Iron Dome. The investment has already paid off. During the first two years of its deployment, the system intercepted dozens of rockets fired from Gaza at Israel.

The rapid development and deployment of this three-tiered missile defense system with U.S. assistance has played and will continue to play an important role in minimizing the threats Israel faces from the tens of thousands of missiles and rockets that Israel's enemies have aimed at Israel.

### **Israeli Technologies and Techniques Help U.S. Soldiers**

Strategic cooperation has also yielded a number of important Israeli military innovations that have been of great help to the United States. Many of these are currently in use by U.S. forces deployed throughout the world, including in Afghanistan and previously in Iraq. Recent examples include the Israeli developed Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System (JHMCS), which is used by the U.S. Air Force and Navy in several aircraft, including the F-35. The JHMCS gives the pilot a targeting device that can be used to aim sensors and weapons wherever the pilot is looking, among many other improved capabilities.

Plasan Sasa, an Israeli manufacturer that specializes in add-on modular armor kits for military vehicles, is a leading provider of armor protection for U.S. Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles (MRAP). This armor provides unparalleled protection against rocket propelled grenades and has been credited with saving countless American lives. Subcomponents that have been developed and tested in Israel are used in several major U.S. weapons systems, such as the Patriot missile, which is a long-range defense system to counter tactical ballistic missiles, and the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile, which has the unique capability to intercept both exo-atmospheric and endo-atmospheric threats. Israeli developed components also provide essential technology for the F-16 fighter's wings, and provide electronic components for U.S. tanks.

Technology from the Iron Dome, which has the capability to intercept short-range rockets, should also bring strategic benefits to the U.S. in areas such as Afghanistan, where short-range rockets pose a threat to U.S. troops and interests. After a successful track record of intercepting short-range rockets that were fired from Gaza into Israel, the United States is now looking into the feasibility of deploying such technology where it can have an immediate impact in protecting U.S. soldiers.

### **Israel Increasing Its Own Defense Spending**

While Israeli technology helps to protect American troops on the battlefield, Israel has never asked U.S. troops to fight to defend Israel. It has instead requested U.S. assistance to supplement

the tremendous resources Israel already invests in its defense budget. Israel spends more on defense as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) than any other nation in the industrialized world—roughly 7 percent, or nearly double that of the United States. However, the actual costs to the Israeli economy are much higher, taking into account lost productivity and the need for reserve duty, internal security and anti-terrorism spending. Israel's annual military and security budget has been barely sufficient to cover both immediate operational needs and future force development. Even before the recent upheaval in the region, Israel had developed a 10-year plan of sustained increases in its own defense spending in addition to the expected growth in U.S. aid under the 10-year MOU. During the decade covered by the U.S. aid agreement, Israel planned to spend \$150 billion on defense, a 50 percent increase over the previous 10-year period. Currently, however, Israel will be hard pressed to secure the necessary budgetary resources needed to build sufficient military capabilities for tomorrow's more threatening regional environment. It will have little choice except to increase its spending to counter the wide range of new strategic challenges it now faces.

To cite just one example, terrorists blew up the Sinai natural gas pipeline, which provides a large percentage of Israel's gas, more than 10 times this past year. As a result, Israel has had to incur \$4 billion in additional expenses to fund imports of alternative, more expensive energy supplies. Given the increasing terrorist threats on its border with Egypt, Israel has also been forced to speed up work on building a fence on the southern border between Egypt and Israel. That fence will cost an estimated \$360 million.

Israel faces existential threats unlike almost any other country in the world. Israel faces traditional and asymmetric, conventional and unconventional threats from car bombs and mortars to long-range missiles.

The American military hardware, including advanced fighter aircraft and naval vessels that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) require to maintain its qualitative military edge, is far more sophisticated, complex and expensive than anything needed in the past. The most recent U.S.-produced front-line fighter aircraft deployed by Israel, the F-16I, costs \$45 million per plane. By comparison, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, which Israel is seeking to purchase during the next decade, will cost close to \$150 million each. Israel is also investing more than \$2 billion to develop cutting-edge systems to combat short-range rockets and long-range missiles and is building dozens of upgraded tanks and hundreds of armored vehicles to protect troops from advanced anti-tank missiles in the hands of Hamas and Hizballah. Israel's aircraft, helicopters and drones must be outfitted with new protective systems against the flood of shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles emerging from Libya. Civil defenses must be beefed-up against the uncertainty of what may happen with Syria's vast chemical weapons arsenal.

Even with this additional investment of its own national resources, there are many important weapons purchases and defense technology R&D efforts the IDF will have to delay because of insufficient funds as near-term priorities are shifted to address the uncertainties of the immediate evolving regional balance.

### **U.S. Aid Vital to Israel's Security, Protecting American Interests**

In this difficult budget environment, we are mindful of the daunting fiscal challenges facing the United States. However, the looming cuts that may come with sequestration would have a devastating impact on Israel. We believe U.S. security assistance to Israel has been and remains a highly cost-effective program that strengthens U.S. interests for a relatively modest cost. It ensures the continued strength and survival of our most reliable and effective ally in this vital region of the world. It sends a strong message to enemies of both the United States and Israel of the continued U.S. commitment to Israel's security. It reinforces the principle that the United States will live up to commitments made to our friends, particularly the important commitment made in the 2007 U.S.-Israel MOU that set levels of U.S. assistance for Israel over a 10-year period. And it tells the government and people of Israel that especially in a time of enormous unrest, the United States will ensure Israel has the means to defend itself.

We also urge Congress to extend the U.S. loan guarantee program to Israel for another three years. This has been an important program that has provided Israel with an extra insurance policy as it goes to the international bond market and will be even more important in a time of crisis. Israel has paid and will continue to pay all scoring costs associated with these guarantees and has never defaulted on them.

### **Conclusion**

The United States and Israel together are facing many years of uncertainty, opportunity and danger in one of the most important regions of the world. In 2012, the greatest threat both our nations face is that of Iran with a nuclear weapons capability. We are pleased to see that the world community is uniting behind a series of tough sanctions that are aimed at making a difference in time to stop the rapid development of that capability. As we face these challenges, there is little doubt that the United States is stronger when Israel is strong. I want to commend this Subcommittee and especially Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey for all you have done throughout the years to ensure that Israel and the U.S.-Israel relationship remain strong. That support will be more important than ever as our two nations work ever more closely together to ensure a democratic, stable and pro-western Middle East.

**House Committee on Appropriations**  
**Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs**  
*Submitted by Christine Schulze*  
**Chair, Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange and**  
**Vice President, Concordia Language Villages, Concordia College**  
**Concerning Department of State Educational and Cultural Exchanges**  
**March 2012**

As Chair of the Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange, I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of an FY13 funding level of \$598 million (level funding with FY11 and FY12) for the educational and cultural exchange programs administered by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). During difficult budget times, the Department of State's exchange programs are smart and cost-effective investments in American economic competitiveness and national security.

As the leading policy voice of the U.S. exchange community, the Alliance comprises 75 nongovernmental organizations, with nearly 8,000 staff and 1.25 million volunteers across the United States. Through its members, the Alliance supports the international interests of 3,300 American institutions of higher education. We greatly appreciate our productive working relationship with the Subcommittee and its strong and consistent support of exchange programs.

Department of State international exchange programs are a proven and cost-effective way for the United States to remain competitive, develop American leaders, and promote American values. These programs support global engagement that is critical to our prosperity and security. As acknowledged by Secretaries Clinton and Panetta, a strong military alone is not sufficient to maintain our national security. We must engage with the world across a wide variety of activities and issues, building respect, understanding, and a web of partnerships based on shared interests. Exchanges are an investment in the future, expanding the vision of current and emerging leaders.

***Exchanges benefit Americans and help keep America competitive***

Department of State exchange programs provide opportunities for American citizens to build international experience and connections, broaden their perspective, and gain cross-cultural skills necessary for success in the global economy. As exchange participants and as hosts, American citizens gain vital exposure to the world and opportunities critical to their success in the global marketplace, including expertise in languages critical to business and national security; understanding of international business, political, and cultural practices; and the establishment of key business contacts and relationships around the world. Comprehensive U.S. global leadership and economic strength requires a substantial cohort of Americans who have the skills, knowledge, and contacts to navigate effectively across cultures and economies. State Department exchange programs enable Americans to succeed in all sectors of the globalized economy.

***Exchanges are a cost-effective investment***

Most of the State Department exchanges budget is spent either on Americans, American businesses and organizations, or in the United States. In addition to enhancing America's long-

term competitiveness, exchange programs provide significant immediate economic benefits. For example, more than 400 EducationUSA advising centers around the world supported a flow of 723,277 international students to study in the U.S. in 2010-11. These overseas advising centers received an appropriation of \$12.2 million in FY 2012, which leveraged the **\$20.23 billion** international students spent in the U.S. before returning home (according to NAFSA: Association of International Educators and the Institute of International Education's 2011 *Open Doors* report). In Chairwoman Granger's state of Texas, 61,636 international students contributed nearly **\$1.4 billion** to the state economy, while in Ranking Member Lowey's state of New York, 78,888 international students contributed nearly **\$2.4 billion**. The exchanges budget is a meaningful investment in American communities, as well an essential foreign policy tool.

***An unparalleled public diplomacy, smart power, and national security tool***

Exchanges are a key instrument in the U.S. foreign policy toolbox. They strengthen U.S. global leadership and ensure U.S. national security by building lasting connections. Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping's return visit to Muscatine, Iowa—where he did a homestay on a farm in 1985 while on a State Department exchange—demonstrates the importance of cultivating relationships with current and future international leaders through these programs. State Department evaluations repeatedly show that international exchange participants who visit the United States complete their programs with a better impression of our country, the American people, and our values. U.S. ambassadors consistently rank exchange programs among our most useful public diplomacy tools. A Congressional Research Service review of 29 reports on public diplomacy revealed that the most common recommendation of these reports was to increase exchange funding.

***Examples of Department of State exchanges vital to our national security include:***

—The **International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)**, through which U.S. embassies around the world have invited a total of nearly 200,000 key business, political, and civil society leaders to meet with counterparts and citizens across the U.S. IVLP alumni include Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, and more than 320 other current and former heads of state.

—**Academic exchange programs**, whose participants are competitively chosen for their talent and leadership potential. Approximately 300,000 U.S. and foreign nationals have participated in the world-renowned **Fulbright Program** since its inception more than 50 years ago. In 2010, 8,542 U.S. students and young professionals applied for 1,729 available Fulbright grants. Nearly 600 U.S. students are receiving on-the-ground training in languages critical to national security, while 417 Foreign Language Teaching Assistants are teaching their critical native languages to nearly 12,000 U.S. students at American colleges and universities. Other key academic exchanges include the **Gilman International Scholarship Program**, which enables American students with financial need to study abroad, thus greatly diversifying the population of young Americans with global and critical language experience; the **Global Undergraduate-Eurasia program**, which sends students from Eurasia to study on 63 U.S. university and college campuses in 30 states; the **Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Program**, which confers fellowships across a wide range of sectors to graduate students and professionals in Eurasia; the **Humphrey**

**Fellowship Program**, which provides powerful training experiences for rising professionals in the developing world; the **Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP)**, which provides university instructors with semester-long opportunities to expand their knowledge and expertise by working at U.S. universities; and **American overseas research centers**, which serve thousands of American students and scholars, thereby building global expertise in American universities and colleges and throughout the public and private sectors.

—**High school exchange programs** that bring more than 5,000 students a year from the Muslim world, Eurasia, and other key countries to stay with American families and study at American high schools. High school exchanges like the **YES program** (Muslim majority countries), **FLEX** (Russia, Ukraine, and other Eurasian nations), **A-SMYLE** (Balkans), **Congress-Bundestag** (Germany), **U.S.-Poland exchange**, the **National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y)**, and the **Youth Ambassadors and Youth Leadership programs** have a consistent record of success in building lifelong relationships and encouraging leadership aspirations.

—**Citizen and technology-based exchanges**, which engage American citizens in productive international activities, and reach participants here and abroad who are often unable to participate in physical exchanges. **Sister Cities International** links more than 600 U.S. communities with 1,750 international cities in 136 countries around the globe. Technology-based programs such as **Global Connections and Exchange** and the **E-Teacher Scholarship Program** provide opportunities for youths and professionals to gain valuable technical and multicultural skills, and strengthen mutual understanding and solidify virtual relationships.

In addition to robust funding for exchange programs, the Alliance strongly supports the highest possible funding for the Department of State, particularly for consular operations. The State Department has ably and admirably managed the visa function in recent years despite a greatly increased workload. Still, many new requirements, especially the mandate that nearly all applicants have a personal interview, have led to long waits for visa interviews in critical countries. Visas have become a prominent issue in key bilateral relationships, and we encourage the Subcommittee to continue to provide the State Department with additional consular resources.

Thank you again for this opportunity to voice the Alliance's support for an appropriation of \$598 million for Department of State educational and cultural exchange programs in FY13, and for appropriate funding for the Department's consular operations. We in the NGO exchange community look forward to working with the Subcommittee to ensure that exchange programs continue to play a vital role in enhancing America's national security and competitiveness.



# Alliance for Middle East Peace

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## U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Request

**Testimony of Rabbi Michael M. Cohen  
Chair, Policy Committee  
The Alliance for Middle East Peace  
March 29, 2012**

Chair Granger, Ranking Member Lowey, Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you once again for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the successful Reconciliation Funds program of the Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) within the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID's) Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA). DCHA/CMM has provided direct support through competitive grants for innovative people-to-people conflict mitigation and reconciliation programs in at least 28 countries, including those in the Middle East. As the Chair of the Policy Committee of the Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP), I urge this Subcommittee to commit in FY 2013, as it has in FYs 2012 and 2011:

- **\$28 million to the worldwide reconciliation programs funded through the Economic Support Fund in the FY2013 budget; of which**
- **\$10 million are dedicated to people-to-people peacebuilding programs in the Middle East.**

ALLMEP is the coalition of some eighty (80) non-governmental organizations (NGOs), all of which promote people-to-people coexistence, cooperation, and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians, Arabs and Jews in the Middle East. These organizations turn the challenges of daily life into opportunities for cooperation and in so doing lay the groundwork for *any* sustainable peace. That is the very purpose of the Reconciliation Funds Program wisely created by this Subcommittee: "bringing together individuals of different ethnic, religious or political backgrounds from areas of civil conflict and war.....[through] grants to programs that provide opportunities for adversaries to come together to address issues, reconcile differences, and gain understanding and mutual trust by working toward common goals." (Neil A. Levine, Director, CMM/DCHA, USAID, *People-to-People Peacebuilding: A Program Guide*, January 2011) Changing behavior ultimately changes attitudes, which is essential for peace to thrive. Organizations funded by CMM grants – like the Arava Institute, Hand-in-Hand Schools, Parents Circle Bereaved Families Forum, Friends of the Earth Middle East, Mifalot Soccer Program, the Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information, Seeds of Peace and many more – demonstrate by their results that change is possible and that these funds are essential to it.

**85 ORGANIZATIONS. THOUSANDS OF ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS. ONE GROWING MOVEMENT FOR PEACE.**



The Middle East is a significantly different place than when I testified last year. The winds of the Arab Spring, while hopeful in one regard, have also highlighted the fact that the Arab-Israeli conflict remains *the* painful unfinished business of the region. The organizations in our coalition are on the front lines of the Middle East conflict: every day, these people-to-people nongovernmental organizations (P2P NGOs) engage thousands of people on the ground to cooperate in projects, break down barriers and stereotypes, and change attitudes. Their work is invaluable and, with the peace process stalled, their contribution to conflict management and mitigation even more critical a year into the Arab Spring. These groups help Jewish settlers and their Palestinian neighbors open constructive interfaith dialogue; they bring Israelis and Palestinians who have lost loved ones in the conflict into high schools to talk about non-violence; they bring together Israelis and Palestinians to cooperate in medicine, business, education, and the environment. These programs provide respect and recognition of dignity that are often the missing elements when it comes to bringing the different sides of the conflict together.

We cannot force the political leaders to negotiate, but, through the CMM program, we can empower their constituents to become a force for peace that ultimately, the political leaders cannot deny. We must empower these citizen-diplomats to pursue their daily work through the continuation of the CMM grants program. Despite the enormous need and the undeniable fact that the NGOs in our coalition are ready to expand their dramatically scalable projects to new communities and participants as resources become available, **our request is identical to that of FYs 2012 and 2011**. Let us not forget in the ebb and flow of diplomacy, the ups and downs of the peace process, these NGOs are a constant; they are on the ground modeling what Israeli and Palestinian politicians have failed to achieve – tangible, concrete examples that peace is no mirage, but an achievable reality.

In fact: these programs work. Rigorous analysis and evaluation by USAID conclusively demonstrate greater trust; enhanced cooperation; increased “conflict resolution values”; decreased aggression and loneliness; and mitigation of hazardous environmental and health conditions between project participants from opposing sides of the conflict. The participants’ testimony assuredly trumps mine:

- “My experience at the **Arava Institute for Environmental Studies** was life changing. . . . my eyes and heart were opened to the reality of our region and I committed the next 8 years of my life to building bridges and creating projects on the ground that can help people . . . .” Ilana, Israel
- “My studies at **Arava Institute** . . . . had a big influence on me. . . . Through working in Susya, Palestine with my Israeli partners I’ve discovered my passion for education, especially environmental education, and I’ve begun to develop my leadership skills by taking initiative with several small projects, such as establishing a women’s embroidery cooperative, improving economic independence within the community, and coordinating environmental, cultural, and educational projects for children and young adults.” Abeer, Palestine
- “Before [**Search for Common Ground**] I never would have written the other side’s viewpoint. Now I understand that it is part of my job and my responsibility as a journalist to do so.” USAID CMM journalist project participant 2011



- “Since I first participated in **Creativity for Peace's** programs, I understand that the ‘other side’ are human beings who suffer a lot from the conflict. I have learned how to treat people – to count on their personality not on their nationality . . . my life has changed for the better in many ways.” Diana, Palestinian, senior young leader
- “I am involved with **Creativity for Peace** because I want to know the real people and not the people as they are portrayed in the media. My life and my personality have changed since my involvement. I am not who I used to be.” Sivan, Jewish Israeli, senior young leader
- “My image of the Jewish people was that they are my enemy and want to kill me no matter what. Since joining with **Sulha Peace Project**, I build relationships with those people, and work together on changing each side’s hostile perception of the other side.” Muneer, Palestine
- “To my delight, I discovered [at **Sulha**] a truly peaceful island of brotherhood, where Palestinians and Israelis were actually listening to each other about the realities of their lives. It was profoundly moving and inspired me to carry on working for peace.” Yoav, Israel

Such commentary – such significant results – cross CMM programs, cross hundreds of projects not-yet-funded, cross borders, cross lives.

Bolstering nascent peace agreements through people-to-people efforts is not only critical to long-term stability, democracy and growth in the region but also to U.S. national security interests. USAID’s CMM program in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza helps bolster the United States Government’s diplomatic efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by supporting programs that establish grounds for cooperation and existence and build grassroots constituencies for peace on both sides. As we learned from the Marshall Plan after World War II and the recent programs supported through the International Fund for Ireland, one of the key elements to building peace between peoples that have a long history of animosity and war is building affiliations, partnerships, and relationships not just between governments, but between individuals and communities.

When the peace process eventually resumes – and it must – it will be these programs that will enable the success of any diplomatic solution. Said Bradley Bessire, Director, Office of Democracy and Governance, USAID/West Bank & Gaza to ALLMEP’s Executive Director: “As we meet and work with potential CMM partners, I continue to be impressed that these organizations are, in fact, making a difference in the lives of Israelis and Palestinians in the creation of relationships that would never have existed otherwise.”

Indeed, these projects give the often-silent two-thirds majorities on both sides – who say they support a two-state solution – tangible ways to work toward that better tomorrow. The peace treaties between Israel and Egypt, and Israel and Jordan were treaties between governments and not people. That has become all too clear this past year. Just under the surface of the overt disgust of authoritarian leaders is the not-so-*sub rosa* dislike of the Jewish state. And yet, the many people-to-people projects underway at this very moment confirm that these people can successfully work together across borders and conflict lines, developing true professional and personal relationships, and ultimately, overcoming stereotypes and accepting each other’s right to live in peace.



The United States has provided billions of dollars focused on military and separate economic aid with hardly any investment in the kinds of bilateral and trilateral cooperation needed to turn enemies into partners. We must continue to empower the P2P NGOs to lay that groundwork first, to hasten an agreement, and to give it the best possible chance of success. Because we are very sensitive to the economic constraints faced by this Subcommittee, we are requesting only an identical appropriation – \$10 million – to that of the past two fiscal years. However, compared to the abovementioned military and economic aid, this \$10 million is a drop in the bucket – yet, we would submit, with considerably better returns.

As Congress works to reduce the deficit – which we can all agree must be addressed – foreign aid can become an easy target. Most Americans believe that foreign aid is 25 percent of the U.S. budget; as you know, it is actually closer to 1 percent. The U.S. gives a smaller percentage of its Gross Domestic Product than many countries, including Finland and Holland; yet it is our men and women who are in harm's way in the regions when these conflicts persist.

Turning decades-old conflict into fertile ground for peace is a long-term effort. We will not get peace on the cheap. Historically, we have not invested in “peace,” but rather in “quiet” – the lesser half of the putative equation. Without investing in peace, however, we cannot buy quiet forever. With the current Middle East turmoil, everything we have invested there is at risk. The billions we have spent to promote quiet on Israel's borders with Egypt and Jordan, all the years of hard diplomacy and peace treaties, all that we have invested in security and economic development in the West Bank and Gaza, all of our own military's commendable work to train police and bolster security cooperation – **all of this is at risk unless we do more to promote actual peace.** With continued investment in the CMM program, when the political leaders reach an agreement, the soil will have been prepared to reach and sustain that long-sought agreement. For this to happen, the Reconciliation Funds must be maintained, at a minimum, at current levels.

Members of this Subcommittee: it is wiser to be proactive than reactive. I am reminded of the documentary *Waiting for Superman*, an indictment of the American school system. One of its most glaring revelations is that it is cheaper to send a child to private school for 12 years than to pay for her to spend 4 years in jail. So too, it is not only vastly cheaper to invest in peace than war, it is also an insurance policy for our national security and the security of those in the Middle East. The American public is not waiting for Superman: we are waiting for you.

I urge you not to abandon the majorities of Israelis and Palestinians who are ready, waiting for an opportunity to become part of the solution. I urge you to take the *less* expensive path by continuing funding for these projects, and thereby enhancing our security, the region's stability, and peace in the region. I implore your support for the brave and inspiring peacemakers through the “people-to-people” competitive grants programs of the USAID Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation. **Please include \$28 million worldwide with \$10 million dedicated to the Middle East in the FY 2013 Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill.** Thank you.



## Alliance for Middle East Peace

### Member Organizations

- A New Way
- Abraham Fund Initiatives
- Adam Institute for Democracy & Peace
- Al Krama
- Al Manarah
- All for Peace Radio (AFP)
- Arab-Jewish Community Center
- Arafat Society for Culture and Human Care
- Arava Institute for Environmental Studies
- Arava Valley of Peace
- AREEN/Future Vision
- Artsbridge, Inc.
- Beyond Words
- CARE
- Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation
- Center for Democracy and Community Development
- Center for Humanistic Education at the Ghetto Fighters' House
- Center for Religious Tolerance
- Circle of Health International
- Citizen's Accord Forum
- Compassionate Listening Project
- Creativity for Peace
- EcoPeace—Friends of the Earth Middle East
- Education and Social Project of Hapoel Tel Aviv
- Foundation for Applied Research (FAR)
- Friends Forever
- Friendship Village
- Givat Haviva Educational Foundation
- Hamline University/Colleges for Reconciliation and Development (MECRD)
- Hand in Hand
- Healing Across the Divides
- Heartbeat Jerusalem
- Interfaith Encounter Association
- International Center for Conciliation
- International Center for Contemporary Education
- Interns for Peace
- Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel
- Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI)
- Israeli-Palestinian Science Organization
- Jerusalem Center for Inter-Religious Cooperation/Mosaica Center
- Jerusalem International YMCA
- Jerusalem Peacemakers
- Just Vision
- Keshev-The Center for the Protection of Democracy in Israel
- Kids4Peace
- MAARAG: The Association for Advancement of Education in a Multicultural Society
- Masar Center
- MEPEACE.org
- Middle East Children's Association
- Middle East Peace Dialogue
- Middleway
- Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development
- Net@
- Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam
- New Israel Fund (NIF)
- Open House (Friends of Open House)
- Palestine Agency for Food and Agriculture
- Palestine-Israel Journal
- Palestinian Peace Society
- Palestinian Youth Forum for Cooperation
- Panorama – The Palestinian Center for the Dissemination of Democracy & Community Development
- Parents Circle
- Peace It Together
- PeacePlayers International
- Peace Society for Strategic Studies (Peace Institute for Strategic Studies)
- PeaceWorks Foundation/OneVoice Movement
- Peres Center for Peace
- Reiki for Peace
- Salaam Shalom Educational Foundation
- Save a Child's Heart
- Search for Common Ground
- Seeds of Peace
- Seeking Common Ground
- Shorouq Society for Women
- Shiraa Association for Development
- Sikkuy-The Association for the Advancement of Civic Equality in Israel
- Sulha Peace Project
- TRUST
- University of the Middle East Project
- Windows – Channels for Communication (Windows for Peace)
- Young Israeli Forum for Cooperation (YIFC)
- Youth Entrepreneurs Palestine (YEP)

### ALLMEP's Affiliates

- Abraham's Vision
- FindCommonGround
- Institute for the Study of Israel in the Middle East
- O2A Pictures, Inc.

### ALLMEP's Endorsers

- Friends of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency
- Geneva Initiative (GI)
- The Israeli-Palestinian Comedy Tour (IPCT)



**Testimony by  
Ford W. Bell, DVM  
President, American Association of Museums,  
to the  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and  
Related Agencies  
March 30, 2012**

I am pleased to submit testimony today to the Subcommittee on behalf of the American Association of Museums (AAM) and to testify in support of a critical public diplomacy effort at the U.S. State Department. The program – Museums Connect, formerly Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad (MCCA) – is funded as part of the Cultural Programs Division of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). Museums Connect, under its former name Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad, was funded at \$1,250,000 in FY10 and \$1,100,000 in FY11.

AAM represents the full range of our nation's museums – including aquariums, arboretums, archaeological museums, art museums, botanical gardens, children's museums, culturally specific museums, historic sites, history museums, maritime museums, military museums, natural history museums, nature centers, planetariums, presidential libraries, science and technology centers, zoological parks, and other specialty museums – along with professional staff and volunteers who work for and with museums. We are proud to work on behalf of the 17,500 museums that employ 400,000 people, spend more than \$2 billion on educational programming, and contribute more than \$20 billion to local economies.

The collaboration between the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and the American Association of Museums (AAM) began in 1980 with exchange visits of museum professionals from the former Soviet

Union, and was re-envisioned in 2007 to offer a more robust and extensive experience for community members as well as museum staff. In the first four years of this new program, it has supported projects with museums and communities in 15 states and the District of Columbia in partnership with their counterparts in 25 countries (Afghanistan, Belgium, Bolivia, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco Niger, Philippines, South Africa, Sudan, Tajikistan, Taiwan, ,) spanning all geographic regions.

This important program is part of a larger effort by the U.S. State Department to foster cross-cultural understanding and collaboration, and to demonstrate shared values and aspirations. Other examples of cultural exchange programs include the International Writing Program, the American Music Abroad, and DanceMotion USA, among others.

Through Museums Connect, U.S. museums partner with museums in other countries to tackle important community issues – like civic participation, discrimination, gender issues, and science education. Participants play a crucial role in educating their communities, connecting people with information and ideas, and building long-lasting relationships across borders.

I am pleased to share with you a few of the Museum Connect projects, some of which have taken place – in part – in communities represented by members of the Subcommittee. For example:

- The AAM-accredited National Constitution Center in Philadelphia and the National Museum of Afghanistan partnered on “We the People: Afghanistan, America, & the Minority Imprint,” where students working with the two museums scoured the streets, their classrooms, and their homes with cameras to interpret concepts such as dissent, freedom and democracy in their countries. Afghan youth took to the polling station set up in their high school and captured images from the 2009 presidential election; their counterparts in Philadelphia documented their transportation strike of the same year. The participants worked collaboratively to create an exhibition of their photos that highlighted similarities and differences between the two countries. In May 2010, the exhibition opened simultaneously in both museums. In his remarks at the opening at the National Constitution Center,

one of the participating students said that he and his peers were surprised by the Afghan students' willingness to openly debate political concepts, despite stereotypes about people from the Middle East and their more modest dress. "This has been one of the single greatest and most poignant projects I've been involved in," participant Ian McShea said. "Meeting the Afghan students has taught me volumes of things that I didn't know about Afghanistan, Islam, and the Muslim world in general. I have regained faith, not only in humanity, but especially in my own generation, my global brothers and sisters." The National Constitution Center also worked in 2011 with the National History Museum of Latvia on a youth-centered community service initiative.

- The California Science Center in Los Angeles and the Maloka Museum in Bogotá, Colombia worked together in 2011 on a teacher training and mentoring program. The staff of Maloka was interested in creating more opportunities to collaborate with educators and share inquiry-based teaching strategies; Science Center staff was also interested in reaching out to indigenous educators in the Amazon, an underserved community with which the museum was trying to establish closer ties. The museums are collaborating to create lesson plans that incorporate hands-on science learning about the two types of rainforests in the two different countries. Mentor teachers will then train their peers in each of the four communities. The goals of the project include increasing the ability of educators to use inquiry-based learning in the classroom, increasing the use of the museums as a resource for educators, and forging strong relationships between the teachers, staff, and students in the two countries. The teachers plan to continue to work together on future lesson plans and activities even after the end of the formal grant. The Ministry of Education has cited this project as one that could significantly change the Colombian curriculum.
- In California, a 2010 project called "Young Women Speaking the Economy" brought together the International Museum of Women in San Francisco, the Women's Museum in Denmark, the Ayala Museum in the Philippines, and the Sudanese Women's Museum in Sudan to share perspectives on everything from work-life balance to combating gender discrimination, using social media and online tools.
- In Louisiana, a 2008 grant brought together Sci-Port: Louisiana's Science Center and Parco Astronomico InfiniTo in Italy to connect high-school

students who created their own planetarium shows about daily life in the U.S. and Italy, learning math, science, and computing skills as a result.

- In Illinois, a 2011 grant brought together the National Museum of Niger and Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo for a conservation and research project involving youth in each community.
- In New York, a 2010 grant brought together the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, Le Bois du Cazier in Belgium, and the Galata Maritime Museum in Italy for a project called "Navigating Difference: Transatlantic Dialogues on Immigration," which focused on issues such as identity, assimilation, and discrimination through public programs and an interactive exhibit at each museum.
- Also in New York, a 2010 grant brought together the World Awareness Children's Museum in Glens Falls, NY with the Museo de la Ciudad, in Quito, Ecuador, during which middle-school youth looked at social issues in the two environments and solutions they could help implement. Another grant brought together The Wild Center in Tupper Lake, NY and Heureka, the Finnish Science Centre for a science-based collaboration.
- In Ohio, a 2010 grant brought together the Cincinnati Museum Center and the National Museums of Kenya for a program on recording oral histories and other intangible cultural heritage with digital and virtual tools.
- In Pennsylvania, a 2010 grant brought together the AAM-accredited Westmoreland Museum of American Art in Greensburg, PA and the LVR-Industriemuseum in Oberhausen, Germany for an exchange that originally began as an art project for teens called "Building a Transatlantic Bridge." Additional teachers at the high schools became interested in the project, and now foreign language, math, and science teachers are also involved, even after the formal grant period ended.
- In Washington, a 2009 grant brought together the AAM-accredited Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture in Seattle and the Ainu Association of Hokkaido in Sapporo, Japan who worked together to preserve and promote traditional cultural knowledge for future generations of indigenous and non-native peoples.

The importance of building a citizenry capable of engaging across national borders cannot be understated, and the Museums Connect program is perfectly positioned to build these cross-cultural relationships. Exhibitions and informal educational opportunities – both here and abroad – increase cross-cultural competency for everyone involved. U.S. citizens learn about the culture and traditions of peoples throughout the world. Citizens of other countries learn about the U.S. through face-to-face engagement, as opposed to the images and stories that are portrayed through the media. Further, this program provides the opportunity for all voices to be heard equally, with the museum partners creating the project framework and community participants deciding how it should be undertaken. A participant from Sudan reflected on the importance of this opportunity: “It is the first time we have this chance [to have our voices heard]. Sudanese girls’ voices are mute, and no one in the world knows what we are thinking.”

In The Pew Research Center’s 2002 study *What the World Thinks*, the Center acknowledged that visits to another country and familiarity with its citizens increase outsiders’ favorable opinions of that nation. From the report:

*“Most of the respondents to this survey have not visited the United States. But an analysis of results from 21 of the nations surveyed shows that those who have traveled to the United States, or are in regular communication with Americans, have a more favorable opinion of the U.S. compared with those who have had no comparable exposure. This is even true in countries where many hold an unfavorable view of the U.S.: Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and South Korea.”*

We appreciate this opportunity to present these views to the Subcommittee, and urge the Subcommittee to fully fund these important exchange programs run by the State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.



**Statement by Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III**  
**President, American Bar Association**  
**to the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs**  
**Committee on Appropriations**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**March 30, 2012**

Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member Lowey and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is Bill Robinson and I am pleased to submit this statement to the Subcommittee in my capacity as President of the American Bar Association. We appreciate this opportunity to highlight the importance of fiscal year 2013 funding for rule of law assistance.

Establishing legal structures and institutions based on the rule of law is a necessary prerequisite to creating durable democratic societies and successful market-based economies. As we know, democratic regimes are also less likely to engage in terrorist activity and spawn costly and tragic regional conflict. In addition, U.S. business interests are hesitant to invest in countries that lack sufficient legal protections and independent courts to fairly resolve business disputes. Therefore, programs to promote the rule of law internationally are valuable and cost-effective investments of U.S. taxpayer dollars that enhance both the national security and economic prosperity of our nation. They are also consonant with our values as a nation.

The ABA works to promote the rule of law internationally through a variety of mechanisms, including by providing legal technical assistance to nations around the world through the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI). ABA ROLI recently celebrated more than two decades of promoting the rule of law in more than 80 countries worldwide. Founded shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall, its early efforts focused on assisting Eastern European countries to draft constitutions and laws. The program also helped embolden judges, prosecutors, lawyers and legal educators to take the lead in establishing – or in some cases re-establishing – the rule of law after decades of communism and repression. Today, many of those countries are valued partners of the United States and are members of the European Union.

ABA ROLI has dramatically expanded in size and reach since its inception in 1990. Today, with nearly 700 staff, *pro bono* volunteers and other personnel in offices in Washington, DC and in roughly 50 countries in every region of the world, ABA ROLI is strengthening the rule of law and promoting good governance in countries closely allied with the United States, such as Jordan, Liberia, Mexico and the Philippines, as well as countries in which our relations are more complex, such as China, Ethiopia, Russia and Tajikistan. Through these programs, the ABA has a framework in place to respond to requests for assistance from every region of the

world and can provide expertise in virtually every area of law, including, but not limited to, such areas as women's rights, anti-human trafficking and anti-corruption, judicial reform, prosecutorial and defense bar reform, commercial law development, and access to justice and human rights.

The following is a summary of some of the international legal technical assistance programs implemented by ABA ROLI:

**Africa:** ABA ROLI has played a critical role in combating impunity for rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Operating in 25 towns throughout eastern DRC, ABA ROLI assists SGBV survivors in securing legal, psychological and medical aid. It facilitates the investigation and prosecution of SGBV cases by addressing infrastructure and technological barriers, and it enhances civilian protection in remote areas using early warning systems. ABA ROLI promotes female representation in the legal profession through scholarships and internships and provides technical assistance on prison system reforms to better protect the rights of prisoners and detainees. To date, ABA ROLI has helped provide legal services to more than 6,000 women and girls; more than 715 military and civilian cases have gone to trial, with over 400 convictions and sentences up to 25 years. All this has begun to reduce the culture of impunity in this troubled region.

Since 2006, ABA ROLI has contributed to legal reform in Liberia through the establishment of the first and only judicial training institute, by helping to strengthen the country's only law school and by making legal information publicly available for the first time through the creation of an online library that provides free access to Liberian laws, Supreme Court decisions and legal instruments. Today, ABA ROLI implements a pre-trial detention program in Liberia for those who have been languishing in Monrovia's Central Prison, helping to reduce the massive prison backlog while advancing human rights in the penal system. In northern Mali, ABA ROLI is helping to reduce descent-based slavery. The program combines legal and socioeconomic assistance for victims, strengthens the capacity of justice sector actors to investigate and try slavery cases and facilitates a process to draft legislation defining and criminalizing slavery.

In Ethiopia, ABA ROLI has helped build the capacity of partner law schools and government institutions to implement an ambitious nationwide legal education reform initiative to improve the quality of legal education and the practical skills of newly educated lawyers. Most recently, ABA ROLI has also begun to operate a program in Uganda to help devise a coordinated response to human trafficking. Working closely with representatives from national and regional governmental institutions, police, civil society organizations and victim support organizations, ABA ROLI will facilitate the creation of national anti-human trafficking protocols that will coordinate the work of police, immigration officials, government ministries and members of civil society.

**Asia:** In the Philippines, ABA ROLI has assisted in improving court efficiency through a first-ever small claims court program that now exists in each of the country's 1,137 courts of first instance. Recognized as a success by the World Bank, this program has reduced from five years to three months the average time of case disposition, will dramatically reduce the national civil court case backlog, and paved the way for increased micro finance and increased lending to women and other small business entrepreneurs. In Vietnam, ABA ROLI has helped promote

professionalism within the bar and addressed critical issues such as fair trial standards. In Nepal, ABA ROLI has worked to increase the capacity of the government to introduce forensic evidence to combat impunity for massive human rights violations. Regionally, ABA ROLI has worked with member states of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to develop effective systems and laws to address corruption and support the work of APEC's Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts' Task Force.

In Solomon Islands, ABA ROLI is strengthening legal data collection on trafficking in persons and enhancing legal services available to trafficking victims. Similarly, ABA ROLI provided legal assistance to Mongolian victims of human trafficking. In southern Thailand, ABA ROLI promoted the use of forensic psychology in torture cases through a proxy medical evaluation tool, enabling lawyers to document evidence of torture when impartial medical examiners are not available. In Papua New Guinea, ABA ROLI is developing a methodology to assess corporate compliance with national and international human rights standards and expanding access to legal services.

**Europe and Eurasia:** In addition to its ongoing work to expand access to justice and combat corruption in Russia, ABA ROLI played a central role in reintroducing the first jury trials in that country since Tsarist times. ABA ROLI is working in partnership with the government of Ukraine and local partners to improve hate crime prosecution, increase victim protection and raise tolerance for minority populations. In Georgia, ABA ROLI is playing an instrumental role in supporting implementation of the new criminal procedure code by preparing defense attorneys to work under an adversarial system of justice and by training law professors to teach their students trial advocacy skills. ABA ROLI is also training local partners to operate under the new criminal procedure code in Macedonia. In Armenia, we helped establish and expand a public defender's office and continue to provide skills training and capacity building for it. In Azerbaijan, ABA ROLI is undertaking a program to educate bloggers and independent journalists about their rights, and it is also building the capacity of local NGOs to provide legal services to underserved populations, including disabled persons. ABA ROLI is collaborating with grassroots organizations in Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania and Serbia to offer legal services and advocacy training to Roma communities and to provide opportunities for regional coordination and capacity building among Roma leaders.

**Central Asia:** ABA ROLI launched a community-based legal education program to combat forced labor and sex trafficking in Tajikistan. Also in Tajikistan, ABA ROLI has conducted an unprecedented country-wide training effort on the new criminal procedure code, reaching hundreds of prosecutors, law enforcement officers and defense attorneys and supporting stakeholders in compiling recommendations to improve and clarify the code after two years of practical experience. In Turkmenistan, ABA ROLI is promoting rural women's economic empowerment through public legal education. To promote a culture of tolerance in Kyrgyzstan, ABA ROLI teaches secondary school students about the rule of law, human rights and governance, and organizes youth-led discussion groups and multi-ethnic volunteer programs that promote peaceful communities. ABA ROLI is supporting the Kyrgyzstani legal defense community by providing expertise on legislation to establish a unified bar association and supporting legal education that includes more practical skills building and clinical programs.

**Latin America and the Caribbean:** ABA ROLI is providing critical assistance to Ecuador, Mexico and Panama as these countries transition from inquisitorial criminal justice systems to accusatorial models. In Ecuador, ABA ROLI is providing trainings on trial advocacy and investigative techniques as well as conducting trainings on judicial ethics. In Mexico, ABA ROLI is supporting the reform of bar associations and law schools, including through publication of assessments of the country's legal education and legal profession reforms. In Panama, ABA ROLI is promoting a culture of lawfulness through training on trial advocacy and investigative techniques as well as through work with civil society and the public defender's office to strengthen their capacity to implement these reforms.

To help combat transnational organized crime in Belize and Guatemala, ABA ROLI is working with judges, prosecutors and police to develop more efficient procedures for processing criminal cases. ABA ROLI's work in Belize also has included training and reform for juvenile justice issues. In Haiti, as the country continues to recover from the devastating January 2010 earthquake, ABA ROLI is training professionals in the national criminal justice sector on issues such as transnational crime, legal ethics, and sexual and gender-based violence.

ABA ROLI's most recent program for Central America helps strengthen the capacity of governments to manage forensic evidence in criminal cases. Through this program, ABA ROLI is working with Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama, training police, prosecutors, judges and criminologists and developing a model evidentiary code.

**Middle East and North Africa (MENA):** ABA ROLI is supporting rule of law reforms related to the historic transitions in the MENA region. For instance, ABA ROLI is helping women lawyers and judges promote women's participation and legal rights, including in the drafting of the new Tunisian constitution. ABA ROLI also is building the capacity of the legal profession by supporting the development of the Tunisian Bar Association and young lawyers association to support law-related aspects of the transition.

In Bahrain, ABA ROLI is helping the government to implement initiatives to respond to the findings of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry Report, such as developing mechanisms to provide judicial oversight of detention and to build the capacity of defense attorneys. In Libya, ABA ROLI very recently undertook a rule of law needs assessment and has identified key priorities for reform. ABA ROLI also helped to convene a major conference with members of the Libyan legal community and other rule of law implementers to discuss priorities and to promote coordination of rule of law assistance. In Egypt, ABA ROLI is building the skills of a new generation of legal advocates by supporting legal education reform and professional skills training for new lawyers.

**Research and Assessments:** ABA ROLI's programmatic work is supported by legal research and assessments, including in-depth assessments of draft legislation, resource guides on rule of law development issues, and a series of ten assessment tools designed to analyze a country's progress in a particular rule of law sector, such as women's rights, judicial reform, prosecutorial reform, and fighting human trafficking. Host country government leaders and policymakers use the findings of these tools to prioritize and focus reform efforts. ABA ROLI and other technical assistance providers also use the assessment results to design more effective rule of law programs. In addition, these tools provide donor organizations, policymakers, and local and

international NGOs with hard-to-find analyses of the structure and functioning of important legal institutions. Finally, assessment results also serve as a springboard for local advocacy initiatives.

Most recently, ABA ROLI piloted an innovative Access to Justice Assessment Tool in Guinea, Indonesia, Mali and the Philippines, conducted in close collaboration with local NGOs to help build local capacity on access to justice issues. Additionally, ABA ROLI will soon release its HIV/AIDS Legal Assessment Tool, which is specifically designed not only to uncover the incidence of HIV/AIDS-related legal discrimination in a country, but also to assess whether the country has taken concrete steps to reduce HIV/AIDS-related discrimination.

While U.S. funding for rule of law programs such as these is essential, it must be utilized in partnership with local leaders in an accountable, transparent and sustainable manner. In terms of modes of delivery, we urge the Subcommittee to recognize the benefits of and prioritize assistance delivered through non-profit groups such as NGOs and private and voluntary organizations. Non-profit organizations such as the ABA are more likely to develop long-term relationships that build capacity and allow for sustainable assistance efforts, thereby leveraging U.S. taxpayer funding.

In addition, NGOs are more likely to leverage U.S. assistance dollars through the contributions of volunteers and additional sources of funding. In the case of the ABA, well over \$200 million in *pro bono* assistance has been provided by American and overseas lawyers working directly under ABA ROLI's aegis. Independent U.S.-based NGOs are best positioned to work as true partners with host country reformers to make sure the outcomes are owned locally but are operated under the oversight of experienced NGOs that also serve as fiduciaries of American taxpayer dollars.

The United States plays a unique leadership role in promoting economic development, respect for human rights and the rule of law around the world. Targeted foreign assistance to establish and enhance legal systems and institutions grounded in the rule of law is a critical component of U.S. foreign policy in the developing world, post-conflict countries and countries in transition. Further, this assistance is vital in ensuring the protection and promotion of U.S. national security and economic interests. We are cognizant of the tremendous budgetary challenges facing our nation and understand that difficult decisions must be made in allocating funding. However, if the United States fails to invest adequate resources in this area, countries that do not share our commitment to democratic values and free markets will continue to languish and serve as destabilizing forces, to the detriment of U.S. national interests, including our economic and national security interests.

Rule of law programs such as those of the ABA are a cost-effective mechanism through which to advance both the interests of the citizens of the participating countries and U.S. foreign and development policy. For these reasons, we urge that the Subcommittee maintain the overall amount of funding available for agencies and programs that support rule of law activities such as those implemented by ABA ROLI and that the Subcommittee continue to support funding for the ABA's technical legal assistance programs through cooperative agreements.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our views.

**STATEMENT BY  
DR. DAN E. DAVIDSON  
PROFESSOR, BRYN MAWR COLLEGE  
AND  
PRESIDENT, AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION:  
ACTR/ACCELS**

**BEFORE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS,  
AND RELATED PROGRAMS  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**March 30, 2012**

Madam Chairwoman, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present this statement on behalf of the American Councils for International Education. I am requesting that the Subcommittee recommend funding in the fiscal year 2013 State, Foreign Operations bill at least at the \$598 million level requested by the Administration for programs under the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and in support of continued assistance for East Europe and Eurasia, including several assistance models in the educational sector that are making a major difference for the successor generation of leaders in that part of the world.

My name is Dan E. Davidson and I have worked in Russia, Eurasia, and East Europe as a scholar, teacher, and director of several major assistance initiatives for more than 35 years. I am president of American Councils for International Education, a nonprofit organization that works in the republics of the former Soviet Union, East Europe, Afghanistan, China, Africa and the Middle East. Founded in 1974, American Councils is one of the leading and best-known U.S. organizations administering U.S. Government, World Bank, foreign government, and privately funded exchange and development programs between the United States and Eurasia.

**ACHIEVING DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM**

Since 2003, the "Rose Revolution" in Georgia and the "Orange Revolution" in Ukraine have taken place. At the same time, however, there have been disturbing counter-trends in the reassertion of authoritarian policies and repression of basic freedoms in Belarus and Uzbekistan and marked anti-Western posturing leading up to the recent Russian elections. Clearly, much remains to be done if continued advancement of democratic freedoms, as well as economic and social reform, is to be achieved.

The Administration with support from Congress has taken an important step for the region as a whole by "resetting" the U.S. official relationship with Russia and launching the U.S.-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission to expand relations into many new areas. I was honored to be invited to participate in the ongoing work of the U.S.-Russia Working Group on Innovation.

Congress has played a vital role in defining our national goals for East Europe, Eurasia, and, more recently, with Afghanistan. It did so by enacting the FREEDOM Support (FSA) and the Support for East European Democracy (SEED) Acts and other creative programs that have done much to build relations of respect and trust with new generations of citizens across this very large and strategic region. This Subcommittee, in particular, deserves credit for embracing these activities. In the early years of this century, unfortunately, the FSA and SEED Acts were seriously weakened in favor of a more generic, "one size fits all" approach to both the educational and research exchanges, as well as U.S. technical assistance programs.

In view of these losses, I would particularly like to thank this Subcommittee for its continued support of the Department of State's Title VIII, Research and Training for Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union Program. American Councils is among the administering organizations for this program. Title VIII remains critical to our national security interests, by fostering relationships in research and training that are essential for the larger goals established by the FREEDOM Support Act.

I recommend that the U.S. continue this Administration's policy of strengthening and re-focusing our exchange activities with the nations of the former Soviet Union and East Europe, even as the U.S. government continues to hold some of the priorities and replicate program models that have functioned well in Eurasia, especially in Central Asia, Afghanistan, South Asia, and other parts of the Muslim world.

There is particular need for programs focused on professional development, the support of teachers and those who train them, such as the Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP), as well as curriculum development and support for modern educational assessment systems. New national testing systems improve educational policy formation and contribute greatly to the elimination of corrupt practices surrounding university admissions in many of these nations.

These U.S. exchange and assistance programs focus on transparency, ethnic diversity, and access to educational opportunity, through a sustained and affirmative effort to reach beyond the traditional elites and residents of capital cities. More importantly, they provide a significant long-term multiplier effect at relatively little cost as alumni networks in the home countries take on increasingly important roles in government, the private sector and the NGO community. For that reason, Madam Chairwoman, I ask that the Subcommittee include language in support of the following exchange programs:

- **Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX)**
- **American-Serbia and Montenegro Youth Leadership Exchange (A-SMYLE)**
- **Youth Exchange and Study (YES)**
- **U.S. - Poland Parliamentary Youth Exchange Leadership Program**
- **Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP), Eurasia/Balkans**
- **Legislative Fellowship Program (LFP)**
- **Educational Advising Centers (Education USA)**
- **National Security Language Initiative - Youth (NSLI-Y)**
- **Critical Language Scholarships Program (CLS)**

- **Title VIII (Research and Training in East European/Eurasian Regions)**
- **Educational Seminars (for teachers and principals)**
- **Near East South Asia Undergraduate Exchange Program (NESA)**

## **FOREIGN OPERATIONS PROGRAMS**

The U.S. currently supports a number of relatively new and unusually important assistance programs in the Eurasian/South East Europe region, which, based on my own experience, deserve particular consideration as models of focused U. S. assistance. Each contributes to meeting the challenges of preparing a new generation of citizens for the demands of the globalized economy and the concomitant needs for stronger workforce development, professional education, reduction of corruption, and greater social cohesion.

## **INDEPENDENT STANDARDIZED TESTING: A CHANGE IN THE ACADEMIC CULTURE OF NATIONS**

In 2002, at the invitation of the government of Kyrgyzstan, the U.S. embarked on a small but important program to assist that nation in creating an open and objective system for the distribution of federal scholarship awards to entering university students. This program has become a model for Georgia, which is now in its fifth year of merit-based admissions to higher education, and Ukraine, which is now in its third year of standardized and basically corruption-free higher education admission, funded, in part, by the USAID. The Georgian system is now fully self-sufficient. The Kyrgyz project has survived ethnic conflict and the collapse of two successive governments, but it still needs modest assistance to operate normally.

## **THE EUROPEAN HUMANITIES UNIVERSITY – IN EXILE**

While Belarus continues to isolate itself from the West and its neighbors, including Ukraine, the European Humanities University (EHU) in Minsk retains its role of being the major instrument in internationalizing and liberalizing higher education, by creating an alternative system of higher education for Belarusian students. In the summer of 2004, the forced closure of the University by the government of Belarus caused an outcry from the international academic and scholarly community, which held EHU in high regard for the quality of its faculty and educational standards.

The State Department, U.S. private foundations, and the European Union have joined forces in a remarkable display of coordination and focused effort to provide financial assistance to enable EHU to offer distance education courses to its former students from a new base of operations in Vilnius, Lithuania, where the University has been officially registered as a national university with instruction in Belarusian and Russian.

**IN CONCLUSION**

Madam Chairwoman, as you proceed with decisions on the fiscal year 2013 bill, I request that you continue to provide strong funding for the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs programs, particularly the programs mentioned in this statement. Also, I ask that you provide continued funding for the accounts for the states of Eurasia and Eastern Europe to insure adequate support under your bill for much needed programs in educational development and exchange.

Thank you very much for providing me with this opportunity to present my views to the Subcommittee.



The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association

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## Written Testimony

### FY13 Funding: Voice of America's Greek Service

Prepared for presentation to the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

Written Testimony for FY13 Funding

Submitted By:

Dr. John Grossomanides  
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April 20, 2012

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Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member Lowey, and distinguished members of the Committee, the members of the **American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA)**, the nation's leading organization of three million American citizens of Greek heritage, and Philhellenes, are requesting that funding in the amount of \$500,000 be restored to the FY13 budget for the **Broadcasting Board of Governors, International Broadcasting Operations (IBO)** program to continue the operation of Voice of America's Greek Service. **We strongly oppose elimination of Voice of America's Greek Service.**

### Significance to the Eastern Mediterranean & U.S. Interests

The continuation of the VOA Greek Service is paramount to achieving peace and stability in the eastern Mediterranean, which is in the best interest of the United States. The service helps foster the ongoing rapprochement between Greece and Turkey, both NATO allies. Moreover, the Greek and Turkish VOA Services have utilized television and radio to report on the Cyprus issue. For example, a VOA interview with a former Cypriot Ambassador to the United States was able to be broadcast to Turkey due to the fine-working relationship between the two desks. This is a bold initiative and one that we enthusiastically applaud. In fact, AHEPA has explored the role the media can play to promote a solution to the island's near 38-year-old division when it hosted a public

forum featuring Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot journalists and experts in the field of conflict resolution in 2003.

Also, the strong, long-standing relationship between the United States and Greece is projected abroad through VOA's coverage. For example, VOA Greek Service extensively covers the annual celebration of Greek Independence at the White House, at which President Barack Obama stated in 2010, "...whether in good times or in bad times, the people of Greece will always have a friend and a partner in the United States of America...And let me commend Greece, our close NATO ally, for standing up for the security and opportunity of people around the world—from the Balkans to Afghanistan, where Greek service members are helping to give people who have know[n] too much war the chance to live in peace and security."<sup>1</sup>

Furthermore, Voice of America is an important priority in the eastern Mediterranean region because Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus all lie at the doorstep of two significant and active geopolitical spots in the world: the Balkans and the Middle East. Imagine the eastern Mediterranean lacking the services of an inadequately-funded Voice of America in close proximity to these two regions. How can we be confident America's policy initiatives in the Balkans and the Middle East are communicated effectively? The door will be opened to slanted and unreliable news reporting. Just like in the United States, where salacious stories about celebrities and infamous personalities tend to sell more newspapers than the "local man or woman makes good" feel-good story; what sells newspapers overseas are stories projecting America's policy positions in a poor or dubious light. Voice of America, a respected and credible broadcast outlet because of its straight-forward reporting in a country's native language, is needed in such a crucial region to ensure unbiased reporting will be conducted. Furthermore, as austerity measures require Greece's state-owned media outlets to downsize, VOA Greek Service can provide these media outlets with programming.

### **The Greek Financial Crisis**

It is important to note that VOA Greek Service was the first Greek broadcast to air a comprehensive report that detailed the agreement reached by the European Union to approve Greece's most recent \$171 billion loan to Greece. In fact, the director of *Radio City International*, a VOA affiliate, appreciated VOA Greek Service's reporting that allowed his station to become "the first" to broadcast the news in Thessaloniki to an audience—as you can imagine—on pins and needles awaiting to learn its fate. Moreover, VOA Greek Service was the first to air President Barack Obama's statement welcoming the agreement and its programming covered all aspects of the loan agreement, including U.S. media opinion pieces on Greece and the demonstrations of the Greek people against the enactment of the austerity measures. All of this important

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-honoring-greek-independence-day>

reporting has aired on VOA Greek Service's TV and radio affiliates and posted on the Service's web site, YouTube, and social media feeds on Facebook and Twitter.

### **VOA Greek Service in Demand throughout Greece**

Voice of America's reporting in Greece is valued by Greek media affiliates and is well-received by Greek audiences. Despite for a period of five years of being prohibited to travel due to budget constraints, when the opportunity presented itself at the end of FY2011 for the Greek Service Chief to travel to Greece's two major cities, Athens and Thessaloniki, a significant interest and need for the VOA Greek Service was revealed. For example, the Committee should take the following into consideration:

- a major national network, *SKY TV*, would like to carry a 5 to 10 minute daily TV package from Washington containing American and Greek American news;
- *SKY TV* also expressed interest to carry a 30-minute weekly wrap-up of developments in the United States;
- *NET*, the most popular Greek state-owned TV system expressed interest to establish a regular TV program in cooperation with VOA Greek Service;
- in Thessaloniki, the same interest was expressed by *XTV* and *EGNATIA TV*; and
- in Patras, Greece's third largest city, *PATRAS TV* also expressed interest to carry a regular program in cooperation with VOA Greek Service.

These basic facts are a testament to the success of the quality of VOA's reporting and the importance of its substance to a Greek audience. We strongly disagree with any assertion that the VOA Greek Service is losing effectiveness or does not have the ratings. Unfortunately, the absence of a consistent, dependable annual budget for VOA Greek Service prevents the VOA Greek Service from capitalizing on this interest, expanding its service in Greece, and from capturing any ratings data to prove that Greek audiences value its programming. However, when VOA Greek Service had such a diverse affiliate base in the past, its programming drew more than half a million viewers and listeners combined.

### **Importance to the American Hellenic Community**

We strongly contend that Voice of America is an important component for projecting our message—as American citizens of Greek heritage—abroad. Through Voice of America, we have been able to demonstrate a strong bond between the American Hellenic community and audiences in the eastern Mediterranean which also benefits the United States and its interests in the region. In one recent example, the Greek Service profiled the efforts of the American Hellenic community to provide humanitarian relief to the people in Greece who are suffering from the devastating effects of the financial crisis. In addition, in the past, the Greek Service reported on the same type of humanitarian efforts undertaken by the American Hellenic community to

provide relief to the victims of the Greek Wildfires that engulfed Greece in the summer of 2007 and the Greek Service profiled the efforts of the American Hellenic community of New Orleans to rebuild following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and the charitable contributions made by the people of Greece to Katrina victims. In essence, this programming serves as a bridge between the American Hellenic community and the people of the Eastern Mediterranean.

Finally, we rely heavily on the professionalism of Voice of America to report an accurate and balanced message to a global audience. Voice of America has reported on AHEPA's efforts to promote rapprochement and reconciliation in the eastern Mediterranean through AHEPA's meetings with Turkish government officials. This fact helps AHEPA in its effort to serve as a viable, effective conduit between nations.

### **Recommendation**

In the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, we applauded Congress, and this subcommittee under your leadership as Chairwoman, for fully restoring funding, \$500,000, to the Voice of America's Greek Service. For FY13, therefore, we respectfully request the Committee continue funding of Voice of America's Greek Service at \$500,000; a minuscule, yet significant investment.

### **Conclusion**

The uncertainty of knowing whether or not the funding of the VOA Greek Service will be restored for the past several fiscal years has added to the burden of the service. The uncertainty makes it difficult to hire support staff, secure affiliates abroad, travel to cover significant events in the Greek American community throughout the nation (these events don't just occur in Washington), and conduct timely TV and radio ratings surveys. However despite all of these hurdles, the VOA Greek Service continues to provide an invaluable professional service on behalf of the citizens of the United States that is admirable and effective. Simply stated, Voice of America's Greek Service offers a significant contribution to the national interests of the United States in the eastern Mediterranean. It is a dependable and valuable service; one that arguably projects the best of American journalistic qualities to a vital region in the world. Our nation's national security and public diplomacy efforts will be enhanced with the proper funding of the Greek Service. Moreover, the American Hellenic community would retain an essential communications vehicle through which we rely on to disseminate an accurate and balance message to crucial audiences abroad.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our written testimony to the Committee.

**Testimony of Nick Larigakis, President, American Hellenic Institute (AHI)  
on behalf of AHI on the Fiscal Year 2013 Appropriations Bill  
Submitted to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related  
Programs - April 24, 2012**

Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member Lowey and Members of the Subcommittee:

I am pleased to submit testimony to the Subcommittee on behalf of the nationwide membership of the American Hellenic Institute on the administration's FY2013 foreign aid budget proposal.

In keeping with the best interests of the United States we oppose: (1) any military assistance the administration will request for Turkey until Turkey withdraws all of its troops and illegal Turkish settlers in Cyprus; (2) aid the administration will request for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM); and (3) any reduction that might be introduced in the aid levels for the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. In the interests of the U.S., we support continuing ES Funds for Cyprus as long as it is tied exclusively to bi-communal projects of the island as mandated by U.S. law which states that U.S. funds support only "measures aimed at reunification."

**U. S. Interests in Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.** The U.S. has important interests in southeast Europe and the eastern Mediterranean. To the north of Greece are the Balkans, Eastern Europe and Russia, to the East the Middle East, and to the South are North Africa and the Suez Canal. Significant communication links for commerce and energy sources pass through the region. Therefore, Greece is strategically situated in a vital region for U.S. interests. However, the projection of U.S. interests there depends heavily on the region's stability. Therefore, the U.S. has a stake in fostering good relations between two NATO allies, Greece and Turkey, and in achieving a just and viable settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Greece is of vital importance for the projection of U.S. strategic interests in the region by virtue of its geographic location and by being home to the most important naval base in the Mediterranean Sea, Souda Bay, Crete. There are numerous annual visits by U.S. military ships and planes to Souda Bay and its adjacent air base. Souda Bay is critical to the delivery of U.S. troops, cargo, and supplies to Afghanistan.

In addition, Greece is a top contributor to the defense efforts of NATO, spending an estimated 2.2% of its GDP on defense, and is also an active participant in peacekeeping and peace-building operations conducted by international organizations, including the UN, NATO, the EU, and OSCE.

Moreover, on March 25, 2011, President Obama re-affirmed Greece's contributions as a NATO ally, including in support of NATO's operations in Libya:

"And as we celebrate the independence of the Greek people, the United States and Greece are standing with our NATO allies to support the Libyan people as they stand up for their own freedom."

In the NATO buildup for Libya, Souda Bay spokesperson Paul Farley said of the 400 U.S. Marines deployed there that they were "part of contingency planning to provide the president [Barack Obama] flexibility on full range of option regarding Libya" along with the amphibious assault ships USS Kearsarge and USS Ponce.<sup>1</sup> And on Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's last visit to Athens, July 17, 2011, she said, "...I am pleased to be here during these challenging times to demonstrate unequivocally the strong support that the United States has for Greece. We know

<sup>1</sup> "U.S. troops arrive in Greece in Libya buildup," *USA Today* as reported by the *Associated Press*, March 3, 2011.

that we are your friend and we are your ally and we are proud to be both...As a NATO ally, we appreciate Greece's partnership on a shared agenda that spans the globe...Our diplomatic and military efforts are gaining momentum, and we are grateful for Greece's engagement and support, especially your willingness to host coalition military assets at Souda Bay and other sites close to Libya." She also expressed appreciation for Greece's support in speaking against an attack on the U.S. embassy in Syria and for Greece's support on "democratic transitions" occurring throughout North Africa and Middle East.<sup>2</sup>

A key to peace and stability in Greece's own region is for Greece and Turkey to have good relations with each other, promote democratic ideals and principles, and maintain growing economies. However, Turkey's continuing occupation of Cyprus, its intransigence in solving the Cyprus problem, its refusal to recognize the Republic of Cyprus, a member of the European Union, recognition being a prerequisite to Turkey's E.U. accession process, its bellicose threats against Cyprus and Israel, which, in collaboration with a U.S. energy company, are developing hydrocarbon reserves found within their exclusive economic zones (EEZs), and ongoing human rights and religious freedom violations in Turkey, threatens and prevents this stability, and by extension, U.S. interests.

Further, this instability continues to be exacerbated, literally on a daily basis, by virtue of Turkey's continuing violations of Greece's territorial water and national airspace integrity in the Aegean. These actions cost the Greek government approximately \$500 million a year and come at a time when it can ill afford to be spending any amounts of money unnecessarily to deal with provocative actions by a fellow NATO ally.

In promoting a multilateral approach to diplomacy and foreign policy, the U.S should look to Greece as an immensely valuable link in this region. With its centuries enduring presence, its close cultural, political and economic ties to the Mediterranean countries, Western Europe, the Balkans, Eastern Europe and the Middle East, Greece is an ideal strategic partner for the U.S. in this region.

Greece is a major stabilizing force for the region. Throughout the past decade, Greece has assisted the U.S. to bring political stability and economic development to this volatile region, having invested over \$22 billion in the countries of the region, thereby creating over 200,000 new jobs and contributing over \$750 million in development aid.

**Turkey.** We oppose any aid for Turkey and any other assistance programs from the United States. This includes most favored nation trade benefits including textile quotas and the transfer of any nuclear related assistance which we oppose as not in the best interests of the U.S. We contend such benefits should be conditioned on Turkey meeting the following conditions: (1) the immediate withdrawal of all Turkish troops from Cyprus; (2) the prompt return to Turkey of the over 180,000 illegal Turkish settlers in Cyprus; (3) the Turkish government's safeguarding the Ecumenical Patriarchate, its status, personnel and property, reopening the Halki Patriarchal School of Theology, and returning church properties illegally seized; and (4) stops the violations against Greece's territorial integrity in the Aegean.

**Cyprus.** We oppose the \$300,000 reduction in ESF funding to Cyprus from \$3.5 million for FY2012 to \$3.2 million proposed for FY2013. This is also a significant decrease from the \$11 million funding level appropriated in FY2011. The assistance the U.S. has provided Cyprus in humanitarian aid over the past 37 years has been important for that country's economic recovery after the illegal Turkish invasion of 1974. During the first two decades of Turkey's occupation of 37.3% of Cyprus much of that aid was directed toward the rehabilitation of the

<sup>2</sup> [http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/travel\\_diary\\_greek\\_foreign\\_minister\\_lambrinidi](http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/travel_diary_greek_foreign_minister_lambrinidi)

refugees. In the past decade most of the aid was aimed at bi-communal projects to support reunification of the island. There is a statutory mandate that U.S. funds support only “measures aimed at reunification.” However, more recently, the aid has not been tied exclusively to joint Greek and Turkish Cypriot communal projects, and we are gravely concerned that funds used for programs on Cyprus have been obligated without appropriate advanced consultation with the government of the Republic of Cyprus. If these funds are to improve the prospect for peaceful reunification of the island it is incumbent on the administration to consult with the government of the Republic of Cyprus in advance of the obligation of funds and to assure maximum transparency in their allocation. In addition, unless the allocation of the funds is for joint communal projects, this aid will not assist in the reunification of the island and will ultimately not serve the U.S. taxpayer. In this respect, USAID must assure the Republic of Cyprus’ government that these funds will be spent in accordance with the official positions of the United States and UN: namely that the expenditure does not violate Cyprus’ sovereignty, territorial integrity and domestic legal order, does not adversely affect property rights of Cypriot Americans or Greek Cypriots and does not create or promote political institutions or activities of the entity that is not recognized by the UN Security Council or the U.S., known as the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC).” The USAID programs must have a genuine bi-communal character and involve civil society organizations, contribute to the reunification of Cyprus and the reintegration of the economy and society. They must not negatively affect Cyprus’ environment, cultural and religious heritage.

Also, it is imperative that the aid must comply with U.S. law by calling on the State Department and USAID to provide an accounting of all programs that are being supported by these funds. Details should be provided as to who the recipients are, what the funds are being used for, and that their only purpose is to achieve the reunification of the island. The government of the Republic of Cyprus has sought to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding with USAID on the use of U.S. funds in Cyprus that could provide a mechanism for meaningful consultation. Given Congress’s previous directive to consult transparently with the government of the Republic of Cyprus, and the fact that USAID has MOUs with other countries, we believe it is important and beneficial for USAID to sign such a memorandum.

In addition, we strongly oppose any requests that would reduce the UN peacekeeping budget. The illegal occupation of the northern part of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkish troops is a reality. The Turkish-occupied area which amounts to 37.3% of the territory of Cyprus is one of the most heavily militarized areas in the world with the presence of more than 43,000 Turkish occupation troops. As long as the northern part of Cyprus remains under Turkish military occupation, a strong UN peacekeeping force should be maintained on the island.

Since September 2008 there have been direct talks under the UN framework agreement between President of the Republic of Cyprus, Demetris Christofias and the Turkish Cypriot leader, who currently is Mr. Dervis Eroglu.

Presidential candidate Obama stated in an October 2008 campaign statement:

*“As president, [I] will show U.S. leadership in seeking to negotiate a political settlement on Cyprus. [I] believe strongly that Cyprus remain a single, sovereign country...within a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation...A negotiated political settlement on Cyprus would end the Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus and repair the island’s tragic division while paving the way to prosperity and peace throughout the region.”*

President Obama, before the Turkish Grand National Assembly in Turkey, April 6, 2009, said:

*“The two Cypriot leaders have an opportunity through their commitment to negotiations under the United Nations Good Offices Mission. The United States is willing to offer all the help sought by the parties as they work towards a just and lasting settlement that reunifies Cyprus into a bizonal and bicomunal federation.”*

Congress can assist in this effort by calling on Ankara to not manipulate the ongoing direct talks, but instead, actively and constructively support the talks. The Cypriots themselves should have ownership of the process and the Cypriot people should arrive at a solution that is for the Cypriot people. However, this does not absolve Turkey of its responsibility as the occupying power to play a constructive role in resolving the Cyprus issue.

In addition, the Congress should echo the statement of then Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member Ileana Ros-Lehtinen who called for the immediate removal of Turkey’s troops from Cyprus following a December 7, 2010 meeting with Turkish Ambassador Namik Tan.

*“As I told the Ambassador, I am deeply concerned about Turkey’s position on the conflict in Cyprus, which has divided that country for almost four decades. Turkey must fully support a Cypriot solution to reunification of the island and immediately withdraw its troops from northern Cyprus,”* said Rep. Ros-Lehtinen, who was ranking member at the time.

This is a position Chairman Ros-Lehtinen continues to publically express in 2012 most recently at an AHI event in February where she stated Turkey must “immediately and permanently withdraw its occupation force from Cyprus.” Withdraw of Turkish troops from Cyprus would go a long way to solving the Cyprus problem because it would create a much better negotiating environment on the island between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

**Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM).** We strongly oppose the \$9.812 million in ESF FY2013 proposed aid to FYROM as long as it is not tied-in to FYROM’s commitment to negotiate in good faith with Greece to find a solution to the continuing unresolved issue between Greece and FYROM over the name of the latter. Instead, we strongly support language included in Section 935 of H.R.2583 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, which passed the House Committee on Foreign Relations in July 2011. It states:

*Section 935. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This section expresses the sense of Congress that the provision of United States assistance to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia upon that government’s willingness to engage in meaningful discussions with the government of Greece to resolve the ongoing dispute over what shall be its official name. This section also prohibits the use of U.S. funding for any activities which support any incendiary rallies, rhetoric, or propaganda by either the FYROM government or private entities, including educational materials that promote inaccuracies regarding the history and geography of Greece and FYROM.*

It is FYROM that is the intransigent party here and not Greece. Greece is a major investor in FYROM and helps to sustain its precarious economy and reduce its large unemployment. If unresolved, this issue will contribute to potential instability within the Balkans.

Provocations against Greece have increased dramatically in recent years. Since August 2006, Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski has followed a long-term policy of extreme nationalism and provocation against Greece—most often through infrastructure—in conflict with European values. We have serious concerns that ESF funds (which are provided for a variety of economic

purposes, like infrastructure and development projects) to FYROM will be utilized to build infrastructure aimed to continue to provoke Greece. Gruevski's actions are a breach of the U.N.-brokered Interim Accord and erode efforts to build trust and good neighborly relations. Unfortunately, the irresponsible decision by the Bush administration in November 2004 to recognize FYROM as the "Republic of Macedonia" has contributed greatly to FYROM's intransigent and provocative stand. It was a disrespectful act toward a staunch NATO ally in the Balkans, Greece. Moreover, dating back to 1992, U.S. action regarding the FYROM name dispute has damaged U.S. interests in the western Balkans.

Following a March 14, 2011 meeting with the Defense & Foreign Affairs Chairman of Greece's Parliament, Konstantinos Vrettos, House Foreign Affairs Chairman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen stated, "Greece has undertaken significant good faith efforts in an attempt to resolve the name dispute with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and it is my hope that a mutually-acceptable compromise will be reached soon."

Congress can assist by persuading FYROM to negotiate in good faith with Greece to resolve the name issue and to cease irredentist propaganda against Greece. Only in this way will FYROM's aspirations to fully integrate into the transatlantic community be realized.

**Main Issues to Greek Americans.** A detailed discussion of the issues facing the U.S. in its relations with Greece, Cyprus and Turkey is in the 2012 AHI Policy Statements available at [www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org). These issues include: Cyprus, the Aegean Sea boundary, religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, FYROM name-recognition, the Greek minority in Albania, and recognition of the Greek Pontian genocide.

Finally, in the interest of regional stability and conflict resolution, the U.S. should promote Turkey's emergence as a fully democratic state whether or not she enters the EU. This will require fundamental changes in Turkey's governmental institutions, a significant improvement in its human rights record, the settlement of the Cyprus problem on the terms referred to above, and publicly acknowledging the existing boundary in the Aegean Sea between Greece and Turkey established by treaties. Past and current U.S. policy has not had this effect and needs to be reviewed critically by Congress.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our written testimony to the subcommittee's attention.

**Bryan Ardouny, Executive Director of Armenian Assembly of America**

**Testimony before the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs  
Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives**

**March 30, 2012**

Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member Lowey, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, the Armenian Assembly of America ([www.aaainc.org](http://www.aaainc.org)) submits the following testimony regarding U.S. assistance and policy in the South Caucasus region.

The Armenian Assembly supports the request by the Armenian Caucus, in its March 20<sup>th</sup> letter, for not less than \$50 million in assistance to Armenia, as well as at least \$3 million in Foreign Military Financing and \$1 million in International Military Education Training assistance to Armenia. In addition, the Assembly requests not less than \$5 million in assistance to Nagorno Karabakh as well as directing funds to the largely Armenian populated Samtskhe-Javakheti region of Georgia and ensuring assistance to Christian and other minority communities at risk in the Middle East as part of the Administration's \$770 million Middle East and North Africa Incentive Fund.

Established in 1972, the Armenian Assembly is the largest non-partisan Washington-based organization promoting public understanding and awareness of Armenian issues. We represent Armenian-Americans and those who share our goals. In this time of budgetary constraint, we seek to maximize the effectiveness of U.S. assistance as well as strengthen the U.S. relationships with Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh through positive, constructive and concrete steps.

The Assembly's extensive experience in Armenia, working closely with key government agencies, officials, and charitable organizations, provides us with unique insight on how U.S. assistance can best advance policy goals in the region. The Assembly strongly encourages Members to travel to the region to see first-hand the realities on the ground and the impact of U.S. policy, as well as the adverse effects of the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades. To that end, we commend House Rules Committee Chairman, and Chair of the House Democracy Partnership David Dreier for leading a five-Member Congressional delegation to Armenia last month. During his February visit, Congressman Dreier recognized the efforts of the Armenian government with respect to human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and with the upcoming parliamentary elections urged the government and all the political parties "to do everything in their power to ensure free, fair, and credible elections." The delegation also "expressed interest in developing closer ties between the National Assembly and the U.S. Congress," of which, the Armenian Assembly fully supports.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2013**

**I. *ASSISTANCE TO ARMENIA* - The Assembly urges the Subcommittee to allocate "not less than" \$50 million in U.S. assistance to Armenia.**

The United States has spoken clearly about the need for Turkey to lift its blockade and establish diplomatic relations with Armenia, both of which are also required under international treaties. However, despite Turkey's public commitment to normalize relations without preconditions, as evidenced by the signing of the Protocols between Turkey and Armenia in October of 2009

under international auspices, the Turkish government failed to follow through. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has repeatedly indicated that the ball is now in Turkey's court.

Working in tandem with Turkey, Azerbaijan subverted the Protocols, and also continues its blockade of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh in lock-step with Turkey. **The United States should ensure that concrete steps are taken to end the Turkish and Azeri blockades and the financial hardships they cause. We urge the Subcommittee to adopt new report language requiring a full accounting of the steps the U.S. has taken and the responses therein to eliminate the Turkish and Azeri blockades of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh.**

In addition, as we approach the 97<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian Genocide this April, the Armenian Assembly strongly supports efforts by Congress to reaffirm America's proud chapter in history in helping to save the survivors of the first genocide of the twentieth century. We also encourage Members to address the importance of affirming the Armenian Genocide on the day of observance organized under the auspices of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues scheduled for April 25th, and in so doing, help prevent future genocides. In addition, we strongly urge President Barack Obama to fulfill his campaign promise and expand upon his statement last year, wherein he used the Armenian term - *Medz Yeghern* - to describe the Armenian Genocide, and for this year, use the proper English term: Armenian Genocide.

**II. *ASSISTANCE TO NAGORNO KARABAKH* - The Assembly strongly urges that the Subcommittee allocate not less than \$5 million for Karabakh in FY 2013.**

The Assembly remains concerned about the pace of implementation given the ongoing humanitarian and development needs facing the people of Nagorno Karabakh, including healthcare, transportation infrastructure, education, drinking water, and sanitation projects to name a few. **The Assembly strongly urges the Subcommittee to ensure that continued funding be provided to rehabilitate damaged infrastructure and encourage development.** Due to Azerbaijan's aggressive stance, the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, which has maintained a high level of democratic development, does not enjoy the benefit of international assistance and investment programs available to other former Soviet countries. Also, an increase in program availability for education, exchanges, and investment programs is long overdue.

**III. *ASSISTANCE TO THE SAMTSKHE-JAVAKHETI REGION OF GEORGIA AND CHRISTIAN MINORITIES AT RISK IN THE MIDDLE EAST***

Building on U.S. assistance already provided to the Samtskhe-Javakheti region of Georgia, **the Assembly supports the request of the Armenian Caucus "to fund sustainable job-creation programs in Samtskhe-Javakheti."**

In addition, given the ongoing unrest the Middle East, we welcome the announcement this week by the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano that "In light of the deteriorating conditions in Syria, I am announcing that DHS will be designating Syria for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Syrians currently present in the United States."

While this first step is welcomed, much more needs to be done. We would like to add our voice in support of U.S. assistance to help protect Christian and other minority communities at risk and living in duress. We, therefore urge as part of the Administration's \$770 million Middle East and North Africa Incentive Fund and through other such assistance programs that **the Subcommittee**

**allocate funds for humanitarian and resettlement assistance specifically targeted to Armenian and other Christian populations as well as other minority communities at risk in the Middle East.**

While much attention has been given to the current unrest and public uprisings, the Armenian Assembly would like to remind the Subcommittee that in March of 2010 over 100,000 Armenians living in Turkey were threatened with peremptory deportation. In addition, Turkey continues to repress religious freedom. The 2012 United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) Annual Report notes that: "Due to the Turkish government's systematic and egregious limitations on the freedom of religion or belief that affect all religious communities in Turkey, and particularly threaten the country's non-Muslim religious minorities, USCIRF recommends Turkey be designated a – 'country of particular concern.'" Last year, the Assembly welcomed House passage of H.Res. 306 urging the Republic of Turkey to safeguard its Christian heritage and to return confiscated church properties to their rightful owners. The Legate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church, Archbishop Vicken Aykazian in Washington, DC also commended its adoption, stating at that time: "this bipartisan bill reflects America's values and represents an important step towards preserving the heritage of the Armenian community and other minority communities within Turkey." The United States can and must do more in this regard.

**IV. *SECTION 907 OF THE FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT* – Given Azerbaijan's unceasing anti-Armenian rhetoric and cease-fire violations, the Assembly urges this Subcommittee to suspend the waiver authority previously granted, and at a minimum require robust reporting.**

As the Subcommittee is aware, in the aftermath of September 11<sup>th</sup>, pursuant to then-Secretary of State Colin Powell's request for flexibility to counter terrorist elements and organizations operating in Azerbaijan, Congress granted a conditional and limited waiver to Section 907. Since that time, Azerbaijan has continued its unrelenting war rhetoric against Armenia. In addition, there have been hundreds of sniper attacks committed by Azerbaijan over the last few years in violation of the cease-fire agreement.

Given Azerbaijan's military expenditures, which exceed the entire national budget of Armenia, continued war mongering, and cease-fire violations, the Assembly urges the Subcommittee to suspend the waiver authority to Section 907 and cease military assistance to Azerbaijan. Alternatively, the Assembly supports more rigorous reporting, including the request of the Armenian Caucus for additional certification language to Section 907 as follows: "In the last fiscal year, Azerbaijan has not taken hostile action, either through military force or incitement, including but not limited to threatening pronouncements by government officials, toward Armenia or Nagorno Karabakh, and has both stated and demonstrated its commitment to pursuing a lasting peace with Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh through solely non-violent means."

**V. *U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE* – The Assembly supports at least \$3 million in Foreign Military Financing and \$1 million in International Military Education Training assistance to Armenia.**

Armenia continues its strategic partnership with the United States in the region extending its full support for U.S.-led peace-keeping deployments in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kosovo. In fact, last

year alone, Armenia tripled its deployment of troops to the NATO International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. Earlier this month during his meeting with NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen in Brussels, Armenia's President Serzh Sargsian pledged Armenia's continued support. Secretary-General Rasmussen stated "our alliance attaches great importance to our partnership with Armenia." In addition, Armenia's Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian just concluded a working visit to the United States, including meetings with U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, CIA Director David Petraeus, as well as other senior officials. Next month, the U.S. and Armenian militaries are expected to hold their first-ever joint exercises aimed at improving the interoperability of their forces deployed in Afghanistan.

The Assembly strongly believes that it is in the U.S. national interest to build upon this important area of cooperation with Armenia, and looks forward to working with the Subcommittee to further expand U.S.-Armenia military relations.

**VI. *PEACE PROCESS (THE NAGORNO KARABAKH CONFLICT)* - The Assembly requests funding for confidence-building measures to help facilitate a peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict.**

Every year that the Nagorno Karabakh conflict continues without a solution, the risk of resumption of hostilities remains, and we have already witnessed several deadly cease-fire violations last year alone. Such cease-fire violations should not come as a surprise given that Azerbaijani President Aliyev has repeatedly declared that Azerbaijan could launch a new war in Karabakh. In November of last year, in reference to Nagorno Karabakh, Aliyev declared that "if not through the negotiations, then we will be obliged to solve it through the military way...Political, economical and military power also make Azerbaijan's superiority."

The United States as a Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group has a vested interest in advancing peace and bringing stability to the region. In fact, promoting regional cooperation and economic integration in the South Caucasus is a strategically important goal for the United States. The government of Armenia has repeatedly indicated its desire to peacefully resolve the conflict, and along with Nagorno Karabakh has offered confidence-building measures to help reduce tensions and build trust. Azerbaijan, however, has chosen a different path – one of blockade, bellicose statements, and attempts to isolate Armenia as evidenced by Azerbaijan's counterproductive stance to the Armenia-Turkey Protocol.

Azerbaijan's rapid expansion of its offensive military capacity, disproportionately to Armenia's defense forces, coupled with the ongoing war rhetoric and previous pogroms against innocent Armenians in Baku and Sumgait, represent a troubling pattern of the objectives that are being pursued by the government of Azerbaijan. As reported in 2004 by RFE/RL, then Azerbaijani Defense Ministry spokesman, Ramiz Melikov, threatened the very existence of Armenia, stating that "in the next 25-30 years there will be no Armenian state in the South Caucasus. This nation has been a nuisance for its neighbors..." The OSCE mediators continue to reiterate that "there can be no military solution," while Azerbaijan marches forward with its rhetoric and military procurement program.

This continued pattern of aggression as well as its rejection of confidence building measures raises serious questions about Azerbaijan's commitment to reaching a peaceful and lasting solution to the Karabakh conflict. The OSCE Co-Chairs should directly and publicly condemn

such statements emanating from Azerbaijan and call upon the government of Azerbaijan to desist from making further threats against Armenia and Karabakh. In addition, the U.S. government should carefully review its policies in the region and seek measures that increase regional cooperation while at the same time address Azerbaijan's actions that thwart U.S. objectives. Failure to do so can have negative repercussions on an already fragile cease-fire.

In order to facilitate peace, the Assembly requests that funds for confidence building measures continue to be made available and also implemented for increased cooperation among the parties to the conflict: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabakh. The Assembly also urges that a report be issued regarding the status of the confidence-building measures and any obstacles thereto. In addition, the Assembly recommends that the Subcommittee urge Azerbaijan to support the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)-sponsored confidence-building measures that facilitate interaction among the parties in order to address the region's urgent safety, resource management, infrastructure, and development needs. In addition, the Assembly strongly believes that Nagorno Karabakh's participation in direct negotiations should be restored as any solution to the conflict requires the consent of the people and leadership of Karabakh. The Assembly also urges the U.S. Co-Chair to the OSCE Minsk Group to uphold the fundamental principles of democracy, the right to self-determination and other basic human rights. Finally, the Assembly urges that the U.S. Department of State remove any official or unofficial restrictions on U.S.-Karabakh relations.

## **VII. ENERGY SECURITY**

During the past decade, strategic energy projects launched with U.S. support in the South Caucasus have created long-term development opportunities for most of the nations in the region. However, these initiatives have not benefited Armenia, due to Turkish and Azerbaijani attempts to isolate Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh through blockades and other measures. Such actions to exclude Armenia from regional projects run counter to stated U.S. policy goals of regional cooperation and economic integration. The Armenian Assembly, therefore, urges the Subcommittee to utilize all the tools at its disposal to pave the way for Armenia's full involvement in and integration with existing and future energy, transportation infrastructure, and development projects in the region.

**CONCLUSION** — Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member Lowey and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, on behalf of the Armenian-American community, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Congress for its assistance to Armenia and the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. Armenian-Americans remember the support the U.S. provided after the 1988 earthquake in Armenia, as Armenia moved boldly toward independence, during Karabakh's struggle for self-preservation, and America's proud World War I record of intervention during the Armenian Genocide. The enduring and natural bonds that exist between the U.S. and Armenia are readily apparent in Armenia's ongoing support for America. Armenians in Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh consider the United States a close friend. This is a relationship that spans families and generations across the three countries. Given its central location, Christian heritage, entrepreneurial spirit, free market economy and western value system, Armenia is poised to play a pivotal role in helping the United States achieve its stated policy objectives in the region. The Armenian Assembly of America greatly appreciates your attention to these very important matters and looks forward to working with the Subcommittee throughout the 113th Congress.

**"The Armenian American Community and U.S. Foreign Assistance Policy  
for Fiscal Year 2013"**

**Presented by Kate Nahapetian, Government Affairs Director**

**Armenian National Committee of America**

**Testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs**

**March 30, 2012**

Thank you Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member Lowey, and Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs for once again providing the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) with the opportunity to contribute the views of the Armenian American community to your discussions concerning the foreign aid bill.

The Armenian American community requests:

- 1) At least \$5 million in development assistance for Nagorno Karabagh
- 2) 10% of U.S. assistance to the Republic of Georgia to be targeted to Samtskhe-Javakheti
- 3) At least \$50 million in economic support funds for Armenia
- 4) Refugee resettlement aid to Christian and other minority communities in the Middle East
- 5) Strengthening of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act
- 6) Removal of barriers to U.S.-Nagorno Karabagh contacts and communications
- 7) Supporting the reinstatement of Nagorno Karabagh in the Minsk Group peace process

The U.S. and Armenia have a rich and long shared history, dating back to 1618, when Martin the Armenian came to Jamestown to help develop the settlement's silk farming enterprise. Armenia, an ancient nation, which was the first to adopt Christianity as its state religion in 301 AD, is an important U.S. ally with shared values and common interests in a secure and stable Caucasus and Caspian region. I would like, today, to offer our thoughts about how we can strengthen this partnership by briefly outlining our foreign aid priorities for the coming year.

**1) At least \$5 million in development assistance for Nagorno Karabagh**

We encourage a clear directive to USAID to spend no less than \$5 million in FY13 assistance for development programs in Nagorno Karabagh. For many years, the State Department has expended less money than Congress intended for Nagorno Karabagh. An analysis by the ANCA has determined that since Congress initiated the assistance program to Nagorno Karabagh in 1998, less than \$36 million of the \$61 million slated by Congress for aid to Nagorno Karabagh has actually been expended.

According to Nagorno Karabagh Republic estimates, the war caused over \$5 billion in damages in the region. Nearly twenty years since the cease-fire established in 1994, Karabagh is still suffering from significant infrastructure damage, including the shortage of safe drinking water.

For more than a decade, the U.S. Congress has played a unique and vital role in providing direct aid to meet pressing needs in Nagorno Karabagh, helping its people to rebuild their lives after years of devastating Azerbaijani aggression and ethnic cleansing. The provision of direct development aid would reflect our success in leveraging local efforts to dramatically reduce Nagorno Karabagh's humanitarian challenges.

Since declaring independence in 1991, Nagorno Karabagh has built a solid democracy and a free market economy, has respected human rights, and has held five parliamentary and three presidential elections, all praised by international monitors as free and fair. The Public International Law and Policy Group's American-Dutch election monitoring team noted during Karabagh's fifth parliamentary elections in May 2010 that the elections were "free, fair, and transparent." The team also wrote that there are "strong indications that Nagorno Karabakh continues to make strong progress in establishing and sustaining a healthy and sustainable democracy." Development aid will further strengthen democracy through election reforms and civic and media programs, and will represent a powerful symbol of U.S. support for Nagorno Karabagh's commitment to a fair and lasting peace.

U.S. aid to Nagorno Karabagh has funded crucial demining programs that have saved lives, but countless mines continue to claim lives and maim civilians. HALO Trust, the oldest and largest mine clearance organization in the world, reports that Nagorno Karabagh has one of the highest per capital mining accidents in the world, ahead of even Afghanistan.

Nagorno Karabagh has the need and capacity to accept far more aid than the \$2 million that the State Department has been allocating. Armenia Fund, Inc., established in 1994 in Los Angeles, California, along with its network of 20 affiliates around the world, has implemented over \$250 million of infrastructure development and humanitarian aid for Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh. Armenia Fund expends on average over \$10 million a year in Karabagh and attests that there is a far greater need and capacity for Karabagh to accept more aid.

We call on the Congress to request that the Administration provide an annual report on the U.S. assistance program to Nagorno Karabagh, including a full accounting of allocated funds, a review of all policies governing the implementation of this program, and a preview of planned and upcoming projects.

## **2) 10% of U.S. Assistance to Georgia to be targeted to the Samtskhe-Javakheti region**

Over the past decade, USAID and the Millennium Challenge Corporation have expanded their presence in Samtskhe-Javakheti (SJ), a historically Armenian populated region in the Republic of Georgia, in an effort to address core humanitarian and economic difficulties that face the population. However, with unemployment and under-employment in the region over 20% according to official sources, and over 40% based upon our on-the-ground assessment of the living conditions of the population, much more needs to be done to bring about a measurable reduction in poverty and to create a strong foundation for economic development in the region.

Over the past several months, Armenian Americans have reached out to USAID to identify ways to leverage existing U.S. aid programs in the region and explore public-private partnership

opportunities in an effort to incentivize private investment and minimize political and economic risk for investors in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region.

These efforts have been welcomed by the Georgian Ambassador to the U.S., His Excellency Temuri Yakobashvili, who has stated that “The Embassy of Georgia, in support of our government’s material commitment to economic development for our citizens in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region and throughout all of our Republic, looks forward to working with our friends in the U.S. Congress and the Administration and with all American civil society stakeholders – including, of course, with the Armenian American community – in encouraging the targeting of U.S. assistance to meet Samtskhe-Javakheti’s urgent job-creation, infrastructure, technical, and humanitarian needs.”

In anticipation of future expanded cooperation, the ANCA urges that at least 10% of a robust U.S. assistance package to the Republic of Georgia be targeted to the Samtskhe-Javakheti region to support much needed job-creation and poverty reduction programs in the area.

### **3) \$50 Million in Economic Support Funds for Armenia**

Since Armenia’s independence in 1991, U.S. aid has played a vital role in meeting humanitarian needs, fostering democratic reforms, and building self-sustaining economic growth.

**A Strong Ally:** Armenia continues to expand its military partnership with the U.S. and NATO – a reflection of both the strong partnership between the U.S. and Armenia and the enduring ties that have, for more than a century, brought together these two nations around shared democratic values. Armenia, which has granted blanket overflight rights to the U.S., contributed troops to the Coalition in Iraq, sent troops to support NATO peacekeeping in Kosovo, and is part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, recently tripled its troop deployment to Afghanistan. The U.S. and Armenian militaries are set to host their first joint military exercises in April 2012, to improve the interoperability of their forces deployed in Afghanistan. Armenia has had a State Partnership Program with the State of Kansas for nearly a decade. Armenia has also ratified a Status of Forces Agreement with NATO and concluded a bilateral Article 98 Agreement, providing safeguards to U.S. military personnel in Armenia.

**A Free Economy:** Today, with U.S. help, Armenia is a member of the World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund, and World Bank; has signed bilateral agreements with the U.S. on trade, investments, and the protection of investments; holds regular Economic Task Force meetings, and; in 2005, was granted Permanent Normal Trade Relations status. The Wall Street Journal-Heritage Foundation Index of Economic Freedom regularly ranks Armenia as among the top 40 freest economies in the world. This year, Armenia was ranked the 39th freest economy in the world, just behind Belgium and above Norway, France, and Turkey.

**A Nation Blockaded:** In large part as a result of reforms supported by U.S. development programs, Armenia’s economy has, until the current worldwide economic crisis, experienced steady growth. However, Armenia, a landlocked country, still faces the impact of Turkey and Azerbaijan’s illegal blockades - estimated several years ago by the World Bank as costing Armenia at least \$720 million on an annual basis. In its time of need, Armenia continues to reach out and strengthen its partnership with the United States. Our assistance program has been

a key factor in helping nurture these bonds and we urge the Subcommittee to increase its aid, especially considering Armenia's increasing military partnership and the crippling blockades it continues to suffer on two of its four borders.

**4) Refugee resettlement assistance to Armenian, Christian, and other minority communities in the Middle East**

The Armenian and Christian communities have experienced terrifying attacks throughout the Middle East, as uprisings unfold and new governments struggle to bring order, especially in Egypt, Syria, and Iraq. Ancient Armenian, Christian, and minority communities have become targets during this turmoil with their churches being firebombed and congregations targeted. In the case of Iraq's Christians, who fled to Syria, they are now being forced to flee once again.

We urge the Subcommittee to set aside specific aid out of the Administration's \$770 million Middle East and North Africa Incentive Fund to help resettle Armenian, other Christian populations, as well as other minority communities.

**5) Strengthening Sec. 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act & maintaining military aid parity**

Enacted in the 1992, Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act stands as a statement of U.S. opposition to Azerbaijan's blockades and other aggressive uses of force against Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh. Since its enactment, Azerbaijan has not lifted its illegal blockades, nor have its leaders agreed to pursue a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict.

Despite past Foreign Operations conference report language and Secretary Clinton's calls urging all parties to refrain from threats of violence, Azerbaijan continues to disregard these requests, killing Karabagh and Armenian soldiers and vowing to wage war. Cease-fire violations are increasing not only on the Karabagh-Azerbaijan border, but on the Azerbaijan-Armenia border as well.

The three OSCE Minsk Group Co Chairs have called for the removal of snipers as a crucial step for decreasing tensions in the region. It has been at least a year since both Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh have agreed to this proposal, but Azerbaijan continues to refuse the request. Even more alarming, in March 2011 and again in July 2011, Azerbaijan's Director of Civil Aviation Administration claimed Azerbaijan had the right to shoot down civilian airplanes. Congress should not be giving any military assistance to a country threatening such terrorist acts.

If, however, military assistance is provided, the waiver authority granted to the President under Section 907 should be substantially limited. In light of Baku's continued acts and threats of aggression, we urge you to add the following language narrowing the President's waiver authority and requiring the following additional certification that:

*"In the last fiscal year, Azerbaijan has not taken hostile action, either through military force or incitement, including but not limited to threatening pronouncements by government officials, toward Armenia or Nagorno Karabagh, and has both stated and demonstrated its commitment to pursuing a lasting peace with Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh through solely non-violent means."*

Assuming all conditions of this new waiver authority can be met, and military assistance is provided to Azerbaijan, we urge you to uphold the Committee's long-standing tradition and the President's request to maintain parity in military aid to Armenia and Azerbaijan.

#### **6) Removing restrictions on contacts and communication with Nagorno Karabagh**

The time has come for the lifting of outdated and counter-productive restrictions on the free exchange of ideas between U.S. officials and the democratically elected leadership of Karabagh.

These outdated and arbitrary restrictions greatly limit the ability of the U.S. to promote its interests in the region, prevent meetings, block travel, prohibit exchange programs, and bar cooperation on public health, counter-proliferation, anti-narcotics, and other regional issues.

These restrictions even hinder direct oversight of U.S. assistance programs in Nagorno Karabagh. The only channel of direct communication left open is through the OSCE Minsk Group, which is focused almost entirely on the peace process.

We respectfully request that the following report language be included in the bill:

*"In the interest of promoting mutual understanding, regional cooperation, and a fair and lasting peace, the Committee directs the Department of State to remove any official or unofficial restrictions on U.S.-Nagorno Karabagh travel, visitations, discussions, meetings, contacts, consultations, exchange programs, or other governmental or civil society communication, cooperation, or interaction."*

#### **7) Supporting the reinstatement of Nagorno Karabagh in the Minsk Group peace process**

The Nagorno Karabagh Republic was one of the three parties to the 1994 cease-fire, which ended military hostilities between Nagorno Karabagh and Azerbaijan. In its aftermath, Nagorno Karabagh actively participated in the OSCE Minsk Group peace process as an equal partner, along with Armenia and Azerbaijan, in establishing a final and lasting peace in the region.

Since 1998, however, at Azerbaijan's insistence, Nagorno Karabagh has been excluded from the OSCE Minsk Group peace process. As the key party in the negotiations for a final peace agreement, Nagorno Karabagh must be permitted to fully participate in the ongoing negotiations over its final status. To continue to exclude Nagorno Karabagh from the Minsk Group negotiations, which are fundamentally about the self-determination rights of Nagorno Karabagh citizens, is counterproductive.

We respectfully request that the following report language be included in the bill:

*"In the interest of promoting a lasting and durable peace in the South Caucasus, the Nagorno Karabagh Republic must be reinstated into the OSCE Minsk Group peace process as a full negotiating partner."*

In closing, please know that the ANCA respects and values the Subcommittee's long-standing leadership on issues of concern to Armenian Americans and looks forward to working with the Subcommittee to strengthen the U.S.-Armenia alliance.

**ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS  
PUBLIC WITNESS TESTIMONY**

**By Gunay Evinch**

**Member of the ATAA Board of Directors ATAA as Past-President**

**HOUSE FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

March 30, 2012

Madam Chairwoman:

The Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) is honored to provide testimony in support of the Administration's request of \$3.6 Million in International Military Education and Training (IMET), and \$850,000 in Anti-Terrorism Assistance (NADR).

Established in 1979, the ATAA represents over 500,000 Turkish and 300,000 Turkic Americans nationwide at the nation's capital.

ATAA works to empower Turkish Americans through civic engagement education and training. ATAA also supports strong US-Turkish relations through its extensive grassroots program, the Turkish American Broad Advocacy Network (TABAN).

The requested (IMET and NADR) assistance to Turkey is U.S. taxpayer money well spent. Please consider these points:

- Located at the intersection of three of three volatile regions -- the Balkans, the Caucasus, and the Middle East -- Turkey is a regional leader and a key interlocutor for the United States. Turkey's population is approximately 75 Million. Turkey's economy is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest in Europe and 15<sup>th</sup> in the world. Turkey is the seventh most visited tourism destination in the world, with over 20 million people visiting yearly. Turkey has nearly three thousand miles of coastline, including the Mediterranean, Aegean, Marmara and Black Seas.
- Turkish – U.S. cooperation regarding Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Afghanistan, and Somalia, and in relation to the Arab Spring are chronicled almost every day in the media across America.

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**Gunay Evinch**

**ATAA, Member of Board of Directors as Past-President**

**HOUSE FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
PUBLIC WITNESS TESTIMONY  
March 30, 2012**

- Turkey's relationship with the United States, based on shared values and common interests, started in 1927. The Marshall Plan, which helped rebuild Europe after World War II, solidified that relationship.
- Turkey joined NATO in 1952, and Turkish soldiers fought in Korea alongside the U.S. under the UN banner to stop the spread of totalitarianism.
- With the end of the Cold War, the international community has been challenged by unpredictable and asymmetrical threats in an increasingly complex, multi-polar world. Today, the world is faced with new challenges such as terrorism; ethnic, nationalist and religious extremism; the revival of ancient feuds; proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and, organized crime including international drug and human trafficking. Civil strife due to economic disparities as well as drinkable water shortages, starvation, and diseases associated with environmental changes are aggravating factors.
- Over the decades, the Turkish – U.S. relationship has developed beyond security cooperation and includes political, social, economic, and environmental programs.
- Today, Turkey and the United States are strategic partners in combating terrorism, stabilizing the Balkans and the conflict-ridden Caucasus, integrating the former Soviet Republics of Central Asia into the community of democratic states, bringing peace to the Middle East and the bicomunal island of Cyprus, and the transportation of Caspian basin hydrocarbon resources to world markets. The U.S. and Turkey have had a Joint Economic Commission and a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement for several years
- According to the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, U.S. exports to Turkey were over \$7 billion in 2009 and over \$10 billion in 2010, a 40% increase. U.S. exports are estimated to grow to over \$12 billion this year – more than U.S. exports to Russia, Poland, Greece, Bulgaria, Armenia, and the island of Cyprus combined.
- In July 2006, the US and Turkey signed a "Shared Vision Document" – a landmark blueprint outlining the two countries' strategic vision for bilateral cooperation and coordination on a wide range of international matters of common concern. The document sets a broad agenda between the two countries to advance their common objectives: the promotion of peace, democracy, freedom and prosperity. It also launches a process of intensive dialogue on several levels on issues such as encouraging democracy and stability in Iraq, the Black Sea, Caucasus, Central Asia and Afghanistan; supporting international efforts aimed at resolving the Middle East conflict; boosting peace and stability through democracy in the Greater Middle East Initiative; defending against and incapacitating the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and other terrorist organizations; seeking a fair and lasting, bicomunal and bizonal

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**HOUSE FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**PUBLIC WITNESS TESTIMONY**

**March 30, 2012**

solution to on the island of Cyprus; ensuring energy security; strengthening transatlantic relations; and enhancing understanding among religions and cultures.

- Having lost almost 30,000 lives over 15 years to terrorism, Turkey has always emphasized the importance of genuine international cooperation in combating terrorism in all its manifestations on a worldwide scale. Following the September 11 attacks, then-Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit expressed to the Turkish public, “It is a duty and responsibility of all humanity to help and assist the United States and do our best.” Since that declaration, Turkey has proven in concrete actions its support for a global defense against terrorism.
- Terrorist attacks in Istanbul on November 15 and 20, which targeted two synagogues and the British Consulate General respectively and claimed 58 lives and wounded over 700, were carried out by militants with ties to Al Qaeda. Designed to drive a wedge between Turkey and the West, the incidents had the opposite effect, as the Turkish people’s stand in support of a common defense, vibrant economy, secular democracy, and free society is resolute.
- As a staunch ally of the U.S., Turkey deployed special forces to Afghanistan becoming the first predominately Muslim nation to join in the U.S.-led attacks against the Taliban and Al Qaeda. These troops were sent to combat terrorists, train anti-Taliban fighters, and support humanitarian aid operations. In addition, in support of these efforts, the U.S.-led operation continues to use Incirlik air base in Adana, Turkey.
- Turkey’s initiations of schools for girls in Afghanistan is just another example of how Turkey helps the United States in the broader and deeper objective of earning the hearts and minds of people in the intercontinental region of the Balkans, Middle East, Caucasus, as well as in Central Asia and the Africa.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

GUNAY EVINCH

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS PAST PRESIDENT  
THE ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS (ATAA)

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**HOUSE FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**PUBLIC WITNESS TESTIMONY**

**March 30, 2012**

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**WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2013 BUDGET  
APPROPRIATIONS TO THE SOUTH CAUCASUS STATES OF  
ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN**

as submitted to the

Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
HB-26, The Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6017

**March 30, 2012**

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Subcommittee,

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Congressional Budget Justification (CBJ) by the Department of State proposes \$36.6 million in total U.S. aid to Armenia and \$16.3 million in total aid to Azerbaijan. These amounts include the allocation of \$2.7 million in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and \$600,000 in International Military Training and Education (IMET) under International Security Assistance for each country. The FY 2013 CBJ request suggests an almost 40% sharp reduction from the actual FY 2011 aid to Azerbaijan and an 18% reduction from the actual FY 2011 aid to Armenia.

On behalf of the Azerbaijani-American community, I would like to express my organization's gratitude for the opportunity to provide a written testimony regarding the FY 2013 budget allocations to Armenia and Azerbaijan, including Nagorno-Karabakh region of the latter. For over 12 years, ASA – the oldest grassroots organization of Azerbaijani-Americans – has presented testimonies reflecting the community's views on the U.S. assistance to Armenia and Azerbaijan. These testimonies were documented in the Congressional record.

**INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE**

As you consider the FY 2013 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Bill, I would like to draw your attention to the proposed parity of FMF and

IMET assistance to Armenia and Azerbaijan. This parity emanated from the U.S. position regarding the unresolved nature of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between the two South Caucasus states and Section 907 of Freedom Support Act (FSA), which was influenced by the Armenian-American ethnic interest groups.

Adopted amidst the 1992 Armenian offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh, Section 907 had prohibited any U.S. aid to Azerbaijan until the latter takes “demonstrable steps to cease all blockades and other offensive uses of force against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh”. Since 1992, consecutive Republican and Democratic administrations opposed Section 907 that remained in force for a decade. After the September 11th attacks, in view of Azerbaijan’s full cooperation and contribution to the U.S.-led anti-terror effort in Afghanistan, Congress granted President the right to waive Section 907. President George W. Bush exercised this right in January 2002, and the waiver has been extended annually ever since. Nevertheless, remaining not repealed, Section 907 negatively affects the U.S.-Azerbaijani relations by its unfairness and questions the U.S. impartiality as a co-chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, a sole international body mediating a peaceful settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Back to the issue of security assistance, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) report titled “Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia: Political Developments and Implications for U.S. Interests” and dated October 27, 2011, called Azerbaijan the main overflight, refueling, and landing route for U.S. and coalition troops bound for Afghanistan. As a critical part of the Northern Distribution Network (NDN), Azerbaijan is also a major land transport route for military fuel, food and construction supplies. According to the former U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Matthew J. Bryza, “virtually every U.S. soldier deployed to Afghanistan has flown over Azerbaijan. Moreover ... approximately half of all supplies that reach Afghanistan by routes other than Pakistan now transit Azerbaijan.”

Azerbaijan is also a vital U.S. ally that shares its longest common border with Iran. According to the same CRS report, U.S.-Azerbaijani relations serve to “contain” Russian and Iranian influence. In 1993, Azerbaijan became the first post-Soviet nation to get Russian troops withdrawn from its territory. Over the past years, Azerbaijan has thwarted a number of Iran-sponsored attacks on the U.S. and other Western targets in the country. According to the New York Times report from March 15, 2012, Azerbaijani authorities apprehended 22 suspects trained by Iran’s Revolutionary Guards to carry out attacks against the U.S. and Israeli embassies in Azerbaijan. These efforts do come with a toll. According to the Washington Post, on November 23, 2011, Rafiq Tagi – an Azerbaijani journalist critical of Iran – was murdered in Azerbaijan based on a fatwa issued against him by an Iranian cleric. Moreover, as a predominantly Shiite Muslim society that shares cultural and historical bonds with Iran (where ethnic Azeris comprise over a third of indigenous population), pro-Western Azerbaijan remains very susceptible to influences and provocations from its neighbor with nuclear aspirations.

In contrast, Armenia is firmly entrenched in the Russian sphere of influence. Unlike Azerbaijan and Georgia, Armenia is a member of Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and hosts the only remaining Russian military base in the South Caucasus. Armenia has also expanded its strategic cooperation with the Iranian regime, while receiving over \$1 billion in U.S. aid between FY 1992 and FY 2009. According to the U.S. Embassy in Armenia, in 2003, under a personal supervision of then Defense Minister (and now President), Serzh Sargsyan, Armenian government shipped 1000 RPG-22M rockets and 260 PKM machine guns to Iran. The weapons from this shipment were further used in the killing of a U.S. soldier, Sgt. Matthew Straughter, during an RPG-22 attack by the Iranian-backed Hizballah brigades in Iraq on January 31, 2008. While U.S. officials confronted the Armenian government about this issue, it offered no apology or reparations to the family of a killed American serviceman.

In view of the notable differences between Azerbaijan and Armenia, when it comes to U.S. national security interests vis-à-vis Iran and Russia, the parity observed in FMF and IMET assistance to the two South Caucasus states is no longer reasonable. Azerbaijan needs and deserves a more substantial U.S. military and security assistance than Armenia, due to Azerbaijan's increased vulnerability to the Iranian regime, especially so in the Caspian basin. The strict U.S. adherence to military aid parity has not resulted in a peaceful solution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict in the past decade. Just the opposite, Armenia only strengthened its military alliance with Russia and fostered an unprecedented level of cooperation with Iran, yielding the U.S. security assistance largely symbolic and irrelevant.

## **NAGORNO-KARABAKH REGION OF AZERBAIJAN**

I would like to emphasize my community's continuous opposition to any direct U.S. assistance to Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. The said region, recognized by the United States and international community as an integral part of Azerbaijan, remains occupied by the Armed Forces of Armenia. In the course of the 1991-1994 Nagorno-Karabakh War, the entire Azerbaijani population of Nagorno-Karabakh and 7 other adjacent districts of Azerbaijan, in total over 600,000 civilians, have been forced out of their homes by the occupying Armenian forces. Four UN Security Council resolutions (822, 853, 874, 884) adopted in 1993 and the UN General Assembly resolution adopted on March 14, 2008, call for a complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories, to allow for the return of displaced Azerbaijanis. Other international organizations such as NATO, OSCE, the Council of Europe, have also called upon Armenia to respect Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

Since 1998, Congress has been allocating funds to address humanitarian needs of the victims of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Between FY 2005 and FY 2010, as a result of changes in the wording of the State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations bills, the U.S. funds have been directed only to the Armenian community of Nagorno-Karabakh, whereas hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis displaced by the conflict were deprived of this assistance. In

the absence of a political settlement, such unilateral U.S. assistance undermined the humanitarian nature and impartiality of the original Congressional intent, which was to address the needs of the entire conflict-affected population. According to the above-mentioned 2011 CRS report, "in the Omnibus Appropriations Act for FY 2009 (P.L. 111-8) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2010 (P.L. 111-117) up to \$8 million was made available for Nagorno-Karabakh", while the real absorption capacity and the needs on the ground have never reached over \$2 million. From FY 1998 to FY 2010 the total of the direct U.S. assistance to Nagorno-Karabakh amounted to about \$34 million.

During her 2008 confirmation in the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, the US Ambassador to Armenia, Marie L. Yovanovitch, stressed that the aid provided to Nagorno-Karabakh's Armenian population intended "to meet the highest priority needs, such as de-mining, health, drinking water, shelter, and infrastructure reconstruction." She emphasized that the allocations were based on "the most recent needs assessment conducted by USAID in Nagorno-Karabakh, actual humanitarian condition on the ground, and international legal constraints arising from the unresolved nature of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict". Additionally, during his 2010 confirmation hearing, in response to a question by Senator Boxer about the \$2 million limit on the actual aid to Nagorno-Karabakh, Ambassador Bryza, stated that the U.S. assistance was implemented in "as effective way as possible to address the key humanitarian needs in Nagorno-Karabakh."

Based on the enumerated considerations as well as on the reality of a revolving U.S. national debt, no direct aid to Nagorno-Karabakh was indicated in FY 2012 Appropriations. According to the Armenian National Committee of America, on March 20, 2012, some Members of Congress led by the co-chair of Congressional Armenian Caucus, Frank Pallone (D-NJ) sent a letter to the chairs of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State-Foreign Operations, Representatives Kay Granger (R-TX) and Nita Lowey (D-NY), asking for at least \$5 million in direct aid to Nagorno-Karabakh during FY 2013. But given the poor aid absorption capacity in the occupied Azerbaijani territories and the exclusion of 600,000 displaced Azerbaijani civilians based on their ethnicity, ASA considers any direct U.S. aid to Nagorno-Karabakh to be unnecessary, unfair and unsubstantiated.

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Subcommittee, once more thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

**Submitted Testimony**  
**House Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs**  
**Cris Revaz, Basic Education Coalition**

**March 30, 2012**

I am pleased to submit this testimony on behalf of the Basic Education Coalition, a group of 15 humanitarian and development institutions dedicated to ensuring that the world's children receive a quality basic education. My name is Cris Revaz, and I am the Coalition's Executive Director. The members of the Basic Education Coalition are deeply appreciative of the Committee's continued support for international basic education programs and we sincerely thank Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey for their strong and consistent leadership in providing hope and opportunity to children around the world. For fiscal year 2013, the Coalition recommends a U.S. investment of \$925 million in international basic education programs, with at least \$750 million of that amount coming from the Development Assistance account.

We certainly appreciate that Congress must grapple with hard spending choices and tough political realities. However, ensuring that the world's poorest and most vulnerable children can learn to read, write, do basic math and acquire critical life skills remains one of the best investments the United States can make towards eliminating global poverty. Now is not the time to cut efficient and effective programs, like basic education, that are a cornerstone for success in sustainable development across all sectors and have a deep impact on the future. By doing so, we will offer hope and opportunity to millions of children and youth, build markets for U.S. exports, and enhance stability and security worldwide.

To that end, I would like to focus on three issues: (1) the necessity of strong funding to ensure the success of the USAID education strategy; (2) the key role education plays in addressing security and economic challenges; and (3) the clear cost-effectiveness of education as a development priority.

With your support, USAID has been building back its own education capacity, and now has an education strategy with laudable time-bound objectives, which reflect broader development goals and international principles of aid effectiveness. The USAID education strategy will mobilize U.S. resources and expertise behind three goals: improved reading skills for 100 million children by 2015; improved tertiary and workforce development programs; and increased equitable access to education in crises and conflict environments for 15 million learners by 2015. Success of these goals will require robust resources, effective development practices, as well as strong collaboration and coordination efforts.

Inexplicably, however, the Administration's FY13 budget request would severely undercut USAID's ability to advance basic education and would seriously set back the progress achieved to date. The Administration's request represents a 28% cut in basic education from FY12 enacted levels and would either drastically reduce or zero out funding for Angola, Cambodia, Egypt, Lebanon, Georgia, Yemen, Nicaragua, Peru, and Pakistan. Significant cuts are also proposed in many other countries, including Afghanistan. Strong Congressional leadership is therefore required to restore funding to levels that would not only meaningfully implement the strategy, but would also support Congressional priorities, including girls education, and education in conflict and post-conflict settings.

In that latter regard, global basic education is absolutely critical to our own economic and security interests. By 2050, there will be 1.2 billion youth around the world. Nine out of ten of those young people will be living in developing countries. In addition, population growth is exploding in those countries where we also see the highest illiteracy rates, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Ethiopia. Without a strong global commitment on education, both formal and non-formal, the problem of restive, poorly educated youth is expected to grow exponentially.

We have already begun to see the results of these issues. The spread of conflict throughout the Arab World are at least partly rooted in social inequities and injustice, including the millions of children and youth across the globe who are not receiving a quality education, and are without hope for gainful employment. The Arab Spring has revealed a powerful demand for democracy and social change in Tunisia, Egypt and other Arab countries. The problem includes not only the Mideast, where instability is pervasive, but sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and many other regions. As these fragile, emerging democracies continue to take shape, our efforts to give hope to millions of disenfranchised youth will directly impact the stability of these and other countries beset by conflict and unrest.

Of this growing population, 67 million children of primary school age are out of school, with 42% of them living in conflict-affected poor countries. An additional 74 million adolescents are also out of school. Each year, millions of students who have attended some school drop out before the fifth grade, in great measure because of the poor quality of their education, overcrowding and under-resourced classrooms. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, about 10 million children drop out of primary school every year. We must work to not only ensure children have access to education, but that they stay in school and obtain the basic reading, writing and numeracy skills needed for a better life.

By ensuring children and a burgeoning youth population are in school -- and learning -- we can foster stability and political reform. A population that is able to read, write and think critically is far more able to hold its leaders accountable. By equipping populations vulnerable to civil war

and regional conflict with the skills and capacities to shape their own future, the U.S. also can better promote lasting peace. Research indicates that each additional year of formal schooling for males reduces their risk of becoming involved in conflict by 20%.

In addition, as populations around the world continue to grow and the U.S. economy emerges from its protracted recession, education programs will not only help ensure stability, but will also help to expand the U.S. consumer base in the developing world. Today, the fastest-growing markets for America's goods are in developing countries, representing 40% of U.S. exports and one out of every five American jobs. For every 10% increase in U.S. exports, there is a 7% boost in U.S. employment. Therefore, educating the world's poor is essential to building the stable trading partners that growing U.S. export markets require.

As we continue to rebuild our economy, we acknowledge that your Subcommittee faces many hard choices in prioritizing the use of increasingly scarce resources. Unfortunately, with a global population that is rapidly expanding, combat missions in the Middle East winding down and an economy that is struggling to recover, we do not have the luxury of waiting. Not only does each step back in basic education represent a lost opportunity, we know that other countries are actively ramping up their foreign assistance in areas of their own strategic interest. For example, in 2009, China gave 45.7 percent of its total donor aid to countries in Africa. That same year, China helped build more than 130 schools, dispatched nearly 10,000 teachers to other developing countries, and trained more than 10,000 principals and teachers. Though investment in education is positive, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission has found that Chinese aid is often referred to as "no strings attached" because the government does not require any governmental reform or human rights protections, and often supports regimes with poor human rights records, such as Sudan, Venezuela and Burma.

As pressure to reduce the budget is at an all-time high, there is no better way to stretch our development dollars than to invest in education. Take global health for example. Young people who have completed primary education are roughly half as likely to contract HIV and AIDS as those with little or no education. Women with secondary education are far more likely to be aware of measures for preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV, which currently infects 370,000 children a year. A recent study found that half of the reduction of child mortality over the past 40 years was due to better education of women. In addition, one study of 63 countries demonstrated that educating women was by far the most important factor in reducing malnutrition - more important even than improvements to the food supply. In many countries, the school functions as the center of community life and a focal point for other development efforts, such as deworming and ensuring access to clean water, as envisioned in Mrs. Lowey's "Communities of Learning" approach.

The cost effectiveness associated with quality basic education is even greater when we educate girls. Educating girls and women creates a ripple effect throughout society, boosting economic productivity and reducing poverty, enhancing social status, increasing gender equality, delaying sexual activity, curbing child marriage, increasing per capita income, and enhancing the chances that each successive generation of girls will receive an education. For every year beyond fourth grade that girls go to school, wages rise 20%. When an educated woman's income increases, she will reinvest 90 percent of that money in her family, compared to 30-40 percent for a man. Education also saves women's lives. If all women in sub-Saharan Africa had a secondary education, an estimated 1.8 million lives could be saved each year.

With relatively modest investments and innovative, low-cost measures, we can greatly expand our reach. For example, \$10 million in spending means that an estimated 100,000 more children annually can receive a good quality primary school education. Through innovative low-cost technologies, such as interactive and long-distance radio instruction, and through cell phones, computers and the internet, we can now reach many more children who would otherwise remain marginalized and vulnerable. Most importantly, these programs are working. For example, programs in Liberia have improved oral reading fluency by 238% and reading comprehension jumped 230%. In Southern Sudan, radio-based learning and other technologies are being used to deliver quality education programs to populations ravaged by years of civil war. In Afghanistan, thousands of young girls now have access to formal schooling for the first time and the opportunity to provide a better life for their families.

In conclusion, we now have the benefit of strong Congressional engagement, a clear USAID strategy on education, innovative solutions, and strategies that directly address country needs. In a turbulent time, we have the opportunity for a deeper, more sustainable impact on the lives and hopes of the world's poor children. Forceful and clear Congressional prioritization of this issue is needed now more than ever in the face of the Administration's deeply disappointing FY13 request. The Basic Education Coalition looks forward to working with the Subcommittee and Congress, to ensure that quality basic education remains a pillar of our foreign assistance. By so doing, and by ensuring program accountability and impact, we can help alleviate poverty, strengthen societies, foster stability and security, and spur economic growth, abroad and here at home. Thank you for your support and for your consideration of our request.

# **Azerbaijan and Armenia**

## **STATUS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Testimony for the Record**

**Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs  
Committee on Appropriations  
US House of Representatives**

#### **Presented By:**

**Dr. L. R. Lawrence, Jr.  
President  
Bob Lawrence & Associates, Inc  
Alexandria, VA 22314**

**March 30, 2012**

## **Azerbaijan and Armenia: Status and Recommendations**

Presented By:

Dr. L. R. Lawrence, Jr.;  
Bob Lawrence & Associates, Inc.

March 30, 2012

Madame Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee: My name is Bob Lawrence, and I am President of Bob Lawrence & Associates, Inc., a consulting firm headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia. For the past seven years, we have worked with Renaissance Associates, SA, a private sector group of Azerbaijani businessmen with offices in Baku and in Zug, Switzerland. I am here, today, to discuss the situation in the South Caucasus and to make recommendations concerning some things which will improve the situation there for the people and businesses affected. My testimony addresses a variety of salient things which have happened in Azerbaijan and Armenia over the past year, followed by recommendations for actions which this Subcommittee could take in response to the subject country-specific activities of the past year.

2011 was a banner year for Azerbaijan. As stated by Robert Hormats, Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business, and Agricultural Affairs, since 2004, its economy has tripled in size. According to the World Bank, the poverty rate has dropped from 49 percent in 2003 to about 9 percent in 2009. The economy of Azerbaijan is one of the top economies in the world as measured by Forbes magazine and The Economist. Its imports from the United States, at \$328 million in 2011, are about 30 percent greater than the 2010 total of \$253 million. The Azerbaijan government has identified agriculture, information and communications technology, transportation, and tourism as priority economic sectors for development. U.S. firms can play a key role in this development. DOS is now re-launching the U.S.-Azerbaijan Economic Partnership Commission, which Under Secretary Hormats plans to co-chair with Azerbaijan's Minister of Finance, H.E. Samir Sharifov. The U.S. supports Azerbaijan's efforts to become a member of the WTO.

Azerbaijan is now responsible for 83% of the economy in the Caucasus region. The country has accomplished this feat while Armenia continues to occupy 20% of the country, and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has caused about 1,000,000 internally displaced persons, or refugees.

Also, during 2011, Azerbaijan won the Eurovision contest, and it will now host the 2012 Eurovision contest in the capitol city of Baku.

Azerbaijan has now been voted into the Security Council of the United Nations as a "non-permanent" member.

Azerbaijan is critical to the United States as our main ally in the Caucasus region. At present, 40% of our supplies for Afghanistan travel through Azerbaijan. They continue to provide a significant number of troops who serve on the ground with American forces in Afghanistan.

Azerbaijan and Israel continue to strengthen their friendship. About 30% of Israel's needed oil and gas products come from Azerbaijan, and Azerbaijan buys military equipment from Israel.

In the region, Azerbaijan has graduated to the status of a "donor" nation, providing aid and assistance to other countries that have an emergency need. When Israel was besieged with extensive wildfires, Azerbaijan provided a substantial force of planes and personnel to aid in gaining control of the fires. Israel formally decorated the fire fighters for their heroic work. When Turkey suffered a major earthquake, Azerbaijan was the first country to respond to the crisis, sending two planes of relief supplies and 140 rescue workers to Turkey just a few hours after the event, and arriving the day of the quake. The first plane brought specially trained rescue dogs and special tools and machines for working with the rubble. The second plane contained two mobile field kitchens, 150 tents, 2500 blankets, and 750 sleeping bags. Azerbaijani rescue workers were reported to have worked day and night, including evacuating 20-25 of the injured to Baku for treatment.

Sadly, while Azerbaijan continues to move forward with great strides, Armenia continues to decline. The economy of Armenia is now the second worst in the World, as reported by Forbes magazine, exceeded only by Madagascar. According to the CIA World Factbook the GDP growth rate, or in this case decline rate, of Armenia in 2009 was (-14.4%). The population continues to decline and is now under 3 million. The enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh once had a population of 185,000. It now has a population of someplace between 20,000 and 50,000.

Armenia has also become a center for international criminals and crime. In March this year, before both the House and the Senate, FBI Director Robert Mueller made the following statement:

***Organized Crime: Ten years ago, the image of organized crime was of hierarchical organizations, or families, that exerted influence over criminal activities in neighborhoods, cities, or states. That image of organized crime has changed dramatically. Today, international criminal enterprises run multi-national, multi-billion-dollar schemes from start to finish. These criminal enterprises are flat, fluid networks and have global reach. While still engaged in many of the traditional organized crime activities of loan-sharking, extortion, and murder, new criminal enterprises are targeting stock market fraud and manipulation, cyber-facilitated bank fraud and embezzlement, identity theft, trafficking of women and children, and other illegal activities. This transformation demands a concentrated effort by the FBI and federal, state, local, and international partners to prevent and combat transnational organized crime.***

***For example, late last year, an investigation by the FBI and its partners led to the indictment and arrest of over 70 members and associates of an Armenian organized crime ring for their role in nearly \$170 million in health care fraud. This case, which involved more than 160***

***medical clinics, was the culmination of a national level, multi-agency, intelligence-driven investigation. To date, it remains the largest Medicare fraud scheme ever committed by a single enterprise and criminally charged by the Department of Justice.***

During 2011, an Armenian newspaper, published in Yerevan, published a story claiming that 30 members of the above Armenian crime ring were able to escape the United States and return to Armenia, where the Armenian government is refusing to extradite them back to the United States.

As in the past, the most important objective for the people of Azerbaijan is the settlement of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. Beginning in 1991, the Armenians began a forceful occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh, killing a documented 30,000 Azeris and creating a refugee population in Azerbaijan (Internally Displaced Persons) of nearly 1,000,000. Despite five United Nation's resolutions calling for the immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces, today the Armenians occupy a total of eight provinces of Azerbaijan's internationally-recognized territory representing nearly 20% of the country. The United States Department of State's position on the occupied territories is consistent with the UN resolutions. The official policy of the U. S. Department of State on the issue is as follows:

***The United States does not recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent country, and its leadership is not recognized internationally or by the United States. The United States supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and holds that the future status of Nagorno-Karabakh is a matter of negotiation between the parties with the aim of achieving a lasting and comprehensive political resolution of the conflict. The United States remains committed to finding a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through the Minsk Group process.***

Negotiations have been conducted between President Aliyev of Azerbaijan and President Sargsyan of Armenia, along with France, Russia and the United States, under the auspices of the Minsk Group of the OSCE. The results have been an abject failure. It is recommended that the Minsk Group be re-examined and restructured, in order to do a better job of settling this conflict.

In early March, one year ago, a young (10 year old) Azerbaijani boy was playing in his yard in the village of Orta Garvand, in Azerbaijan's Aghdam District, near the "line of contact" between Armenian and Azeri forces. An Armenian sniper shot the boy in the head. He died on the way to the hospital. Later in the year, Armenians near the line of contact booby-trapped a child's toy, floating it down a small river into an Azeri village. A young girl saw the toy floating and retrieved it. It exploded, killing the little girl and badly wounding her mother. The Armenians never even bothered to investigate these two events.

Armenia has a great deal of Russian military presence in their country, consisting of 300 tanks, and infantry forces of something between 8000 and 13000, including reserves. In the past year or so, the Armenians have also acquired Russian rocket propelled artillery, capable of firing rounds some 45 miles into Azerbaijan.

Another issue of great concern to our ally, Azerbaijan, is the continued existence of "Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act." Section 907 is an ill-advised piece of legislation which was lobbied to the Congress by an Armenian terrorist, Mourad Topalian, in the early

1990's, prior to the time when Topalian served a six year criminal sentence for terrorist acts on American soil. Section 907 restricts the relationship between the United States and Azerbaijan. Section 907 continues to be waived every year by the President, but Section 907 should be rescinded, once and for all. It is only an insult to our extremely important strategic ally, Azerbaijan.

Elections in Armenia over the recent years have resulted in arrest, violence and death of caring Armenians at the hands of their government. The State Department 2009 Human Rights Report on Armenia states: "Authorities restricted the right of citizens to freely change their government in mayoral elections in Yerevan. During the year, authorities subjected citizens to arbitrary arrest, detention, and imprisonment for their political activities; lengthy pretrial detention also continued to be a problem." Continuing: "Authorities denied citizens the right to a fair trial. There were multiple attacks against journalists, and the government rarely identified or prosecuted perpetrators." Finally: "Corruption remained widespread, and authorities did not make determined efforts to combat it." The murderers of the innocent demonstrators, after the 2008 elections, remain unprosecuted.

### **Some Positive Suggestions:**

- 1) In the past, humanitarian assistance to occupied Nagorno-Karabakh has been distributed through the United States Embassy in Yerevan. This has sent the wrong message to Armenian interests, signaling that the United States supports the Armenian occupation. This assistance should be distributed and managed through the United States Embassy in Baku. Aid should also be provided to help the Azerbaijani refugees from the Nagorno-Karabakh war.
- 2) Eliminate Section 907. It is bad policy and should be permanently revoked. It is insulting to Azerbaijan, our strongest ally in the region. There is no benefit to this terrorist-inspired law.
- 3) Encourage the enforcement of the UN Resolutions calling for Armenia to remove its forces and stop the occupation of twenty percent of Azerbaijan.
- 4) Urge the State Department and the Minsk Group to resolve the conflict in Nagorno- Karabakh through a referendum that includes all the people from Nagorno-Karabakh who are now living as refugees within Azerbaijan.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Testimony by  
**Sean Callahan**  
**Executive Vice President for Overseas Operations**  
**Catholic Relief Services and the United State Conference of Catholic Bishops**  
 before the  
**House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs**  
**March 30, 2012**

On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS), I thank the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs for this opportunity to testify on appropriations under your jurisdiction for FY 2013. Mindful of our partners and beneficiaries around the globe, I ask you to protect and strengthen assistance for international poverty-focused humanitarian relief and development. At a minimum, please preserve the less than \$18 billion for the following accounts at no less than the levels below:

<b>Account &amp; Agency</b>	<b>Minimum Funding (\$ in thousands)</b>
HIV/AIDs PEPFAR (DOS/GAC)	5,542,860
Global Health subaccounts (AID)	
<i>Maternal and Child Health</i>	605,550
<i>Nutrition</i>	95,000
<i>Vulnerable Children</i>	17,500
HIV/AIDS	350,000
<i>Malaria and Other Infectious Diseases</i>	1,033,000
International Disaster Assistance (AID/OFDA)	975,000
Development Assistance (AID)	2,525,500
Transition Initiatives (AID/OTI)	57,600
Migration and Refugee Assistance (DOS/PRM)	1,875,000
Emergency Migration and Refugee Assistance (DOS/PRM)	50,000
Millennium Challenge Account (MCC)	898,200
Contributions to Int'l Peacekeeping Activities (DOS/IO)	2,098,500
Peacekeeping Operations (DOS/IO)	249,100
International Development Association (Treasury)	1,358,500
Debt Restructuring (Treasury)	250,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,981,141</b>

CRS and USCCB acknowledge the difficult fiscal challenges that Congress faces, including fulfilling our obligations to future generations. We welcome thoughtful efforts to reduce future unsustainable deficits. This requires balanced contributions across the entire federal budget: defense, agricultural subsidies, revenues, and fair and just entitlement reform. Even in this context, the poorest and most vulnerable people have a special claim on our nation's limited resources. We therefore urge Congress to be fiscally responsible in morally responsible ways.

The experience, relationships and teaching of the Catholic Church can help inform issues of foreign assistance. The Church's deep experience combating poverty includes CRS's direct implementation of U.S. foreign assistance in 100 countries. CRS programs address HIV and AIDS, health, education, civil society, food security, agriculture, WASH, emergency relief and peacebuilding. The Catholic Church in the United States also has abiding relationships with the Church in developing countries, where our worldwide communion serves the needs of the poorest members of the human family. Finally, our Church has a rich body of teaching that offers principles that can help guide decisions on foreign assistance, including human dignity, the common good, the option for the poor, and the promotion of peace.

For the duration of the testimony, I will focus on the protection of funding for PEPFAR, humanitarian accounts and Development Assistance; and offer proposals for USAID Forward.

1. **Preserve global health funding, in particular bilateral PEPFAR funding.** CRS and USCCB request that you avoid any proposed cuts to the global health sub-accounts in the above table. In addition to these funding requests, we strongly endorse preservation of the longstanding Helms Amendment, prohibiting U.S. funding for abortion, and the Kemp-Kasten provision, prohibiting support of organizations involved in programs of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization. We support restoration of the Mexico City Policy against funding groups that perform or promote abortion, and the denial of funding to the U.N. Population Fund which supports a program of coerced abortion and involuntary sterilization in China. Addressing these concerns will also broaden support for international aid.

Our successful experience with PEPFAR illustrates how reductions in funding can undermine gains in combating of the disease. PEPFAR has directly supported life-saving antiretroviral treatment (ART) for more than 3.9 million men, women and children; provided 13 million people with care and support; and supported HIV counseling and testing for more than 40 million people. Since 2004, CRS has been a prime grantee for the PEPFAR-funded AIDSRelief consortium, which has provided care and treatment to nearly 700,000 people including 276,000 patients who received ARTs.

**Three important lessons emerge from successful PEPFAR implementation. First, our experience suggests that thriving ART programs incorporate a broad array of services that support good patient outcomes.** The gold standard of HIV treatment is viral suppression. The ability of patients to remain virally suppressed for years will have a significant impact on each clinic's ability to scale up services for new patients needing treatment. Long-term viral suppression requires inputs beyond access to medication, including routine lab tests, strong community outreach, clinical mentoring, robust management systems and expert technical assistance, among other things. A reduction in support for PEPFAR could jeopardize the ability of local partners' to mobilize the material, technical and human resources needed to ensure patient retention and long-term viral suppression.

**Second, a well-designed, well-timed transition to local ownership is the key to a sustainable response.** CRS shares the Administration's commitment to local ownership through

partnership and capacity building. In the ten countries where we manage the AIDSRelief program, our partners – which include Ministries of Health, faith-based networks and civil society organizations – have achieved impressive results in maintaining quality of care, reducing mortality, and retaining patients in treatment. They have begun to take over financial and management responsibility for PEPFAR-funded programs with confidence and enthusiasm.

As of last month we have successfully transitioned AIDSRelief programs in all ten countries, supporting local ownership and long-term sustainability. However, continued success requires that we provide a supportive environment and expert technical assistance while our local partners build and reinforce local resources. Strategies and systems must be in place to ensure a pace of transition appropriate for each country context. An abrupt end to expert technical assistance may jeopardize programs and patients. This continued technical assistance may require an extended timeline; it will also require funding.

**Third, the impact of declining budgets on quality of care can be seen in countries that have already experienced cuts.** Last year, while overall PEPFAR funding was flatlined, AIDSRelief programs in Uganda and Zambia each saw their budgets reduced by more than 50%. While all facilities had adequate funds to maintain core services, our country-based teams were forced to make difficult choices that led to impacts on patient numbers and program quality. These impacts included: 1) delayed patient enrollment, which can mean that new patients will be sicker and less likely to respond well to treatment; 2) reduced community outreach services, which impacts the ability to identify new patients as well as to retain patients already on treatment; and 3) significantly less frequent provision of technical assistance, leading to lower health facility capacity and reduced program quality.

2. **We urge you to preserve humanitarian accounts, and reject cuts to Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) and International Disaster Assistance (IDA).** The MRA account provides funding for Overseas Refugee Assistance and the Refugee Admissions Program. The number of refugees and internally displaced persons has risen in recent years and millions continue to lack access to the most basic life-saving services—including health care, safe shelter, clean water and education. Conditions for Somalia refugees in the Horn of Africa have significantly deteriorated in the last year, and displaced persons in countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen and the Democratic Republic of Congo continue to live in precarious circumstances. Several million Iraqis remain displaced, and the Colombia displacement crisis continues to be one of the largest in the world. Moreover, efforts to prevent and respond to violence against displaced women and girls are inadequate and underfunded.

The U.S. refugee resettlement program assists refugees, asylum seekers, Cuban and Haitian entrants, and Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients who face persecution based on their association with U.S. military operations. The Administration set the refugee admissions goal for fiscal year 2012 at 76,000, and has not yet set the 2013 goal. MRA funding for the Refugee Admissions Program will provide resources to admit 76,000 refugees, as well as 5,000 Iraqis and 1,500 Afghans and their families who enter through the SIV program in FY2013.

The IDA account likewise funds life-saving emergency interventions for those displaced by natural disaster or violent conflict. **A failure to adequately fund humanitarian accounts such as IDA could have dire consequences for some of the world's neediest populations, and undermine the United States' moral commitment to respond to humanitarian crises.**

In the Horn of Africa last year, the international community in general - and U.S. organizations funded by this account in particular - helped save many lives and restore millions of livelihoods. The aid-dependent population in the Horn has been reduced from 13.3 to 9.5 million people. Yet a new food crisis has emerged in the Sahel region of West Africa, compounded by a conflict exacerbated by political change in Libya. In the Sahel, 10-12 million people are at-risk.

Trends toward increased intensity and frequency of natural disasters, an increasingly urban population, and higher global food prices exacerbate demands on the IDA account. However the core IDA emergency response funding, especially as delivered through the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), has decreased in recent years, with significant portions allocated to ongoing humanitarian crises. Funding is sometimes exhausted for these ongoing responses well before the fiscal year ends, with little margin for inevitable new emergencies.

**In addition to core funding, USCCB and CRS support funding for local and regional purchase (LRP) as financed through IDA.** A growing body of evidence points to LRP as a critical and timely tool in emergency response. LRP programs not only meet emergency needs, but also support local farmers. LRP provides flexibility to respond in a cost-effective way, while ensuring foods are culturally appropriate. Where markets are functioning and food is already readily available, the LRP affords another method: cash and vouchers given directly to families to buy food from local merchants. CRS has operated nine LRP programs in eight countries and found that they facilitate quick response with relative ease.

3. **Madame Chairwoman and Ranking Member, we wish to express our appreciation for your consistent support for the Development Assistance account,** which can help to prevent costly humanitarian assistance. The food crisis in the Horn of Africa illustrates this point well. U.S. Government funding through the Development Assistance account supported CRS' Integrated Watershed Resource Management approach in 19 sub-watersheds in Ethiopia from 1997-2005. Since then, private CRS monies have expanded these programs, and local partners and communities now manage and maintain them.

Through these programs, CRS Ethiopia delivers integrated services in watershed areas to help communities maximize the benefits of available water. Communities now have a stronger foundation for improving their food production and overall health and economic standing. During the severe drought in the Horn of Africa last year, CRS joined other relief agencies in providing assistance to refugees and other affected populations in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya. In areas where we together had invested in Integrated Watershed Resources Management, communities were better able to mitigate the effects of the recent drought. The watershed approach strengthened household resiliency, helping to prevent a worse disaster in many regions of Ethiopia. This example underscores the importance of a strategic partnership

between the U.S. Government and private, voluntary organizations who work to strengthen the capacity of local actors towards self-sufficiency.

4. **We thank you for your commitment to USAID Forward, in particular to “country-ownership” strategies and Implementation and Procurement Reform.** CRS supports efforts by USAID to make international assistance more efficient and effective. We undertake such initiatives ourselves. The foundational aid reform documents of the Administration espouse a strong commitment to aid effectiveness principles and especially “country ownership,” e.g., working with partners in developing countries to plan for the use of aid. More decentralization of aid planning, more transparency and use of less duplicative aid disbursal systems is important.

**We urge the U.S. Government to think of country ownership as more than governmental ownership by significantly involving civil society actors.** Civil society partners afford experience, knowledge and oversight, helping to enhance government transparency and participation. In many countries, long-standing partnerships between international and local civil society actors have built local capacity. Faith-based organizations often exhibit particular depth in local partnerships. For example, the Catholic Church has an extensive institutional presence in many developing countries and remote communities. Moreover, many private organizations bring significant additional private funds to complement official aid. It is critical to respect constitutional guarantees of religious freedom and preserve the important role of faith-based organizations through conscience clauses that prohibit discrimination in funding as well as through other provisions that ensure their unique contribution in serving the poor.

To date our experience suggests that consultation by USG and USAID with local and international civil society organizations merits greater attention, including in the Global Health and Feed the Future initiatives, and in Country Development Cooperation Strategies. Our concern is that the impact of aid will suffer because projects designed and implemented without adequate input of all key stakeholders are less likely to be sustainable or reach the poorest. **Similar hopes and caveats apply to the USG trend of providing funding to local actors directly and its new-found emphasis on strengthening their capacity.**

Finally, we support the aims of USAID Forward’s Implementation and Procurement Reform. The Quadrennial Development and Diplomacy Review acknowledged the need to better train AID staff on the differences among grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements. CRS and our local partners value highly the cooperative decision-making and mutual ownership afforded by grants and cooperative agreements; it is a best practice for sustainability and capacity-building. Unlike contracts, assistance mechanisms afford the aforementioned additional resources often provided by private agencies. **CRS and USCCB respectfully submit that a report on the extent of funding by mechanism and recipient for FY 2011 would help to establish a baseline to understand current trends in USG funding and to measure progress towards this reform.**

Thank you for your partnership with CRS and USCCB, and for this opportunity to reiterate our values and report back to you on our experiences. We look forward to continued collaboration.

**House Committee on Appropriations**  
**Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs**  
*Submitted by Laura Rose*  
**CEO, Center for Cultural Interchange**  
***Concerning Department of State Educational and Cultural Exchanges***  
**March 2012**

As CEO of the Center for Cultural Interchange (CCI), I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of an FY13 funding level of \$598 million (flat funding from FY11 and FY12) for the educational and cultural exchange programs administered by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). During difficult budget times, the Department of State's exchange programs are smart and cost-effective investments in American economic competitiveness and national security.

As a leading provider of cultural exchange programs, CCI facilitates around 10,000 cultural exchange programs annually through cooperation with international partners around the world. CCI organizes secondary school exchange, FLEX and YES programs, short-term homestays, ESL camps, intern and trainee and Summer Work & Travel programs in the U.S. Through our outbound division, CCI organizes study, teach, work, volunteer, and language programs in over 35 countries around the world. Through its programs, CCI supports academic development, environmental consciousness and cross-cultural understanding.

Department of State international exchange programs are a proven and cost-effective way for the United States to remain competitive, develop American leaders, and promote American values. These programs support global engagement that is critical to our prosperity and security. As acknowledged by such senior U.S. government leaders as Secretaries Clinton and Panetta, a strong military alone is not sufficient to maintain our national security. We must engage with the world across a wide variety of activities and issues, building respect and a web of partnerships based on shared interests. Exchanges are an investment in the future, expanding the vision of

current and emerging leaders.

***Exchanges benefit Americans and help keep America competitive***

Department of State exchange programs provide opportunities for American citizens to build international experience and connections, expand their global perspective, and gain cross-cultural skills necessary for success in the global economy. As exchange participants and as hosts, American citizens gain vital exposure to the world and opportunities critical to their success in the global marketplace, including expertise in languages critical to business and national security; understanding of international business, political, and cultural practices; and the establishment of key business contacts and relationships around the world. Comprehensive U.S. global leadership and economic strength requires a substantial cohort of Americans who have the skills, knowledge, and contacts to navigate effectively across cultures and economies. State exchange programs enable Americans to succeed in all sectors of the globalized economy.

***Exchanges are a cost-effective investment***

State Department exchange programs are a cost-effective investment, as most of the State Department exchanges budget is spent either on Americans, American businesses and organizations, or in the United States. In addition to enhancing America's long-term competitiveness, exchange programs provide significant immediate economic benefits. For example, more than 400 EducationUSA advising centers around the world supported a flow of 723,277 international students to study in the U.S. in 2010-11. These overseas advising centers received an appropriation of \$12.2 million in FY 2012, which leveraged the ***\$20.23 billion*** international students spent in the U.S. before returning home (according to NAFSA: Association of International Educators and the Institute of International Education's 2011 *Open Doors* report). In Chairwoman Granger's state of Texas, 61,636 international students

contributed nearly **\$1.4 billion** to the state economy, while in Ranking Member Lowey's state of New York, 78,888 international students contributed nearly **\$2.4 billion**. The exchange budget is a meaningful investment in American communities, as well an essential foreign policy tool.

***An unparalleled public diplomacy, smart power, and national security tool***

Exchanges are a key instrument in the U.S. foreign policy toolbox, essential to strengthening U.S. global leadership and ensuring U.S. national security. These programs allow the United States to build respect and a web of partnerships based on shared interests and mutual ties around the world. Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping's return visit to Muscatine, Iowa—where he stayed for two nights in 1985 on a State Department supported exchange—demonstrates the importance of cultivating relationships with current and future foreign leaders through these programs.

American students studying abroad through State Department exchange programs are ambassadors of the next generation of American leaders, showcasing our most promising young people and promoting American values around the world. Meanwhile, State Department evaluations repeatedly show that international exchange participants who visit the United States complete their programs with a better impression of our country, the American people, and our values. U.S. ambassadors consistently rank exchange programs among the most useful catalysts for long-term political change and mutual understanding. A Congressional Research Service review of 29 reports on public diplomacy revealed that the most common recommendation of these reports was to increase exchange funding.

Examples of Department of State exchanges vital to our national security include:

—The **International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)**, which over 70 years has brought nearly 200,000 key business, political, and civil society leaders from around the world to meet with counterparts and citizens across the U.S. IVLP alumni include Indian Prime Minister

Manmohan Singh, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, and more than 320 other current and former heads of state.

—**Academic exchange programs**, participants of which are competitively chosen for their talent and leadership potential. Approximately 300,000 U.S. and foreign nationals have participated in the world-renowned *Fulbright Program* since its inception more than 50 years ago. In 2010, 8,542 U.S. students and young professionals applied for 1,729 available Fulbright grants. Nearly 600 U.S. students are receiving on-the-ground training in languages critical to national security, while 417 Foreign Language Teaching Assistants are teaching their critical native languages to nearly 12,000 U.S. students at American colleges and universities. Other key academic exchanges include the *Gilman International Scholarship Program*, which enables American students with financial need to study abroad, greatly diversifying the population of young Americans with global and critical language experience; the *Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Program*, which confers fellowships across a wide range of sectors to graduate students and professionals in Eurasia; the *Humphrey Fellowships Program*, which provides powerful training experiences for rising professionals in the developing world; and the *Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP)*, which provides university instructors semester-long opportunities to expand their knowledge and expertise by working at U.S. universities.

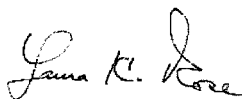
—**High school exchange programs** that bring more than 5,000 students a year from the Muslim world, Eurasia, and other key countries to stay with American families and study at American high schools. High school exchanges like the *YES program* (Muslim majority countries), *FLEX* (Russia, Ukraine, and other Eurasian nations), *A-SMYLE* (Balkans), *Congress-Bundestag* (Germany), *U.S.-Poland exchange*, the *National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y)*, and the *Youth Ambassadors and Youth Leadership programs* have a consistent

record of success in fostering attitudinal change, building lifelong relationships, and encouraging leadership aspirations.

In addition to robust funding for exchange programs, the Center for Cultural Interchange strongly supports the highest possible funding for the Department of State, particularly for consular operations. The State Department has ably and admirably managed the visa function in recent years despite a greatly increased workload. Still, many new requirements, especially the mandate that nearly all applicants have a personal interview, have led to long waits for visa interviews in critical countries. Visas have become a prominent issue in key bilateral relationships, and we encourage the Subcommittee to continue to provide the State Department with additional consular resources.

Thank you again for this opportunity to voice the Center for Cultural Interchange's support for an appropriation of \$598 million for Department of State educational and cultural exchange programs in FY13, and for appropriate funding for the Department's consular operations.

Best regards,



**Laura Rose**

Chief Executive Officer

Center for Cultural Interchange and Greenheart

*CCI, the Greenheart of Cultural Exchange*

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Written Testimony submitted to House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs  
by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers

Madam Chair, Members of the House State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. I am Dr. Mary Ellen Lane, Executive Director of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC). I am here today to urge the Subcommittee to appropriate a total of \$598.8 million for Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs at the Department of State, including \$4.5 million for CAORC and member centers.

This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), **the federation of independent overseas research centers that contribute directly to creating American global competence.** Founded in 1981 and located in the Smithsonian Institution, CAORC coordinates American Overseas Research Centers' activities; provides administrative, financial, legal, and policy guidance; coordinates multi-center and multi-national activities; sponsors regional research; and facilitates the creation of new centers.

CAORC member centers maintain a permanent presence in countries crucially important to U.S. interests: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, India, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Senegal/West Africa, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Turkey, and Yemen. They are the primary vehicle through which U.S. scholars carry out research vital to our understanding of and intersection with other cultures.

Some centers have existed for over a century, while others were founded in the decades following World War II in response to American scholarly needs and host country invitations. Hundreds of American universities, colleges, and museums hold multiple memberships in the centers which serve their institutional members, individual fellows, and members, as well as affiliated scholars, through a broad range of research- and teaching-support services.

American overseas research centers promote international academic exchange, primarily through sponsoring fellowship programs, foreign language study, and collaborative research projects. They facilitate access to research resources, provide a forum for contact and exchange, offer library and technical support and accommodation, and disseminate information to the scholarly and general public through conferences, seminars, exhibitions, and publications. Because of the centers' contributions to the generation of knowledge, the creation of area expertise, and cordial relations between the United States and the host countries, scholars seek CAORC's help in establishing similar centers in other parts of the world.

American Overseas Research Centers foster scholarly interchange between U.S. area scholars and institutions and the host countries. These non-governmental consortia are seen by their host countries as the official arm of American higher learning. Centers generate important unbiased information and disseminate it at home and abroad. Center affiliates teach in American universities, consult with media, government, and public policy agencies in the U.S. and the host countries, share knowledge with school and civic audiences, and thereby promote U.S. national interests by fostering mutual understanding.

**Since CAORC's establishment in 1981, the network of centers has more than doubled, expanding into Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Inner Asia and strengthening in the Middle East and South Asia.** There are currently 22 American Overseas Research Centers in 24 countries, each of which fosters international scholarly research, primarily for pre-doctoral and senior area studies scholars. By law, each American

center is a consortium of American universities, colleges, and museums, is a chartered not-for-profit institution, and maintains a physical presence in the host country.

#### **AMERICAN OVERSEAS RESEARCH CENTERS:**

- **Are located in countries of vital importance to the United States.** American overseas research centers in Europe, Latin America, the Near and Middle East, West Africa, and South, Southeast, and Inner Asia create permanent scholarly networks and open avenues of communication and collaboration between American and foreign scholars, students, and the public.
- **Benefit thousands of students and scholars.** Centers facilitate access to research resources, award fellowships, provide a forum for contact and exchange, offer library and technical support and accommodation, and disseminate information to the scholarly community and the public through conferences, seminars, exhibitions, and publications.
- **Are relied upon by universities and colleges.** Nearly 500 American and international educational institutions hold more than 1,000 institutional memberships in the 22 Centers around the world and rely on the Centers to fund and support research and study overseas.
- **Inform the public and policy makers.** Center officers and affiliated scholars are called upon by television, print, radio, and electronic media outlets and government agencies for interviews and background information about current events.
- **Maintain a permanent presence.** The Centers' long-term, on-the-ground presence enables them to react quickly to political and social changes as well as respond to emerging scholarly demand.
- **Are cost-effective.** The Centers facilitate research, conduct programs, and inform the American public – all while operating with very low administrative costs.

The Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) provides the lifeline of support that makes the existence of Centers possible in strategic world areas. In turn, **the Centers are unique in that they are the only entities that can provide full access for U.S. students and scholars to the entire host-country educational infrastructure**, through the government-to-government MOUs under which Centers operate. Further, the Centers provide infrastructure and access overseas not only for a wide variety of federal agencies and programs; in several countries they also serve as the screening and collecting arms for the Library of Congress and expedite important National Science Foundation and Smithsonian field projects.

**Without these centers, research vital to continued U.S. global competence cannot be sustained.**

#### **CAORC AND ECA**

With ECA support since the mid-1960s, American Overseas Research Centers have funded, promoted, and facilitated advanced research that helps **build the capacity** of American experts in, and citizens knowledgeable about, **world regions, foreign languages, and international affairs** by enabling American scholars and students to carry out **vital research** contributing to our understanding of and interaction with the world. The Centers are also a resource for host-country nationals to build their own competencies and engage with U.S. scholars and students in ways that lead to a **deeper understanding** of American values.

CAORC's and the Centers' **installed capacity, global connections, and institutional agility** have allowed CAORC to respond quickly to ECA priorities as they emerge. In 2006, for example, CAORC launched the Critical Language Scholarship Program with only a few months' notice. At ECA's prompting, CAORC established centers in Afghanistan, Algeria, and Iraq, and is currently setting up centers in Libya and Indonesia.

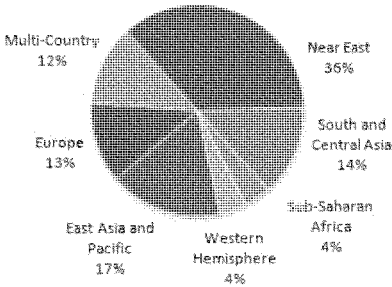
### WHY ARE AMERICAN OVERSEAS RESEARCH CENTERS IMPORTANT?

CAORC has established a global network of Centers that have shown their ability to respond to ECA needs as a coordinated global network for multi-country needs. The Centers serve as **long-term, permanent, on-the-ground** apolitical and scholarly meeting places for host-country scholars and Americans and facilitate research vital to continued U.S. global competence. By serving as host institutions, the **Centers contribute significantly to the success of the Fulbright, NEH, and other federal and privately funded fellowship programs.**

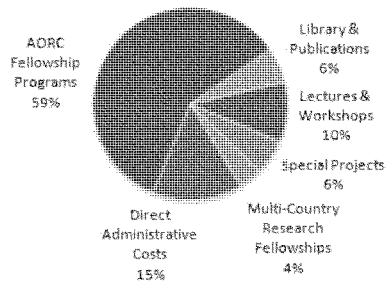
- The Centers' logistical assistance, facilities, and resources, **make it possible for U.S. scholars and students to conduct research** in many countries which are of strategic importance, but also bureaucratically challenging.
- The Centers **foster international education and exchange** by providing infrastructure for and facilitating federal and privately-funded programs and individual research.
- Centers **sponsor fellowship programs**, foreign language teaching and study, scholarly and public meetings, publications, and field expeditions.
- Centers collaborate and **connect with the U.S. Embassies** through lecture series, joint events, educational tours, and briefings.

### FACTS AND FIGURES

**Destination of U.S. Research Fellows, 2011/12**



**CAORC ECA Budget Categories, 2011/12**



- Each year, CAORC and the 19 ECA-funded Centers directly **award almost 600 fellowships or scholarships** funded by ECA, private, and other federal sources, and assist thousands of other American and host-country scholars and students.
- A preliminary survey of CAORC's Multi-country Research Fellows shows that of the 95 pre-doctoral Fellows contacted, **82% of responders now have positions at colleges and universities** of all sizes in the U.S. and abroad (33% tenured).
- Center fellows **publish scholarship**. For example, 105 ECA-funded fellows at the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) produced 84 books and 183 articles in the past 10 years.
- More than 75,000 U.S., host-country, Fulbright, and other scholars and students use the Centers' library facilities on-site each year.

### GLOBAL COMPETENCE

- **Serving American Undergraduate Education:** Many Centers – especially those in Senegal, Jordan, and India – are essential for U.S. colleges' and universities' study abroad programs, from assisting with visas to creating courses, educational trips, and lectures.

- **Increasing Global Competitiveness:** In the six years of the Critical Language Scholarship Arabic Program, 5 Centers have trained 677 U.S. undergraduate and graduate students. On average, the students gained two sublevels of language proficiency.
- **Collaborating Across Disciplines and Geographies:** Publication of *Understanding Life in the Borderlands: Boundaries in Depth and in Motion* (U. Georgia Press, 2010) was the culmination of collaborations among CAORC Multi-country Research and Center Fellows, bringing together multiple strands of scholarship covering four millennia and four continents to help us understand the nature and impact of our globalized condition.
- **Contributing to Broader U.S. Research Interests:** Multi-country Fellow Dr. Joy McCorriston (Ohio State) discovered evidence of plague bacteria in Yemen and Oman, which led her to collaborate with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on pandemic preparations in the modern world.

## AFRICA

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### SENEGAL / WEST AFRICA

- **Benefiting Host-County Academic Communities:** More than 50 Senegalese students successfully completed their Master's degrees in the last four years thanks to JSTOR access at the West African Research Center (WARA/WARC).
- **Expanding Access.** CAORC is working with Library of Congress to transform acquisition of foreign materials for scholarly and public use: WARC and its West African partners are collecting materials for the Library and initiating a pilot project to collect publications for U.S. research university libraries.
- **Empowering Local Communities.** With support from the U.S. State Department, WARA/WARC are implementing the *West African Peace Initiative* to promote research and dialogue on peace building and conflict resolution in the region. The project supports a fellowship program, regional conferences, and a journalism institute.

## EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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### CAMBODIA | INDONESIA | MONGOLIA

- **Examining Relevant Cross-Cultural Legacies:** The Center for Khmer Studies (CKS) and the American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies (AISLS) brought together 16 Cambodian, Sri Lankan, and U.S. participants in Siem Reap to compare "Colonial Legacies and Contemporary Scholarship in Sri Lanka and Cambodia."
- **Institution Building:** With support from ECA and private sources, the American Institute for Indonesian Studies (AIFIS) launched operations in Jakarta in January 2012 with the symposium "American and Indonesian Research on Indonesia in the Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities: Problems and Prospects."

## EUROPE AND EURASIA

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### BULGARIA | ITALY | GREECE | TURKEY

- **Establishing Regional Connections:** The Coulson-Cross Aegean Exchange Program sends Turkish scholars to the American School of Classical Studies in Athens (ASCSA) and Greek scholars to the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT), promoting intellectual cooperation between two neighboring countries where little had existed.
- **Strengthening Curriculum:** ARIT is sponsoring a series on "Islam: Tradition and Diversity" at Camden County College (New Jersey) for K-12 educators, college faculty, and community members. Funded by a Carnegie Corporation of NY outreach grant to CAORC, the series helps smaller U.S. institutions diversify their curriculum and multiplies the impact of ECA-sponsored programs and research.

## NEAR EAST

EGYPT | IRAN | IRAQ | ISRAEL | JORDAN | NORTH AFRICA | PALESTINE | YEMEN

- **Documenting the Arab Spring:** The American Institute for Maghrib Studies' center in Tunisia (AIMS/CEMAT) recorded the sights and sounds of Tunisia's revolution and democratic transition, and hosted policy-relevant events (supported by ECA, U.S. Embassy, and private sources), that expanded CEMAT's reach among scholars, civil society leaders, development professionals, and journalists.
- **Analyzing Political Change:** In mid-2011 the American Institute for Yemeni Studies (AIYS) convened leading scholars and policy makers from Yemen, the U.S., and Europe to discuss developments in Yemen since the political uprising. A publication of the presented papers is currently being edited.
- **Preserving Cultural Heritage:** The American Research Center in Egypt's (ARCE) creation of a registrar's office at the Egyptian Museum and their training of museum staff enabled the museum to inventory and track its collection during and after the January 25 Revolution.
- **Expanding the Boundaries of Knowledge:** With ECA funding through CAORC, the American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS) and WARA/WARC revolutionized the understanding of African history and communication through their *Saharan Crossroads* program.
- **Supporting Local Economic Development:** The American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) helped to develop 5 major heritage sites as tourist attractions, representing nearly 50% of the \$3.4 billion brought into Jordan by tourism in 2010.

## SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

AFGHANISTAN | BANGLADESH | INDIA | PAKISTAN | SRI LANKA

- **Informing U.S. Foreign Policy:** After the American Institute of Afghanistan Studies (AIAS) convened a conference to examine the rule of law in Afghanistan, U.S. Ambassador Hans Klemm, Coordinating Director of Rule of Law and Law Enforcement (U.S. Embassy, Kabul), assigned the conference report as required reading to the Rule of Law group.
- **Preserving Cultural Heritage:** The American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS)/American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS)-sponsored Cultural Heritage Institute-South Asia, funded by ECA and hosted by CAORC at the Smithsonian, resulted in follow-up conferences funded by the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan and in measurable participant professional advancement and subsequent influence.

## WESTERN HEMISPHERE

MEXICO

- **Examining Transnational Issues:** Deborah Cohen's ECA-funded Mexico-North Research Network (MNRN) Transnationalism Fellowship, resulted in her first book, *Braceros: Migrant Citizens and Transnational Subjects in Postwar United States and Mexico* (U. North Carolina Press, 2010), examining the *bracero* program to show how this migration and its inherent tensions and contradictions produced individuals imperfectly aligned with either nation.

The international academic exchange programs supported by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs form a woven textile that provides the essential foundation necessary to help achieve the Department of State's objectives. **Diminishing basic support for the institutions that create needed global expertise undermines the Department of State's goals and America's future.** We urge the Subcommittee to appropriate a total of \$598.8 million (flat funding) for all ECA programs, including \$4.5 million for CAORC and member centers.

**Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative*, North America**  
**Rachel M. Cohen, Regional Executive Director**  
**Written Testimony Submitted on March 30, 2012 to the**  
**Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, Committee on Appropriations**  
**United States House of Representatives**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 State and Foreign Operations appropriations measure, specifically regarding the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) Program. I am the Regional Executive Director of the North America office of the Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DNDi)—a non-profit, patients' needs-driven research and development (R&D) organization that develops new drugs for people suffering from neglected diseases.

**I respectfully request that the Committee fund USAID's NTD program at \$100 million, which is consistent with the President's FY 2012 request; support investment in R&D for NTDs to bring new treatments to people suffering from these diseases; and expand the current USAID list of NTDs to ensure the NTDs with the highest death rates are incorporated into the program.**

**Who suffers from NTDs?** More than 1 billion people—representing one sixth of the world population—are infected with at least one of the 17 diseases listed by the World Health Organization (WHO) as neglected tropical diseases.<sup>1</sup> Women, children, and ethnic minorities, especially those living in remote or unstable areas with restricted access to services, are most at risk of infection, illness, and death. NTDs also impair worker productivity and are an important reason why the world's poorest 1.4 billion people who live below the poverty line cannot escape destitution and despair.<sup>2</sup>

**Why do we not have better tools available to combat neglected diseases?** Patients suffering from these diseases are neglected because they are poor and marginalized. The current system to develop new drugs, diagnostics and vaccines, is driven by commercial rewards. A company develops a drug or diagnostic tool, receives a patent that allows the sale of the product at high prices, and the high prices in turn are expected to "recoup" the cost of R&D. This system fails to incentivize R&D if patients cannot pay high prices—either because they are too poor or too few—and is increasingly recognized as an unsustainable business model. Despite the advances in medicine over the past half-century, with therapeutic innovations saving many millions of lives, adequate drugs are not available for diseases that exclusively or predominantly affect the poor. R&D for NTDs attracts less attention and consequently less financial investment as the population affected is forgotten and has no voice on the international stage. Of the 1,556 new drugs approved between 1975 and 2004, only 21 (1.3%) were specifically developed for tropical diseases and tuberculosis, even though these diseases account for 11.4% of the global disease burden.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization (2012) Neglected tropical diseases. Geneva: WHO, Available: [http://www.who.int/neglected\\_diseases/diseases/en/](http://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/diseases/en/) Accessed March 14, 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Hotez PJ, Pecoul B (2010). "Manifesto" for Advancing the Control and Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases. *PLoS Negl Trop Dis* 2010; 4(5): e718. Available: [http://www.dndi.org/images/stories/pdf\\_scientific\\_pub/2010/PLoS%20NTD\\_Pecoul\\_Hotez\\_MANIFESTO\\_250510.pdf](http://www.dndi.org/images/stories/pdf_scientific_pub/2010/PLoS%20NTD_Pecoul_Hotez_MANIFESTO_250510.pdf). Accessed July 14, 2010.

<sup>3</sup> Chirac P, Torrice E (2006) Global framework on essential health R&D. *Lancet* 2006; 367:1560-61.

**What is DNDi doing?** DNDi specifically focuses on developing new treatments for some of the most neglected patients in the world, including those with the three NTDs with the highest death rates – sleeping sickness (human African trypanosomiasis, or HAT), Chagas disease, and kala azar (visceral leishmaniasis, or VL); those with filarial parasitic-worm infections, namely river blindness (onchocerciasis), elephantiasis (lymphatic filariasis), and African eye worm (*Loa loa*, or loiasis); and pediatric HIV/AIDS. Sleeping sickness and kala azar are 100 percent fatal if left untreated. For sleeping sickness, diagnostic tools are inadequate—late-stage disease requires a painful spinal tap, and melarsoprol, the main drug used is a toxic arsenic derivative, which kills 1 in 20 patients. River blindness and elephantiasis blind and deform people, young and old. Chagas disease almost exclusively infects those in Latin America and kills more people in this region than malaria.

DNDi was established in 2003 by Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières, the Indian Council of Medical Research, Brazil's Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, the Kenya Medical Research Institute, the Ministry of Health of Malaysia, and the Institut Pasteur in France, with the World Health Organization's Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases as a permanent observer. Since then, DNDi has delivered six new treatments: two antimalarials; the first new treatment for sleeping sickness in over 25 years, NECT (nifurtimox-eflornithine combination therapy); a set of combination therapies to treat kala azar in Africa and Asia; and a pediatric dosage form of benznidazole for the treatment of children with Chagas disease.

In terms of current neglected-patient needs that the US can immediately address, today river blindness and elephantiasis are treated with the drug ivermectin, but in those co-infected with African eye worm, this treatment, alone or in combination with another drug called albendazole, can lead to brain damage, or even death. Over 14 million people are at high risk. For these patients, a new treatment is urgently needed, and DNDi is developing a new drug called flubendazole that, if successful, would be safe and effective in these patients. Without such a drug, control and elimination of river blindness and elephantiasis will not be possible.

Another urgent patient need is an easy-to-take medicine for sleeping sickness. Although NECT has helped significantly reduce the number of patients treated with the arsenic-derivative melarsoprol, it still requires a week of intravenous infusions and is thus not practical in the field where sleeping sickness is prevalent. This is why DNDi is currently developing two new drug candidates—fexinidazole and oxaborole—that could be provided as a simple oral pill.

**What can the US government do?** USAID's NTD Program was launched in 2006 and was one of the first global efforts to address NTDs comprehensively. However, the current initiative only focuses on five of the 17 NTDs identified by WHO. It does not fund diagnosis and treatment of the NTDs with the highest death rates (sleeping sickness, Chagas, kala azar), and it does not allocate any funding to R&D for much-needed new treatments for NTDs. All NTDs require an increase in R&D efforts in order to bring new tools to patients, improve the effectiveness of existing tools, respond to the challenge of drug resistance, and enhance prospects for achieving disease elimination.

While basic research and early-stage product development is within the mandate of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and should continue to be funded through traditional NIH

channels, late-stage product development, including for drugs and diagnostics, is urgently needed to support a more robust and effective response to NTDs in both the near- and long-term. DNDi calls on the US government to invest, without delay, in late-stage product development efforts for NTDs at USAID in order to bring new drugs to patients suffering from these neglected diseases and bridge the gap between innovation and access to scientific research. This would align NTDs with other USAID programs in malaria, HIV/AIDS, and TB, which currently allocate a percentage of their funding for late-stage product development.

USAID developed a planning document entitled “Neglected Tropical Diseases Draft Strategy 2010-2014,” which indicates the Agency’s willingness to expand the scope of diseases addressed programmatically to include some of the most lethal NTDs. It also highlights the US government’s comparative advantage in contributing to late-stage product development (e.g. phase IIb clinical trials and beyond).<sup>4</sup> This plan and the funding scenarios required were also discussed in a NTD Portfolio Review Stakeholder meeting held by USAID in March 2011. Moreover, USAID has publicly committed to contributing to the global goals of elimination and control of certain NTDs, both through the US Global Health Initiative targets and, most recently, by signing on to the “London Declaration on NTDs” on January 30 at the high-level event, “Uniting to Combat NTDs.” But it will not be possible to achieve some of these goals without new tools and rather than sustaining or expanding its commitment to NTDs, USAID appears to be retreating.

In order to ensure that new tools are developed for neglected diseases, we strongly urge the Committee to enhance its support for NTDs by funding the USAID NTD Program at \$100 million in FY 2013 and encouraging USAID to invest in R&D for NTDs. Specifically, we ask for the following language in the report on the State and Foreign Operations appropriations legislation:

*The Committee is concerned about the burden of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and commends USAID's effort to provide treatments for five of the highly prevalent NTDs in the developing world. The Committee is concerned, however, that for many NTDs, current diagnostic and therapeutic tools are not sufficient to properly treat patients, and encourages USAID to allocate resources to support late-stage product development for NTDs as it does for all other disease areas. Ongoing innovation is needed for all NTDs to ensure access to new treatments as well as protect against drug resistance and co-infections, which can make existing drugs less effective. Support for public-private partnerships that conduct research and development for new tools for NTDs should be a component of the research agenda at USAID.”*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and to share the experience of DNDi in developing new treatments for patients suffering from neglected diseases throughout the developing world.

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<sup>4</sup> Neglected Tropical Diseases Draft Strategy 2010-2014, Drafted by USAID/GH.

### Written Testimony

#### House Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs *John Gillies, Senior Vice President and Director, Global Education, FHI 360*

**March 2012**

My name is John Gillies. I am the Senior Vice President and Director of the Global Learning Group at FHI 360. I am honored to submit testimony on behalf of my organization, which is dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions for human development. As members of the Basic Education Coalition we are deeply appreciative of the Committee's continued support for international basic education programs. We sincerely thank Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey for their strong and consistent leadership in providing hope and opportunity to the world's children. For fiscal year 2013, the Coalition recommends a U.S. investment of \$925 million in international basic education programs, with at least \$750 million of that amount coming from the Development Assistance account.

With limited resources, it is more important than ever for the U.S. Government to invest responsibly in international programs that address key priorities for both the Administration and Congress, produce meaningful results, and have a lasting, positive impact on the security and well-being of concerned nations. There is no area more important than basic education for building the foundation for sustained development, economic growth, and development of democratic institutions in the world community.

FHI 360 is a global development organization with a rigorous, evidence-based approach. Our professional staff includes experts in education, health, nutrition, economic development, civil society, environment and research. The global education team at FHI 360 manages an international education portfolio of 22 long-term programs throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, collectively worth over \$300 million, \$252 million of which is international basic education funding from USAID.

The U.S. government investment in this work promotes sustainable improvement and increased capacity at all levels of education systems worldwide, from policy formulation to classroom instruction. These programs deliver concrete results in literacy, teacher education, curriculum, systems reform, capacity building, information and communications technology, gender equity, and inclusive education. That progress is crucial not only to the country's own development, but also to advancing American interests in security, economic growth and international development. Examples of the progress made in USAID-funded basic education programs from FHI 360's portfolio are described below.

**Security:** In this era of globalization and terrorism, the U.S. must proactively work to ensure the burgeoning youth population worldwide is productively engaged, including learning in schools and related educational programs that lead to their development as responsible and contributing local and global citizens. Every additional year of formal schooling for young men reduces their

risk of becoming involved in conflict by 20%.<sup>1</sup> With some 67 million children out of school, and 42 percent in conflict-affected poor countries, quality basic education programs represent a relatively low-cost way to improve future security and stability around the world.<sup>2</sup> Our programs frequently use basic education funding to operate in conflict environments, building youth and ministry skills and capacity, enabling governments to manage their own quality education systems, and allowing the U.S. to better promote lasting peace.

Following **South Sudan's** Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, our experts began supporting the freshly established National and State Ministries of Education to establish a comprehensive education system. Through the capacity building our embedded experts conduct with staff at the state ministries, South Sudan is gradually shedding its dependence on international NGOs for the delivery of education services. Our program has also played a key role this past year in assisting the Ministry of Education to handle tens of thousands of returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) flooding the country due to independence and continued insecurity. Forty-five percent of South Sudan's population is under the age of fourteen, and only 27 percent of the population overall and 16 percent of women are literate.<sup>3</sup> Without a functional education system, South Sudanese youth – and the world's youngest nation – do not stand a chance. The U.S. funding for this work will give rise to a brighter future for the children, youth, and for the nation.

In **Senegal**, FHI 360 supports the Ministry of Education in a program to align *daaras* (Koranic schools) to the government's elementary and middle school curriculum. The alignment prepares the estimated 30 percent of the school-age population attending *daaras* to enter the formal school system or to pursue pre-professional training in various trades. Since 2009, three cohorts totaling 16,323 vulnerable children (4,000 girls) ages 6 to 12 in 296 *daaras* have benefitted from this program, with at least 60 percent of students demonstrating the required competencies in the subjects tested. Children that previously would have been limited to religious education options within the insularity of *daaras*, now have access to quality education and can enter the mainstream system of secular public schools and gain a wider and more practical array of skills and knowledge for a modern economy and democratic society.

**Djibouti's** exceptional geopolitical placement means it is poised to become America's most significant diplomatic partner in East Africa. Fulfillment of this role is contingent on continued economic and political stability, and on sufficient education levels to uphold that stability. In order to realize this vision, our program, *Projet AIDE*, starts with the basics – increasing literacy for boys and girls through a national teacher training program. Literacy in Djibouti is only 68 percent nationwide, and 58 percent among women.<sup>4</sup> Thanks to *Projet AIDE's* gender, teacher training, and data work with the Ministry of Education, Djibouti is on track to reach gender parity before their 2015 target, and increased literacy rates will not be far behind. Once literate, youth need access to jobs to contribute to economic growth and prevent disenfranchisement. To

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<sup>1</sup> Collier, P. (2000) "Doing well out of War: An economic perspective," in Berdal, M. and Malone, D. M. (eds.) *Greed and Grievance: Economic Agendas in Civil Wars*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Boulder.

<sup>2</sup> *Education For All Global Monitoring Report – The Hidden Crisis: Armed Conflict and Education*. UNESCO. 2011. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0019/001907/190743e.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/dj.html>

address this need *Projet AIDE* supports the Ministry of Education to collaborate with local and multinational partners to help youth secure jobs, resulting in increased youth employment. *Projet AIDE*'s work – and USAID's funding – supports a key, neutral, reliable and democratic U.S. partner in the Horn of Africa, one we cannot afford to lose.

FHI 360's Drive to Read (DTR) program in **Jordan** was designed to address the educational needs of underprivileged Iraqi refugees and Jordanian children, both in-school and out-of-school, by providing access to free educational and cultural activities. According to UNESCO, more than 50,000 Jordanian children are not enrolled in primary school and another 40,000 youth drop out during lower secondary school. The program engaged communities, built civil society capacity, and improved reading outcomes and attitudes towards reading in participating children. Through DTR, tens of thousands of under-resourced Jordanian children gained access to the culture of learning at the heart of all educated societies, a culture which is vital to preventing radicalization and disenfranchisement among youth.

**Economic Growth:** Today, the fastest-growing markets for America's goods are in developing economies, representing 51% of U.S. exports in 2010.<sup>5</sup> More than one out of every five American jobs exists as a result of international trade.<sup>6</sup> The American private sector is acting to access those markets, and the U.S. government has a role in supporting their investment and American jobs. Educating the world's poor is essential to building the stable trading partners that growing U.S. export markets require. One hundred seventy one million people could be lifted out of poverty if all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, and education is necessary to reduce poverty and stimulate economic growth.<sup>7</sup> No country has achieved rapid economic growth without investing in education.

The Government of **Equatorial Guinea** and The Hess Corporation have each invested \$25 million in one of the largest public-private partnerships dedicated to education in the world. This unique partnership demonstrates the high value corporations place on an educated citizenry to open new markets and expand business – and the need for the U.S. government to invest and help develop markets where risk may be a barrier to private investment. Program for Education Development of Equatorial Guinea's (PRODEGE) impact is clear: nationwide repetition rates have decreased by 7 percentage points over four years and literacy skills are on the increase. Local leaders are now demanding increased government funding for further improvements in their education system based on the potential they have seen within PRODEGE. The students – and the country – are now on a clearer course for success, and Hess will benefit as well. The U.S. must continue to lead investment in education in order to expand economic growth in our markets.

In **Macedonia**, FHI 360 leverages strong support from international corporate partners such as Microsoft, Oracle, and Intel to augment USAID funding in the implementation of a workforce development program. Not only does this program provide students with critical informational

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<sup>5</sup> United Nations Commission on Trade And Development (UNCTAD). <http://unctadstat.unctad.org>

<sup>6</sup> Business Roundtable. *Trade and American Jobs: The Impact of Trade on U.S. and State-Level Employment*.

<sup>7</sup> UNESCO. "Education is the Key to Lasting Development." [http://www.unesco.org/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/ED/GMR/pdf/gmr2010/MDG2010\\_Facts\\_and\\_Figures\\_EN.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/ED/GMR/pdf/gmr2010/MDG2010_Facts_and_Figures_EN.pdf)

technology skills to support economic growth, the program results also support Macedonia's larger effort to enter the European Union through sustained economic growth, social stability, and a progressive, inclusive education system. The value of this work is clear to the private sector as evidenced by our partners' involvement, but the U.S. government backing is also necessary to attract private investment and achieve progress in together with host governments.

FHI 360's USAID-funded project in **Kenya** also works with corporate partners – Intel, Microsoft and Cisco – and the Ministry of Education in a pilot to train and support 300 educators from 20 primary schools and two secondary schools in the effective use of technology in teaching and learning. This effort is developing the skills a modern workforce needs and expanding potential markets. Additionally, our program has directly trained over 1,250 tutors from 19 primary teacher training colleges in quality teaching techniques, who have in turn reached 18,500 teacher trainees. A stronger teacher workforce with access to technology will result in youth better prepared for the global marketplace. These partners rely on USAID's contribution of computers and other equipment to provide the schools and students with the materials to utilize the software and the knowledge they need to engage in economic activity locally and globally.

**Effective and Sustainable Development:** Quality basic education programs enable the host government to build the necessary foundation for continued improvement in education and in other development sectors. For example, youth who have completed primary education are roughly half as likely to contract HIV and AIDS as those with little or no education.<sup>8</sup> Likewise, the returns on girls' and women's education are incomparable. Better educated girls and women lead to reduced poverty and increased per capita income. Every additional year of schooling a girl gains beyond fourth grade results in a 20 percent increase in wages.<sup>9</sup> The improved education of women accounts for half of the reduction of child mortality, totaling 4.2 million lives saved over the past 40 years.<sup>10</sup> A robust basic education program has ramifications for the long-term improvement of educational outcomes and for other U.S. development priorities, including gender equity, global health and economic growth.

FHI 360's basic education program in **Yemen** targets high dropout rates among girls by training teachers, building safer schools, and establishing mothers' councils. As a result, the girls' dropout rate in the program's target schools decreased by an average of 10 to 20 percent. Through installing more women in school administration and sensitizing communities – especially fathers – to the importance of girls' education, there has also been an increase in successful transfer to and attendance at secondary schools. Furthermore, under this program 1,200 women gained basic literacy skills and can now access life skills curriculum and help their children with their homework, breaking the cycle of poverty for their families. These kinds of outcomes for girls and women multiply the impact of other development programming; without

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<sup>8</sup> Global Campaign for Education, *Learning to Survive: How Education for All Would Save Millions of Young People from HIV/AIDS* (2004).

<sup>9</sup> *Where Peace Begins*. Save the Children. 2008. Citing: Collier, P. (2000) 'Doing well out of War: An economic perspective', in Berdal, M. and Malone, D. M. (eds.) *Greed and Grievance: Economic Agendas in Civil Wars*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Boulder.

<sup>10</sup> "Increased educational attainment and its effect on child mortality in 175 countries between 1970 and 2009: a systematic analysis." Dr Emmanuela Gakidou PhD, Krycia Cowling BS, Prof Rafael Lozano MD, Prof Christopher JL Murray MD *The Lancet*, Volume 376, Issue 9745, Pages 959 - 974, 18 September 2010 doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(10)61257-3

sufficient education levels among target populations many interventions will never achieve the desired outcomes.

In **Peru**, USAID's dollars have resulted in an increase in the Peruvian government's own investment in education. The government recently submitted a 17 percent increase in education funding – one of the largest education budget increases in recent history – so that they can replicate and scale up USAID-funded programming under their own budget. They based their justification for the increase on FHI 360's work with the Ministry of Education, which established a methodology to break down costs per school. With that information, they were able to estimate real costs nationwide justifying the significant budget increase. Our program also supports decentralization to regional and local governments, enabling them to replicate successful USAID approaches to introduce active learning in multi-grade schools using their own funds. Peru's education system – and the country as a whole – will benefit from their increased ownership and investment, but they would not have been possible without the initial investment from USAID.

Our program in **Ethiopia** models sustainable development by building the capacity at multiple levels for improved primary education and government ownership. Colleges of Teacher Education, primary school teachers, regional education bureaus, *woreda* (district) education offices, and communities master skills to decentralize school management, supervise teachers effectively and promote gender equity. The locus of planning, budgeting, and implementation is shifting fully to host government actors and its delivery system, in preparation for fully independent management, but they face a significant challenge in literacy. A national assessment of early grade reading skills found many children – even those enrolled in school – could not read a single word. Literacy rates are 43 percent overall and only 35 percent among women.<sup>11</sup> In response to that need, FHI 360 has trained more than 10,000 teachers and will train a total of 40,000. The ministry will tackle the challenge by using FHI 360 literacy training modules to scale up the training with their own funding. Ethiopia cannot accelerate their development alone, but with support from this USAID-funded program, they are striving to institutionalize higher quality education programming with their own resources. They are on the road to greater independence and development thanks to the investment of the American people.

In order to maximize and stretch our taxpayer dollars, investment in basic education must be a high priority alongside other international development and humanitarian programs. FHI 360 looks forward to working with the Subcommittee and with the rest of Congress, to ensure that quality basic education remains a pillar of our foreign assistance. By so doing, and by ensuring program accountability and impact, we can help alleviate poverty, strengthen societies, foster stability and security, and spur economic growth at home and abroad.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/et.html>



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## FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

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### **Saving Lives and Treasure: Investing in the Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict** Public Witness Testimony, Submitted to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs March 30, 2012

Since 1943, FCNL has lobbied Congress to end current wars, prevent the threat of war and help build a more peaceful, just world. After all these years, we are encouraged by the consensus now emerging among policymakers that the U.S. needs to invest more in developing *nonmilitary* tools for addressing global problems and preventing deadly conflict *before* it erupts. Such investments would save not only lives, but significant taxpayer dollars as well. As Friends, we have seen that the peaceful prevention of deadly conflict is possible through partnerships with local civil society around the world. Our request specifically pertains to support for the Complex Crises Fund, Conflict Stabilization Operations, Transition Initiatives, the Global Security Contingency Fund, Conventional Weapons Destruction, Palestinian Development Assistance, Migration and Refugees Assistance, Contributions to International Organizations and Contributions to International Peacekeeping at the State Department and USAID. We also strongly urge Congress to provide the Administration its requested authority to waive restrictions on U.S. contributions to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), on national security grounds.

We agree with the conclusion that Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey, and leaders in Congress have reached, with bipartisan recognition of the need to strengthen civilian capacity in order to meet today's complex security and humanitarian challenges.

The President's FY 2013 international affairs budget includes a number of modest but important investments that will preserve scarce resources by improving the U.S. government's ability to prevent and mitigate conflict. We were also encouraged that the Administration reduced the amount of international affairs funding included in the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account, which funds war-related programs. We've advocated for this shift, fearing that as OCO funding drops over the coming years, it will be harder for OCO programs to be absorbed in the base funding. The initiatives outlined below represent relatively small investments that could save billions of dollars and thousands of lives by preventing crises from turning violent, stemming mass atrocities, and avoiding costly interventions.

#### **Complex Crises Fund (CCF)**

The Complex Crises Fund (CCF) provides the State Department and USAID with a new and critical source of flexible funding "to prevent and respond to emerging or unforeseen crises." Without flexible funding, civilian agencies are often unable to act quickly when conflicts escalate or to undertake rapid stabilization, prevention, and crisis response activities. Previously, the Department of Defense had been left to fill this gap, undertaking its own crisis response activities or transferring funding to civilian agencies under the temporary Sec. 1207 authority granted by Congress since 2006. The Sec. 1207 authority expired at the end of 2010, with the CCF replacing it. The CCF was used last year in Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Tunisia, and Sri Lanka.

**We urge you to fully fund the Administration's request of \$50 million for the Complex Crises Fund.**

**Conflict Stabilization Operations (CSO)**

The Conflict Stabilization Operations bureau was created out of the 2010 Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review, and funds the Civilian Response Corps (CRC) and the former Office for the Coordinator of Reconstruction and Stabilization (S/CRS). The CSO Bureau absorbs the mandate and activities of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, and is charged with leading integrated, civilian efforts to prevent, respond to, and stabilize crises all over the world. CSO serves as the home bureau for State Department expertise on these issues.

S/CRS was created and mandated by Congress to coordinate reconstruction and stabilization operations, and to stand up the CRC. While S/CRS faced challenges in fulfilling this ambitious mandate, it took important steps in beginning to stand up the CRC, develop tools for conflict analysis and interagency coordination, and building capacity and expertise for the State Department in conflict prevention. S/CRS oversaw the civilian surge to support the U.S. Consulate General in Juba, Southern Sudan. The bureau played key roles in diplomatic engagement, conflict prevention and monitoring of the referendum on self-determination in southern states and offered support to the U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan during the transition. The new CSO bureau will continue to build upon this success.

**We urge you to fully fund the Administration's request of \$56.5 million for Conflict Stabilization Operations.**

**Transition Initiatives (TI)**

The FY13 budget also includes \$58 million for the Transition Initiatives (TI) account, which supports programs that help fragile or conflict-prone countries transition to peace and stability. Since 1994, OTI, part of USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, has laid the foundation for long-term development in 31 conflict-prone countries by promoting reconciliation, jumpstarting local economies, supporting nascent independent media, and fostering peace and democracy through innovative programming. In countries undergoing a transition from authoritarianism to democracy, violent conflict to peace, or pivotal political events, these initiatives can serve as catalysts for positive political change. TI has developed a strong track record over 15 years in applying short-term assistance to leverage opportunities for advancing peace and mitigating violence.

TI continues to work in Kenya, where the risk of renewed violence in advance of the country's next national elections remains high. Since 2008, TI has played an important role in reaching areas most impacted by past deadly conflict, supporting Kenyan communities' efforts to build peace and promote greater transparency within their government.

**We urge you to fully fund the Administration's request of \$58 million for USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives, allowing TI to continue and expand their work in Kenya and elsewhere.**

**Global Security Contingency Fund (GSCF)**

The FY12 budget requested \$50 million for a new account, the Global Security Contingency Fund (GSCF), to enhance foreign militaries as well as to provide justice sector rule of law and stabilization assistance. The fund was not authorized, however funding for these purposes was allocated for the Pakistan Counterinsurgency Capability Fund for FY12. The fund is to be pooled jointly between the Department of State and Department of Defense, and the Secretary of State must consult with the Secretary of Defense before using these funds. This fund is very similar to the 1207 transfer funds which were allowed to expire in 2010, in part because your committee and other congressional appropriators believed civilian agencies should be given direct authority over their own funding streams. FCNL is concerned that the administration's proposed GSCF recreates the 1207 authority and perpetuates the militarization of aid. While DoD may act as the implementer for some security assistance programs, the State Department and civilian leaders should decide how U.S. taxpayer dollars are spent on foreign assistance.

**We urge you to include report language that would focus the GSCF specifically on civilian rule of law and comprehensive justice reform, and appropriate this account solely to the Department of State and USAID,**

**rather than a joint account with the Department of Defense. We urge appropriators to exercise vigilant oversight over this account as it is implemented.**

#### **Contributions to International Organizations**

The CIO account provides money to pay U.S. assessed dues at 45 international organizations including the World Health Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Trade Organization, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and the United Nations. These organizations help advance a wide range of shared goals, including promoting economic growth, monitoring weapons proliferation, creating global trade norms, and addressing global health pandemics.

**We urge you to fully fund the Administration's FY2013 request of \$1.57 billion for Contributions to International Organizations.**

#### **Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities**

UN peace operations are cost-efficient and often prove vital in consolidating the peace in countries emerging from conflict. Funding these operations through the CIPA account saves lives in Darfur, Chad, Liberia, Haiti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and other conflict zones. By supporting UN peacekeeping, we lessen the burden on our own forces and reduce our own expenditures. In 2006, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study concluded that UN peacekeeping is *eight times less expensive* than funding a U.S. force.

**We urge you to fully fund the Administration's FY2013 request of \$2.164 billion for Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities.**

#### **Conventional Weapons Destruction**

Demining is essential to post-conflict recovery in dozens of countries, where landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) pose a mortal threat to civilians, disrupt refugee return, and impede agricultural production and economic development for years after armed conflict ends. This account responds to the risk to civilians posed by landmines, and excess small arms and light weapons, by providing funding to victims' assistance and removing weapons from loosely secured arms depots.

**We urge you to fully fund the Administration's request of \$126 million for the Conventional Weapons Destruction account.**

#### **Counterterrorism and Military Assistance to Kenya**

The Administration has requested that accounts including Antiterrorism Assistance, International Military Education and Training, Foreign Military Financing, Export Control and Related Border Security, and the Terrorist Interdiction Program provide counterterrorism and military assistance to Kenya. As the country's next national elections approach and the potential for renewed violence increases, we fear that a focus on these programs – rather than on those dedicated to conflict prevention and long-term peacebuilding – may undermine U.S. support for what is most effective in countering violent extremism: a peaceful, just society. U.S. assistance to Kenya's military is likely to support the intervention in Somalia, which could not only further destabilize the region and hinder humanitarian efforts, but continue to escalate internal tensions. Moreover, given the extent to which Kenya's security forces perpetuated violence during the 2007-2008 post-election crisis, we remain concerned about any initiatives that seek to train and equip Kenyan law enforcement. The lack of progress on police and security sector reform in Kenya, as well as the widespread failure to hold police accountable for past violence, make vigilant monitoring of any assistance provided and full compliance with the Leahy Law increasingly essential.

**We urge you to reject bilateral funding intended to support the Kenyan military presence in Somalia, as well as to include report language that ensures vigilant oversight of any security assistance provided and emphasizes full compliance with the Leahy Law.**

#### **Palestinian Development Assistance**

This account provides crucial economic funding and budgetary support for the Palestinian Authority, and life-saving

humanitarian assistance in the West Bank and Gaza. U.S. development and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian Authority and this distressed population is an important investment in the long-term stability of the Middle East. FCNL urges Congress to reject punitive efforts against ordinary Palestinians and the Palestinian Authority for seeking a non-violent, multilateral approach to self-determination at the U.N. and to encourage comprehensive negotiations in good faith between Israel and a unified Palestinian government, encouraging rather than impeding Palestinian reconciliation efforts.

**We urge you to support \$370 million in Economic Support Funds for the Palestinian Authority, and reject onerous, punitive restrictions on aid.**

#### **Migration and Refugee Assistance**

This account provides life-saving protection and assistance needs of refugees, conflict victims, stateless persons, and vulnerable migrants worldwide. The President's FY 13 budget request for the MRA account is \$1.6254 billion. FCNL, along with a host of humanitarian and refugee advocacy groups, supports increasing this funding for the MRA account to a minimum of \$1.875 billion. A funding level of \$1.875 billion for FY 13 would match the FY12 total funding level enacted.

**We urge you to support a minimum of \$1.875 billion for the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) account.**

#### **National Security Waiver for Restrictions on U.N. Contributions**

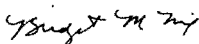
The President's FY 13 budget request includes a notification of the Administration's intent to "work with Congress to seek legislation that would provide authority to waive restrictions on paying the U.S. assessed contributions to UNESCO. Should Congress pass this legislation, this funding [requested for the CIO account] is sufficient to cover the FY 2013 UNESCO assessment and the balance of the FY 2012 assessment". The loss of U.S. contributions continues to weaken UNESCO projects which serve U.S. and global security interests, including: literacy training for Afghan police and Afghan women, tsunami early warning systems, Holocaust education in the Middle East and Africa, and worldwide initiatives to support media freedom, democratic institution building, and disaster response and prevention. UNESCO's operating costs in the field, including its security costs, are much lower than those of U.S. contractors, particularly in countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, South Sudan and the Middle East.

**We urge you to grant the Administration's request for the authority to waive restrictions on funding for UNESCO, on national security grounds.**

Preventing deadly conflict and advancing global peace and stability requires addressing both triggers of violence and underlying root causes of conflict. The international affairs budget includes many other accounts which also contribute to building resilient societies and helping reduce the potential for violent conflict. Thank you for your continued leadership to protect and increase investments in vital foreign assistance programs which increase the security, health and economic well-being for billions around the world.

As you prepare the FY 12 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, and in the face of challenging budgetary choices, we ask that you consider these requests and make saving both lives and dollars a priority.

Sincerely,



Bridget Moix  
Senior Legislative Secretary for Foreign Policy  
Friends Committee on National Legislation

**STATEMENT OF ALEX PALACIOS  
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE  
THE GAVI ALLIANCE**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

**UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515**

**March 30, 2012**

Madam Chairwoman,

The GAVI Alliance welcomes the opportunity to update the members of the House State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee regarding the progress of the world's poorest countries with support from the GAVI Alliance to introduce new vaccines against diseases that kill and harm children. I urge the Subcommittee to support the Administration's fiscal year 2013 request to provide a \$145 million United States contribution to the GAVI Alliance.

**SUCCESS OF GAVI IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM**

The GAVI Alliance, founded in 2001, is a public/private partnership with the mission to save children's lives and protect peoples' health. GAVI does this by increasing access to immunization in poor countries. By the end of 2011, GAVI had supported the immunization of 326 million additional children, who might not otherwise have had access to vaccines. This figure includes:

- 296 million children immunized against hepatitis B;
- 124 million children protected against *Haemophilus influenza* type b (Hib), the cause of deadly forms of meningitis and pneumonia;
- 41.6 million children who have received yellow fever vaccine.

Also, a series of investments in measles, polio and tetanus vaccines have prevented 1.4 million future deaths.

Since 2000, the Alliance's impact has averted more than five and a half million future deaths, making a significant contribution toward achieving Millennium Development Goal 4 (MDG4): reducing child mortality by two-thirds before 2015.

## **GAVI PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP MODEL**

The GAVI Alliance represents a new model of development cooperation. This includes a business to business relationship with countries and features innovations such as results-based financing, and vaccine co-financing by all recipient countries. The U.S. has been a long-standing and close partner, helping to shape the organization's policies and providing also technical support in addition to financial resources.

The GAVI Alliance is a lean operation: overhead represents less than 5 percent of its total budget. Among its cost-saving approaches is that it makes use of its partners' capacities. For example, GAVI's procurement is done through the UNICEF global procurement division.

## **FUTURE GOALS FOR GAVI**

In November 2010, the GAVI Alliance Board approved a new five-year strategy (2011-2015) made up of four strategic goals to ensure the Alliance delivers on its overall mission. The goals are:

- To accelerate the uptake and use of underused and new vaccines,
- To strengthen capacity of integrated health systems to deliver immunization,
- To increase predictability and sustainability of financing for immunization and
- To shape vaccine markets to provide appropriate and affordable vaccines.

Full implementation of the four strategic goals will see GAVI immunize roughly 240 million additional children by 2015 and prevent nearly four million more future deaths. This includes the roll-out of pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines to protect against the world's two main child killers, pneumonia and diarrhea, as well as sustained progress in providing the pentavalent, meningitis and yellow fever vaccines. Progress towards these objectives is systematically monitored on a quarterly basis. GAVI's business plan ensures the organization is focused on delivering on these objectives.

That's not to mention the other benefits of preventing illness, such as greater productivity and less out of pocket health expenses for medical treatment that often drives families into poverty.

## **SAVING MORE LIVES**

Everything is in place for GAVI to seize this opportunity to save more lives:

- New life-saving and cost-effective vaccines offering protection against pneumococcal disease and rotavirus, the leading causes of pneumonia and diarrhea respectively, are available to low-income countries through GAVI's program support;
- The platform for delivery is ready with immunization coverage now reaching an average 4/5 of young children;
- Developing country demand is high: by the end of 2011, 61 countries had been approved for support for the pentavalent, the five-in-one vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP), *Haemophilus influenza* type b (Hib) and hepatitis B (hepB); 17 for yellow fever vaccine support, 37 for pneumococcal vaccine support and 21 for rotavirus vaccine support.

An independent evaluation of GAVI in 2010 concluded that demand for pneumococcal vaccine, in particular, was greater and faster growing than for any other vaccine to date.

Fully resourced, GAVI can protect the health of:

- 90 million children against pneumococcal disease – the leading cause of pneumonia;
- 50 million children against rotavirus diarrhea;
- 230 million children with the five-in-one pentavalent vaccine;
- 65 million children against yellow fever.

## CONCLUSION

I want to thank this Subcommittee for its long-standing support of the GAVI Alliance and for Child Survival and Maternal Health programs overall. We at GAVI realize the fiscal challenges faced by the U.S. and other donor countries and we are working hard to ensure the best-possible stewardship and accountability related to these resources.

We respectfully request that the subcommittee recommend \$145 million for GAVI for fiscal year 2013. We also request that the funding for GAVI be included within the Maternal and Child Health account and that funding for that account be provided at a level of at least \$651 million.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Written Testimony of Dr. Christoph Benn, Director of Resource Mobilization & Donor Relations of the Global Fund, to the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs  
 March 30, 2012**

I would like to thank the Chair, the Honorable Kay Granger, the Ranking Member, the Honorable Nita Lowey, and the entire Subcommittee for the honor of submitting written testimony for Fiscal Year 2013. On behalf of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund), I want to express our deep appreciation for the Subcommittee's ongoing leadership and support on global health issues, and for your commitment to the growing bipartisan consensus that innovative, transparent and accountable health programs like the Global Fund not only save lives, but also contribute directly to stability, security and economic growth throughout the world. With your steadfast support, the Global Fund has achieved remarkable results in its first ten years of existence: it has provided HIV/AIDS treatment to 3.3 million people; ensured 8.6 million people infected with tuberculosis have treatment; distributed 230 million insecticide-treated nets; and supported programs providing 1.3 million HIV+ pregnant women with treatment to prevent mother to child transmission. However, your continued support is necessary to ensure ongoing programs in the field continue to operate and the successes of the last decade are not reversed. Therefore, I strongly urge you to support President Obama's request of \$1.65 billion for the Global Fund in Fiscal Year 2013 in the International Affairs budget in the Department of State's Global Health and Child Survival Account.

**U.S. Bipartisan Support for the Global Fund:** Ten years ago the world faced an unprecedented crisis – six million people were dying each year from AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria – three diseases that are treatable and preventable, and in the case of tuberculosis and malaria, curable. Not only did they cause unimaginable human suffering, but they also destabilized regions and impaired economic growth across the globe. Confronted with these threats, and under the strong leadership of President George W. Bush and a bipartisan Congress, the U.S. helped to create the Global Fund in 2002. The Global Fund functions as an innovative public-private partnership that raises and disburses funds worldwide to support large-scale prevention, treatment and care programs that fight the three diseases. Since 2002, with the support of the U.S. and other donors, the Global Fund has approved more than \$21 billion in 150 countries, saving and improving millions of lives worldwide.

**Guiding Principles:** The U.S. has been much more than an impetus for the Global Fund's creation and its largest donor. As an active member of the Global Fund's Board, the U.S. has been instrumental in formulating a number of unique and innovative principles that guide the Global Fund's operations:

- Operating with the highest level of transparency and accountability by publishing all grant proposals, progress reports and Inspector General reports on the Global Fund's public Web site.

- Enhancing sustainability and impact by leveraging at least \$2 from the international community for every \$1 the U.S. contributes.
- Partnering with myriad private-sector organizations that provide valuable resources and increase awareness of the Global Fund's work (including Chevron, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and (RED)), and private-sector partners that provide invaluable expertise on implementing programs (including The Coca-Cola Company).
- Maximizing country ownership by letting nations design their programs based on their specific priorities and needs on the ground, while holding them accountable for effective implementation.
- Incorporating an independent review process where grant proposals are first evaluated by a Technical Review Panel comprised of global health experts that make recommendations to the Global Fund Board, which ultimately makes funding decisions.
- Insisting on performance-based grant funding to make sure that precious taxpayer dollars are only invested in well performing grants that achieve concrete results.
- Involving civil society in all aspects of the organization's operations, including local non-governmental organizations and faith-based organizations (FBOs). Since 2002, the Global Fund has channeled over \$500 million to churches and other FBOs, including the United Methodist Church, Lutheran World Relief, Catholic Relief Services and others.

**Close coordination with U.S. Bilateral Programs:** Like the Global Fund, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) were also established under the strong leadership of President George W. Bush and a bipartisan Congress in 2003 and 2005, respectively. These programs are interdependent, work in a well-coordinated way side-by-side in-country, and along with other aid programs, are achieving real and measurable impact. The Global Fund's close partnership with PEPFAR and PMI has led to unprecedented achievements against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. For example, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, antiretroviral treatment has led to a steep decline of approximately 50% in AIDS deaths over five years. In addition, new HIV infections have fallen by nearly 20% in the last ten years; tuberculosis incidence has fallen in five out of the six World Health Organization regions; and malaria infections have declined by 50% or more in a dozen African countries. We are now within striking distance of eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV and ending all deaths from malaria by 2015, goals that were unthinkable even a few years ago.

Together, the Global Fund, PEPFAR and PMI have dramatically changed the trajectory of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Therefore, full funding for all three programs is fundamentally important in order to ensure that we continue delivering high-impact interventions to the people who need them the most and stay on a path toward achieving our most important global health goals.

**Commitment to Innovation and Improvement:** Despite the Global Fund's successes over the past ten years, the organization was initially created to be a learning organization, and is firmly committed to building on its success by continuously adapting and improving processes to respond to the ever-changing global health environment. With strong input from the U.S. delegation and the Board, the Global Fund launched an improvements agenda focused on increasing efficiency, including a strong push to strengthen fiduciary controls. The Global Fund has a long-standing "zero tolerance for fraud" approach to any mishandling of funds and will take decisive action to suspend or terminate grants when

serious fraud and abuse is detected, as well as immediate action to recover lost funds. This led to a structure that consists of six layers of programmatic and fiduciary controls, including a strong and independent Inspector General (IG). The independent IG is one of several mechanisms in place at the Global Fund to preserve the integrity of U.S. and other donor contributions, and safeguard the organization's investments through rigorous grant audits and investigations.

Underscoring its commitment to improve and innovate, the Global Fund self-commissioned an independent High-level Panel (Panel) in 2011 to conduct a top-to-bottom review of the organization's fiduciary management and oversight mechanisms. Co-chaired by former Secretary of Health and Human Services, Michael O. Leavitt, and the former President of Botswana, His Excellency Festus Mogae, the Panel provided a set of recommendations for significant change in its final report, released in September 2011. The Panel not only provided strong and independent validation of the Global Fund's reform trajectory, but also set the organization on a path of transformation. As a result, in November 2011, the Global Fund Board of Directors approved the Consolidated Transformation Plan or CTP, which requires major changes to a number of the Global Fund's processes.

The CTP, which integrates the Panel's recommendations with ongoing reforms by the Global Fund Secretariat, will serve as a guide for reform efforts over the next 12 to 18 months. The CTP includes the following six areas of transformation:

- resource allocation and investment;
- risk management;
- grant management;
- secretariat organization and management;
- governance; and
- resource mobilization.

Many of the changes outlined in the CTP have already been implemented, or are well underway. In this regard, the Global Fund has already appointed a new General Manager, Gabriel Jaramillo, who began his one-year tenure at the Global Fund in February 2012, and who will oversee the day-to-day implementation of the CTP. Under his leadership, the Global Fund is undergoing an internal restructuring, allowing the organization to become more responsive, agile and effective, and support simplified administrative processes and stronger financial management. The structural changes will also enable the Global Fund to reconnect with its core mission of achieving remarkable results in the fight against the three diseases and to engage with partners regularly and effectively.

The Global Fund is committed to delivering on the changes included in the CTP, and keeping the U.S. and other donors apprised of its ongoing progress.

**Value for money:** The Global Fund fully understands that these are difficult economic times and that hard choices have to be made. Understandably, taxpayers demand that the U.S. Congress makes wise decisions about the use of precious limited resources. However, the resources allocated to the Global Fund, PEPFAR and PMI represent excellent value for money. In fact, the Conservative government in the U.K., which is implementing strong austerity measures, recently conducted a rigorous review of 43 international organizations to which their country contributes. They found that: the Global Fund is one of only nine organizations providing “very good value to the...taxpayer;” the Global Fund's

“standards for financial management and audit are very high;” and it “has been a major driver for a range of innovations in transparency.” The U.K. will now increase its contribution to the Global Fund despite sizeable overall budget reductions.

The Global Fund has quickly become the world’s most powerful weapon against the three diseases. However, reduced funding will not only result in lives lost, but also endanger stability, security and economic growth across the globe.

**The Need for Continued U.S. Leadership:** The Global Fund continues to improve and innovate in ways that will allow it to be more efficient and effective in the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria into the next decade. However, even as the organization is transforming itself, it is facing a funding shortfall brought on by a number of factors, including the extent and pace of donor contributions, foreign exchange rates, interest rates and other factors. As a result, the Global Fund Board revised downward its projection of assets in November 2011. The Board also took swift action to ensure that with its limited budget, the Global Fund’s current disbursements are focused more exclusively on the neediest nations and highest impact interventions.

The Global Fund is currently doing everything possible to obtain additional resources from both existing and new donors. However, without the help of the U.S. and other donors, it will be difficult for the Global Fund to continue maintaining critical services on the ground. In light of the Global Fund’s current funding gap, the U.S. Fiscal Year 2013 budget request is absolutely critical if the Global Fund is to maintain current programs in the field that are high-impact and save lives.

But America’s investment in the Global Fund goes beyond humanitarian efforts to save and improve lives affected by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria around the world. It also benefits U.S. national security and diplomacy by improving the country’s reputation abroad, opening markets to U.S. products, and stabilizing democratic regimes. If the U.S. maintains its leadership, it will also continue to leverage the support of other donors. But if we pull back at this especially critical moment, not only will human suffering increase, but U.S. leadership — maintained in a bipartisan fashion through two Administrations — will be abandoned, and long-term growth and stability will be impaired. Once we have lost this momentum, it will require even more costly investments in the future to get back on track.

The Global Fund has set a goal to help save 10 million lives between now and 2016. We have also reached the point where we can see the beginning of the end of AIDS and the end of deaths from malaria, along with historic progress in combating tuberculosis. A successful transformation of the Global Fund, along with the help of the U.S. and other donors, will allow the organization to help achieve these important global health goals. For all of the urgent reasons stated above, I strongly urge you to approve President Obama’s request of \$1.65 billion for the Global Fund in Fiscal Year 2013.

**Global Health Technologies Coalition Outside Witness Testimony for the Record  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs  
Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
March 29, 2012  
Kaitlin Christenson, Director, Global Health Technologies Coalition**

**US Agency for International Development Global Health Programs FY 2013  
appropriations**

Chairman Granger, Ranking Member Lowey, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the fiscal year (FY) 2013 appropriations funding for the US Agency for International Development (USAID). We appreciate your leadership in global health, and we hope that your support will continue. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC), a group of nearly 40 nonprofit organizations working together to advance US policies that can accelerate the development of new global health innovations—including new vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, microbicides, multi-purpose technologies, and other tools—to combat global health diseases and conditions. The GHTC members strongly believe that to meet the world's most pressing global health needs, it is critical to invest in research today so that the most effective health solutions are available now and in the future. We also believe that the US government has a historic and unique role in doing so. My testimony reflects the needs expressed by our member organizations, which include nonprofit advocacy organizations, policy think-tanks, implementing organizations, product development partnerships (PDPs), and many others.<sup>1</sup> We strongly urge the Committee to continue its established support for global health research and development (R&D) by (1) sustaining and supporting the US investment in global health research and product development, (2) instructing USAID, in collaboration with other agencies involved in global health, to prioritize R&D in all international development programs, and (3) requiring leaders at US agencies to put plans in place to ensure that global health R&D is efficient, coordinated, and streamlined.

**Critical need for new global health tools**

Every day, more than 35,000 people die from AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), malaria, and other neglected diseases. Malaria alone kills at least 650,000 people each year, and infects millions more. The health detriments these diseases cause, even when not fatal, have profound implications in other areas such as economic stability and access to education. This highlights the urgent need for sustained investment in global health research to deliver new tools to combat these devastating diseases. Where drugs and other health technologies exist for these diseases, many have grown ineffective due to increasing drug resistance and toxicity or are costly and difficult to administer in poor, remote, and unstable settings. While we must increase access to proven, existing drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and other health tools to tackle global health problems, it is just as critical to develop the next generation of tools to fight existing disease and address emerging threats such as dengue and drug-resistant TB. There are several very promising technology candidates in the R&D pipeline; however, these tools will never be available if the support needed to continue R&D is not supported and sustained.

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<sup>1</sup> Global Health Technologies Coalition. <http://www.ghtcoalition.org/coalition-members.php>.

### **Leveraging the US capacity for innovation**

US investment in global health R&D has generated great success in treating devastating diseases and improving the lives of millions through new technologies. Past US investments contributed to such breakthroughs as the eradication of smallpox, a 74 percent drop in measles deaths worldwide, and the creation and delivery of more than 172 million bed nets, which are significantly reducing malaria infections. The US is at the forefront of innovation in global health technologies. For example, in December 2010, a new meningitis vaccine—developed and implemented by PATH Meningitis Vaccine Project (a partnership between PATH and the World Health Organization) with support from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as the Serum Institute of India, and other partners—was distributed in several African countries. In these countries, where there used to be up to 250,000 infections and 25,000 deaths per year from meningitis A, there were just 4 infections total in 2011—an enormous success.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, in the fall of 2011, the first ever malaria vaccine to show effectiveness, RTS,S, developed by the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative with support from the Department of Defense (DoD), CDC, and USAID reported clinical trial results that showed impressive efficacy against the most deadly strain of malaria.

USAID, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of Defense (DoD), CDC, FDA and other agencies involved in global health R&D regularly collaborate with the private sector in developing, manufacturing, and introducing important technologies such as those described above through public-private partnerships, including product development partnerships (PDPs).

PDPs are a unique form of public-private partnerships established to drive greater development of products for neglected diseases. Currently, there are more than 26 PDPs developing drugs, vaccines, microbicides, and diagnostics that target a range of infectious and neglected diseases, including HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, Chagas disease, dengue fever, and visceral leishmaniasis.

While each PDP operates differently depending on the disease area(s) of focus, they typically employ a portfolio approach to research and development (R&D) to accelerate product development by pursuing multiple strategies for the same disease area. They also work in close partnership with academia, large pharmaceutical companies, the biotechnology industry, and with regulatory and other government agencies in developing countries.

PDPs are delivering on their promise to develop lifesaving products for use in countries where disease burdens are highest and no viable commercial markets exist. To date, PDPs have developed and licensed 16 products to combat neglected diseases in low- and middle-income countries. More can be expected from PDPs in the future with sustained and additional support: in 2009, PDPs had more than 120 biopharmaceutical, diagnostic, and vector-control candidates in various stages of development, including 32 in late-stage clinical trials. In the next five years, it is anticipated that several new technologies could be ready for use or in final stages of clinical development. This unique model has enormous potential for success if robustly supported.

Some examples of successful collaboration include the Xpert MTB/RIF assay for TB diagnosis, a diagnostic test that can detect tuberculosis in less than five hours, developed through a USAID partnership with the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) and Cepheid, a private

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<sup>2</sup> MenAfriVac project. <http://www.meningvax.org/measuring-impact.php>.

manufacturer. Additionally, the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), a PDP which has received support from both USAID and NIH, has helped reach the unprecedented milestone of delivering over 100 million treatments of Coartem® Dispersible, a lifesaving medicine for children, developed in partnership with Novartis.

### **Innovation as a smart economic choice**

Global health R&D brings lifesaving tools to those who need them most; however, the benefits are much broader than preventing and treating disease. It is also a smart economic investment in the United States, where it drives job creation, spurs business activity, and benefits academic institutions. Biomedical research, including global health, is a \$100 billion enterprise in the US. In Washington State, \$4.1 billion is generated annually from global health activities, including R&D. In North Carolina, the economic impact from global health is roughly \$2 billion. It is important that the US government support industries, such as global health R&D, which exhibit such strong potential to build the economy at home and abroad. Global health R&D is an important legacy of USAID's work for over three decades, and should be supported and protected. History has shown that investing in global health research not only saves lives but also produces cost-savings and efficiencies. In the United States alone, for example, polio vaccinations during the last 50 years have resulted in a net savings of \$180 billion. New therapies to treat drug-resistant TB have the potential to reduce the price of treatment by 90 percent and cut health system costs significantly. The US has made smart investments in research in the past that have resulted in lifesaving breakthroughs for global health diseases, as well as important advances in diseases endemic to the United States. It is essential that we keep this momentum going and not allow this research to lag behind, in order to maximize the resources we have devoted to these programs. We must now build on those investments to turn those discoveries into new vaccines, drugs, tests, and other tools. Additionally, R&D for neglected tropical disease (NTD) treatments and vaccines could bolster USAID's current NTD program, which currently focuses only on the seven most common NTDs. Such investments can ensure that the progress made in the past several years, thanks to increased support from the United States, is not reversed.

### **Recommendations**

Support for global health research that saves lives around the world—while at the same time promoting innovation, creating jobs, and spurring economic growth at home—is unquestionably one of the nation's highest priorities. In keeping with this value, the GHTC respectfully requests that the Committee do the following:

- Sustain and support US investments in global health research and product development. As there is no specific line item in the federal budget that dictates funding levels for global health R&D, it is important to protect the US investment in the entire global health programs account of the USAID budget, as well as fully fund each disease-specific account, while also honoring US commitments to multilateral global health programs. We ask that this support not come at the expense of robust funding for the entire set of poverty-focused humanitarian and development accounts within the State and Foreign Operations budget.
- Instruct all US agencies in its jurisdiction involved in global health to prioritize R&D within all development programs by creating actions plans, including metrics to measure

progress. We request that leaders at the US Department of State and USAID work with leaders at other US agencies, including the NIH and the CDC to ensure that efforts in global health R&D are coordinated, efficient, and streamlined. This should include establishing transparency mechanisms designed to show what global health R&D efforts are taking place and how US agencies are collaborating with each other to make efficient use of the US investment.

- Direct that the results of these initiatives should be reported on to Congress and be made publicly available. Past reports of the health R&D activities at USAID have helped coordinate efforts between agencies and transparently inform the public about the investment of taxpayer money. These reports must be continued in the future and should include information on all US government agencies involved in global health R&D. We were pleased that in last year's appropriations package, Congress requested that USAID develop a five year strategy for health-related research activities, continuing on its previous work.

Building on that direction, we respectfully request that the Committee consider inclusion of the following language in the report on the FY 2013 State and Foreign Operations appropriation legislation.

"The Committee recognizes the critical contribution that USAID's research and development portfolio makes to the production of new global health technologies, and the need to sustain and support US investment in this area by fully funding USAID to carry out this work within each of the US global health and development programs. New global health products are cost-effective public health interventions that play an important role in improving global health. The Committee also acknowledges the positive impact that global health research and development has on the US economy through the creation of US jobs and the development of foreign markets for US products. Public-private partnerships, such as product development partnerships that promote the development of necessary tools to fight global health threats that affect developing countries have had success in the development of drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and devices, and should continue to be a component of the innovation and research agenda. The Committee directs USAID to improve its research and development activities by creating concrete plans to prioritize and incorporate global health research and product development within each of the US global health and development programs, with support from coordinating agencies and the Administration, and creating metrics to measure progress. The Committee applauds USAID's efforts to develop a new five year strategy for health-related research and development, and directs USAID to deliver annual reports on the implementation of this strategy for each of the US global health and development programs to Congress and the public. The Committee directs USAID to collaborate with the State Department, the US Department of Health and Human Services Administration, and the Office of the US Global AIDS Coordinator in coordinating global health research strategies to ensure that US investments in global health research are efficient and streamlined."

On behalf of the members of the GHTC, I would like to extend my gratitude to the Committee for the opportunity to submit written testimony for the record.



**Helen Keller**  
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**STATEMENT BY**

**DAVID GLASSMAN**

**TRUSTEE**

**HELEN KELLER INTERNATIONAL**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS,**

**AND RELATED PROGRAMS**

**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**MARCH 29, 2012**

Madam Chairwoman,

I am David Glassman, a volunteer member of the Board of Trustees of Helen Keller International, and it is a pleasure to provide testimony for the Subcommittee. I urge the Subcommittee to recommend in fiscal year 2013 at least \$2.5 million for blind children; \$89 million for Neglected Tropical Diseases; at least \$20 million for vitamin A; and the use of funding under accounts for HIV/AIDS to ensure adequate food and nutrition for people with HIV/AIDS. I also urge you to support at least \$651 million for Child Survival and Maternal Health and increased funding for nutrition programs.

Headquartered in the United States, Helen Keller International (HKI) currently offers programs in 22 countries: 13 in Africa, 8 in Asia and the United States. Co-founded in 1915 by the deaf-blind crusader Helen Keller, HKI is a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing blindness and reducing malnutrition worldwide. Our programs serve tens of millions of vulnerable people each year. But the need is still great to do more.

### **BLIND CHILDREN**

One child goes blind every minute. According to the World Health Organization, one and a half million children are blind and almost 19 million children suffer from low vision and uncorrected refractive errors.

Throughout their lives, blind children in developing countries must depend completely upon their families and government health systems. Blind children are often neglected and rarely receive opportunities to attend school or develop the skills needed to become independent, productive members of society.

For the vast majority of these children, their blindness is avoidable. Cost-effective, proven strategies are available to prevent and treat vision loss in children. Many children can be helped through simple and inexpensive operations and vision correction. Helen Keller International addresses the needs of children who are legally blind or have very poor vision – or who are at risk for these conditions.

This House Subcommittee has consistently supported a program for blind children in developing countries. In partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the program has helped hundreds of thousands of children address the major causes of childhood blindness and low vision.

I urge the Subcommittee to continue the Blind Children funding at a level of at least \$2.5 million for fiscal year 2013 and that the program be administered in a manner that the maximum amount of funds are delivered to the field.

## **VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY**

It is estimated that every year 670,000 children will die from vitamin A deficiency (VAD), and 350,000 children will go blind. Vitamin A is essential for growth, eye health, cognitive development and immune system function. It is a key determinant of maternal and child survival. Providing vitamin A to children between six months and five years of age reduces mortality by an average of 25%, and helps prevent blindness and vision impairment.

HKI's programs to address vitamin A deficiency are known for their efficiency and success in reaching large numbers of children. With the support of USAID, HKI has become a recognized leader in distributing vitamin A capsules to mothers and children in countries across the world.

Vitamin A supplementation is considered one of the most cost-effective public health interventions in the world. At a cost of approximately \$1 per child per year, it takes just two high-dosage vitamin A capsules to prevent vitamin A-related blindness and improve a child's chance of survival.

HKI has also made significant progress in increasing the availability of vitamin A through other strategies, such as Homestead Food Production, which teaches families to cultivate fruits, vegetables and animal sources rich in vitamin A; and through public-private food fortification partnerships that add vitamin A to cooking oil, an approach that has the potential to improve the health status of millions.

I urge the Subcommittee to provide at least \$20 million for vitamin A for fiscal year 2013.

## **NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES**

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) blind, disfigure, disable, stigmatize and can kill, trapping the more than 2 billion people who live on less than \$1.25 a day in a cycle of poverty and disease. Research has shown that eliminating NTDs can allow millions to climb out of poverty, particularly by increasing access to education and improving economic performance.

The USAID Neglected Tropical Diseases program has already made possible the treatment of more than 160 million people worldwide as part of large scale disease control and elimination programs. Through USAID programs and the generous support of the pharmaceutical manufacturers who have donated their products to NTD programs, more than 250 million NTD treatments have been disseminated in 14 countries since 2007. The United States has become the global leader by taking the lead in increasing access to medicines to treat the most common NTDs.

Helen Keller International supports addressing all of the diseases in the current targeted program for NTDs, including lymphatic filariasis (elephantiasis); schistosomiasis (snail fever); trachoma; onchocerciasis (river blindness); and intestinal parasites or soil-transmitted helminthes

(hookworm, roundworm, and whipworm) and leprosy. HKI supports administering these programs through existing grant mechanisms.

For decades, Helen Keller International has been a recognized leader in addressing blinding trachoma and onchocerciasis. HKI has also had considerable success in combating anemia through interventions that control soil-transmitted helminthes, as well as in integrating lymphatic filariasis treatment into onchocerciasis control programs.

Trachoma, the leading cause of preventable blindness worldwide, is endemic in 57 countries, with nearly 75% of the afflicted in Africa. Globally, trachoma has left over 7.5 million people irreversibly blind and almost 50 million in need of treatment. HKI supports the provision of sight-saving surgeries for thousands of individuals suffering from trichiasis (the blinding phase of the disease) in Africa and works with its local partners to consistently improve surgical quality and patient outcomes.

Soil-transmitted helminthes are estimated to infect one billion people worldwide. These chronic, disabling and often disfiguring infections contribute to a downward cycle of poverty and deprivation. Since school children bear the highest infection loads, Helen Keller International implements school-based de-worming programs that have an enormous positive impact on the community.

Critical support for these programs is provided through corporate donations of the drugs that prevent and treat these diseases, including from GlaxoSmithKline (albendazole), Merck & Co., Inc., (ivermectin) and Pfizer Inc. (azithromycin).

I urge the Subcommittee to continue the United States' leadership in Neglected Tropical Diseases control during fiscal year 2013 by supporting continued funding of at least \$89 million.

## **NUTRITION**

One in three women and more than 170 million children under the age of five in the developing world suffers from undernutrition. More than a third of child deaths are a result of undernutrition.

Micronutrients and other interventions are now providing assistance to more than 10 million infants, children and women every year. HKI supports the continuation and expansion of these programs and asks that the Subcommittee recommends increased funding under the Nutrition-specific account within global health programs for fiscal year 2013.

## **HIV/AIDS, MICRONUTRIENTS AND NUTRITION**

Nutrition plays an important part in maintaining a quality of life for people with HIV/AIDS. There is increasing evidence that lack of food and nutrition security for individuals with HIV/AIDS diminishes the effectiveness of other prevention, care and treatment strategies. Adequate nutrition – not just food, but food with essential vitamins and minerals – is a key component of care and treatment of people with HIV/AIDS.

HKI completed a pilot project in Cambodia that demonstrated its Homestead Food Production program can be effectively tailored to meet the nutritional needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. Based on this evidence and our experience, I urge the committee to support the use of HIV/AIDS accounts to be used for programs that address the development and implementation of nutrition support, guidelines, and care services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

### **FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

Investments in food security and agriculture programs that explicitly focus on improving nutrition in vulnerable populations through access to and utilization of nutritious foods (those that contain adequate levels of vitamins and minerals) can produce long-term gains in child survival, health improvements, income enhancement, poverty reduction, and broad-based economic growth.

I urge the Subcommittee to support a food security and agricultural strategy which includes improvements in nutrition, including micronutrients, as central objectives and measurable outcomes and puts the focus on supporting small-holder families, particularly women farmers, and other vulnerable populations.

### **CHILD SURVIVAL AND MATERNAL HEALTH**

Each year, nearly 7.6 million children die before their fifth birthday. Maternal and child undernutrition is an underlying cause in one third of these deaths, and continues to be a cause and consequence of diseases and disability in the children who survive.

I urge the Subcommittee to recommend funding of at least \$651 million for Child Survival and Maternal Health in fiscal year 2013.

### **CONCLUSION**

Over the years, Helen Keller International has accomplished a great deal, saving the sight and lives of millions. Today, we are as determined to accomplish even more on behalf of children and adults in developing countries.

Helen Keller may have said it the best, *“Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.”* Thank you for your consideration.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS**

**Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Request**

*Via Electronic Mail:*  
[SF.Approp@mail.house.gov](mailto:SF.Approp@mail.house.gov)

**Name of Submitting Institution/Entity**  
Humane Society International (HSI)

**Primary Contact**

Kitty Block  
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**Project Statement of Purpose:**

Funding will be used to support environmental trade capacity building and environmental cooperation activities related to implementation of the environment chapters of the United States – Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (PTPA), the United States - Central America - Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), the United States – Panama Free Trade Agreement and the United States – Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

**Agency, Program, Amount of Money Involved:**

Total Project Cost: \$30 million. This would include \$10 million for environmental trade capacity building under the PTPA, \$10 million for environmental trade capacity building under CAFTA-DR and, given the recent passage of the FTAs with Panama and Colombia, \$10 million to be split between these countries for environmental activities related to implementation of the environment chapters of those agreements.

A review of the Presidential Budget for FY13 (see pg. 155 for State and other international programs budget) revealed no specific line items for environmental trade capacity building. However, there are more general line items for State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) that provide the agencies with discretion as to how that funding should be spent. Under the “Direct Trade Capacity Building Funding” Table in the Department of State’s Foreign Operations Congressional Budget Justification for FY 2013 (pp. 341-342), there is \$17.323 million allotted for Western Hemisphere and \$10.5 million allotted for Oceans and International Environment and Scientific Affairs. However, the table does not provide figures regarding what percent of the funding is available for environmental trade capacity building in Latin America. In the past, Congress has specified how much of the State and USAID funding should be used for trade capacity building, including for environmental trade capacity building in particular. *We are submitting this*

## HSI FY 2013 Appropriations Request

*request with the hope that Congress will again include a specific provision in the FY 2013 Appropriations Bill dedicating funding for environmental trade capacity building under the above-mentioned FTAs.*

Implementation of environment chapters of U.S. free trade agreements (FTAs) involves cooperation among USAID, U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Trade Representative's office. Other agencies may also be involved depending on the agreement (e.g., Fish and Wildlife Service).

The programs involved in implementation of the environment chapters of these agreements are designed by the U.S. and the trading partner/s involved. The countries prepare a work plan for environmental trade capacity building and environmental cooperation that becomes the guide for on-the-ground work. Programs are typically implemented by a hybrid of government personnel, and the public and private sector. Funding for these programs is not an earmark request. Work done on these programs will be competitively bid out.

### Project Summary:

The PTPA, CAFTA-DR, Panama FTA and Colombia FTA contain provisions requiring parties to effectively enforce their environmental laws and committing parties to environmental cooperation activities that include wildlife protection, deforestation, and other pressing environmental concerns. *Environmental trade capacity building funding is critical to carrying out these obligations, particularly since many U.S. trading partners are not at the same level of economic development as the U.S. and need assistance reaching the level of environmental protection specified in the agreement and called for by the U.S.*

In a July 2009 report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO Report 09-439), which reviewed labor and environment progress/obstacles under U.S. FTAs with Chile, Singapore, Morocco and Jordan, reliable funding for environmental issues was cited as a key component to making progress in implementing the environmental obligations in these FTAs. The relevance of this conclusion extends to more recent FTAs as well, such as the PTPA, CAFTA-DR, and the FTAs with Panama and Colombia. Beginning in 2005 for CAFTA-DR, and 2008 for the PTPA, Congress has set aside dedicated funding for environmental trade capacity building (see chart below).

	PTPA	CAFTA-DR
FY 2005		\$20 million (for labor and environment)
FY 2006		\$40 million (for labor and environment)
FY 2007		\$40 million (for labor and environment)
FY 2008*	\$6 million (labor and environment)	\$10 million (for labor and environment)
FY 2009*	\$10 million (for environment)	\$20 million (for labor and environment)
FY 2010*	\$16 million (for labor and environment, with \$13 million for environment specifically)	\$20 million (for trade capacity building generally, including labor and environment)
FY 2011	Continuing Resolution (eff. 4/15/11)	
FY 2012	\$20 million for labor and environment trade capacity building for U.S. trade agreements with Peru, Central America, and the Dominican Republic	

\*Information in Bill as well as accompanying explanatory statement.

## HSI FY 2013 Appropriations Request

This funding has resulted in significant environmental benefits, such as strengthening enforcement of environmental laws, protecting and conserving biodiversity, and promoting conservation through sustainable tourism. Under CAFTA-DR, for example, there are a number of successful wildlife protection and enforcement programs that have had measurable benefits for the environment, local communities, and biodiversity. *See, e.g.,* [http://www.caftadr-environment.org/top\\_menu/activities/activity\\_theme\\_b.html](http://www.caftadr-environment.org/top_menu/activities/activity_theme_b.html). Under the PTPA, many programs are underway focused on implementation of the environment chapter and Forest Annex, with special focus on increasing law enforcement of environmental laws and providing training to Peruvian government personnel on endangered species. *See, e.g.,* USAID FY 11 Quarterly Report, USFS Peru Forest Sector Initiative.

Environmental trade capacity building funding is critical to addressing broad issues, such as:

- (1) effective enforcement of environmental laws, including those focused on implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs);
- (2) institutional changes and reforms, such as reforms of national environmental laws and/or changes to Ministries (e.g., in Peru, a Ministry of Environment was established following entry into force of the PTPA); and
- (3) goals of increasing public participation, such as through the establishment of independent secretariats that receive citizen complaints about environmental enforcement issues, or creation of national advisory committees that assist the government with trade and environment policy.

As one of the only non-governmental organizations (NGOs) focused on wildlife issues arising under trade agreements, our organization is not only concerned with broader objectives as outlined above, but also with more specific issues dealing with wildlife protection and deforestation/destruction of natural habitats. This includes programs that focus on successful implementation of national laws implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (applicable to forestry and wildlife), training for government officials on how to identify and properly confiscate illegally traded wildlife, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, and promotion of ecotourism as an economic alternative to poaching and illegal wildlife trade.

Explicitly designating funding in FY 2013 to implement environmental obligations under U.S. FTAs is necessary to support new and ongoing multi-stakeholder programs. Since the PTPA, CAFTA-DR, and Panama and Colombia FTAs are the most recently negotiated, and have the most comprehensive environmental obligations, we believe emphasis should be placed on these agreements.

## HSI FY 2013 Appropriations Request

**Budget Breakdown (\$30 million total):**

- **PTPA - \$10 million:** \$2 million for wildlife in particular, \$8 million for all other.
  - Wildlife programs (see below \*)
  - Strengthening the capacity to develop, implement and enforce environmental and forest sector laws and regulations, putting special emphasis on national and regional forest authorities.
  - Support for implementation of the Forestry and Wildlife law and regulations, and any future reforms of such law and regulations.
  - Training Peruvian government officials and NGOs at the national, local and regional levels on effective implementation of environmental laws, including those implementing MEAs like CITES that are listed in the environment chapter.
  - Implementation of the Forest Annex, including ensuring chain of custody requirements are met.
  - Establishment and support for an independent secretariat, pursuant to the obligations of the agreement, to consider citizen submissions regarding effective enforcement of environmental laws (support includes salary, personnel, overhead, and a publicly available website).
  - Building capacity to promote transparency and public participation in forest sector governance (e.g., including civil society in discussions/consultations about legal reforms of the forestry sector).
  - Support for the Environmental Affairs Council and Environmental Cooperation Agreement.
- **CAFTA-DR - \$10 million:** \$2 million for wildlife in particular, \$8 million for all other.
  - Wildlife programs (see below \*)
  - Continued support for strengthening effective enforcement and implementation of environmental laws, including those implementing MEAs such as CITES, at the national, regional and local levels.
  - Continued support for wildlife rescue centers to handle the numerous animals (including support for infrastructure) confiscated from the illegal wildlife trade, in order to ensure the best possible rehabilitation and release. (see also below \*)
  - Continued support for the Independent Secretariat, pursuant to the obligations of the agreement, who considers citizen submissions regarding effective enforcement of environmental laws (support includes salary, personnel, overhead, and a publicly available website).
  - Continued support for the Environmental Affairs Council and Environmental Cooperation Agreement.
- **Panama and Colombia FTAs - \$10 million:** \$2 million for wildlife in particular, \$8 million for all other.
  - Wildlife programs (see below \*)
  - Support for implementation of environmental commitments under the FTAs.
  - Support for effective enforcement and implementation of environmental laws, including those implementing MEAs such as CITES, at the national, regional and local levels.

## HSI FY 2013 Appropriations Request

As indicated, HSI believes that of the total amount for environmental trade capacity building under the above-mentioned four FTAs, not less than \$2 million should be set aside for wildlife programs in particular, including:

- Wildlife protection and enforcement (includes training, public outreach, establishment and maintenance of wildlife rescue centers, and ecotourism programs that provide an alternative income source to poaching - all of which will also help countries meet their obligations under the trade agreements to effectively enforce their national environmental laws, including those implementing CITES).
- Funding for wildlife rescue centers. Strong wildlife laws and enforcement efforts will be undermined if there are insufficient or ill-equipped facilities to handle confiscated animals.

### Language in the FY 2012 Bill:

*Trade Capacity- Of the funds appropriated by this Act, not less than \$10,000,000 under the heading 'Development Assistance' and not less than \$10,000,000 under the heading 'Economic Support Fund' shall be made available for labor and environmental capacity building activities relating to free trade agreements with countries of Central America, Peru and the Dominican Republic.*

### Proposed Language for FY 2013:

*Of the funds appropriated by this Act, not less than \$10,000,000 per agreement shall be made available for environmental trade capacity building activities related to implementation of the environment chapter of free trade agreements with countries of Central America, Peru and the Dominican Republic.*

*An additional \$10,000,000 shall be made available to assist with the implementation of the environment chapters of free trade agreements with Panama and Colombia. Of these funds, \$2,000,000 under CAFTA-DR, \$2,000,000 under the United States-Peru TPA and \$2,000,000 combined under the United States-Panama FTA and United States-Colombia FTA shall be used for wildlife protection and conservation programs, including support to wildlife rescue centers. The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the United States Department of State shall work together to determine priority funding needs.*

\*Note: Changes/additions to FY 2012 language are underlined. The proposed language for FY 2013 does not include a request for funding for labor initiatives as this is outside the scope of our organization's work, although we recognize that labor and environment funding are typically addressed together. Our hope is that any funding for labor will be provided in addition to the funding requested above.

Dr. Allan E. Goodman  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Institute of International Education

I am writing in support of the Administration's request of \$250,717 million for the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) Fulbright Scholarship Program for fiscal year 2013. The Bureau promotes international mutual understanding through a wide range of academic, cultural, private sector, professional, youth and sports exchange programs. ECA exchange programs engage youth, students, educators, artists, athletes, and emerging leaders in the United States and in more than 160 countries. The Institute of International Education is honored to administer the Fulbright Program on behalf of ECA.

Founded in 1946, the Fulbright Program is America's flagship exchange program, operating on a global basis and advancing mutual understanding and U.S. foreign policy goals in every world area. A uniquely effective, global and flexible form of public diplomacy, it enables participants from diverse cultural, ethnic and economic backgrounds to create ties of understanding and respect between the United States and other countries.

Today, the Fulbright Program operates in more than 155 countries. The breadth and depth of the program are unrivaled and allows for significant economies of scale and the ability to address key State Department priorities immediately and directly. The Fulbright Program has expanded in many critical countries and world regions, including China, Russia, Brazil, Egypt, Turkey, India and Indonesia, to name a few.

Fulbright is a small but essential component of the foreign affairs budget that makes a very valuable contribution to U.S. global leadership and national security. This investment in future leaders in the United States and the countries that we interact with is one of the most effective foreign policy tools at our disposal. Many of our senior diplomats have said that exchanges are an essential part of building strong bilateral relations, and experience has shown that exchanges are key to cultivating relationships with current and future foreign leaders. Young specialists supported by this program will be tomorrow's leaders in business, politics, and international affairs – in the U.S. and abroad.

As the world is increasingly interconnected, threats and opportunities are global. Understanding and knowledge, as well as the ability to work collaboratively, are critical tools in solving problems and working effectively in international commerce, issues of security, governance and addressing critical world problems. Fulbright supplies and fosters those abilities, as well as a respect and appreciation for other people, cultures and countries. Fulbright is a world leader in rigorous and meaningful educational exchange experiences.

Fulbright's worldwide recognition and respect engenders support from other nations who also contribute significant resources to Fulbright. In addition, the Program leverages private funding and university support. But, while other nations and entities contribute, the leadership role of the United States is paramount.

Fulbright alumni are today and will be tomorrow's leaders in government, business finance, health, trade, security, the arts and media. Fulbright alumni serve in leadership positions in government, academia, business, the arts, science, media and other professional fields and have been the recipients of 43 Nobel Prizes, 78 Pulitzer Prizes, 28 MacArthur Foundation Awards and 16 U.S. Presidential Medals of Freedom. In this Congress alone, Representatives Tom Cole (R-OK) and Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ) number among Fulbright alumni.

Fulbright's contributions to U.S. future leadership are exemplified by Nathaniel Drew Bastian, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point who was a Fulbright Fellow to the Netherlands in 2008-2009. He is currently an Assistant Operations Officer and UH-60 Black Hawk Pilot on combat deployment in Afghanistan. He describes the impact of his Fulbright experience in the following terms:

"For my Fulbright grant, I studied and researched at Maastricht University School of Business and Economics in the Netherlands. By closely interacting with both Dutch students and professors, I learned how to exchange knowledge and information effectively, analyze complex problems, collect pertinent data, and formulate and present collective solutions. I believe my interactions with the Dutch whom I worked with and met changed their perceptions of Americans. As my Fulbright Program took place during our riveting 2008 presidential election and the global economic recession, I had many intriguing conversations and debates with the Dutch about American foreign policy, economics and health care. Additionally, I made lasting impressions as a Soldier, officer and aviator in the United States Army because I shared my various experiences from the military."

Some might believe that international education and exchanges simply cannot be afforded during a time of budget constraint. But, curtailing exchanges fails to make an investment in America's national and economic security both in the short and long term. Continued leadership has never been more necessary. I strongly urge the subcommittee to fund the Fulbright Program at the Administration request.



The largest alliance of U.S.-based international nongovernmental organizations focused on the world's poor and most vulnerable people.

March 30, 2012

Dear Member of Congress:

We, the undersigned members of InterAction, write to urge you to support strong funding for international development and humanitarian assistance accounts in FY2013 as outlined in the attached account-level recommendations.

InterAction's member nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) work in every developing country. We know how to save a child's life by providing vaccinations or anti-malaria bednets, partnering with local communities wherever possible. We know how to respond rapidly when conflicts or natural disasters overwhelm people. We know that working with local men, women, girls and boys to teach, share and expand sustainable agricultural techniques helps the world's poorest people eat not just for one day but build livelihoods that can help them escape poverty for a lifetime. We know that promoting democracy and good governance is fundamental because governments chosen by the people respect and protect their populations.

Our compassion, and for some our faith, call us to do the right thing. At the same time, today's fiscal climate requires us to take a fresh look at the best ways to maximize impact from limited taxpayer resources while responding to humanitarian crises and tackling global poverty. Federal spending on poverty-focused development and humanitarian relief amounts to only seven-tenths of 1 percent of the total U.S. budget, so we must ensure that tax dollars are used efficiently and effectively.

That's why InterAction doesn't just advocate for resources. We support ongoing comprehensive efforts to modernize and reform the way aid is delivered, and we advocate for improved partnerships between the U.S. government, U.S. NGOs, and local governments, communities and organizations that are transparent, accountable and deliver results. Our field experience in working with local partners to design and deliver programs directly to people in need greatly reduces the risk of wasted funds. By working together, we can help people around the world lead more prosperous, sustainable and healthier lives.

This work requires long-term commitment, foresight and the wisdom to seize opportunities for change. For example, after 15 years of work targeting polio, India was recently declared free of that disease by the World Health Organization. On the disaster relief front, while we have seen famine conditions recede in southern Somalia, over 2 million civilians are still in need of life-saving assistance; many of these people will remain in crisis throughout 2012. Meanwhile, a serious food and nutrition crisis looms in Africa's Sahel region; 5.5 million are food insecure in Niger alone. The Arab Spring in North Africa and the Middle East presents a historic opportunity – and challenge – to help foster empowerment of local civil societies. These

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and other hotspots demand active and engaged U.S. diplomacy and assistance – both of which depend on strong funding of the international affairs account. Commitment and nimble investment in these regions now can help local people and communities build sustainable institutions that reduce the need for aid over the long term.

Given the strong practical and moral arguments for investing in our international development and humanitarian programs, and the small fraction of the federal budget those programs constitute, we urge you to support funding for vital international development and humanitarian accounts that is as strong as possible.

Our attached FY2013 funding recommendations for the U.S. government's poverty-focused international development and humanitarian relief programs are built on decades of field experience working with local communities to deliver assistance. Please feel free to contact Ken Forsberg at [kforsberg@interaction.org](mailto:kforsberg@interaction.org) for recommendation justifications.

Thank you for giving serious consideration to our recommendations and for your continuing leadership in Congress.

Respectfully,

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. ACDI/VOCA   | 20. CBM   |
| 2. Action Against Hunger   | 21. Center for Health & Gender Equity (CHANGE)                        |
| 3. ActionAid International USA                                       | 22. Center for Justice and Peacebuilding/Eastern Mennonite University |
| 4. ADRA  | 23. CHF International   |
| 5. African Methodist Episcopal Church Service and Development Agency | 24. ChildFund International   |
| 6. Air Serv International  | 25. Christian Reformed World Relief Committee                         |
| 7. All Hands Volunteers  | 26. Church World Service  |
| 8. Alliance for Peacebuilding  | 27. CIVIC   |
| 9. America's Development Foundation                                  | 28. Concern America   |
| 10. American Jewish World Service                                    | 29. CONCERN Worldwide   |
| 11. American Near East Refugee Aid                                   | 30. Congressional Hunger Center                                       |
| 12. American Red Cross   | 31. Counterpart International   |
| 13. American Refugee Committee International                         | 32. Creative Learning   |
| 14. AmeriCares   | 33. Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, Inc. (DREDF)        |
| 15. Amigos de las Americas   | 34. Education Development Center, Inc.                                |
| 16. Basic Education Coalition  | 35. Episcopal Relief & Development                                    |
| 17. Better World Campaign  | 36. Ethiopian Community Development Council                           |
| 18. Bread for the World  |   |
| 19. CARE   |   |

37. Family Care International
38. Friends of the Global Fight
39. Global Washington
40. Habitat for Humanity International
41. Handicap International/USA
42. Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
43. Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)
44. Heifer Project International
45. Helen Keller International
46. HelpAge USA
47. IMA World Health
48. INMED Partnerships for Children
49. Institute for Sustainable Communities
50. International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
51. International Foundation for Electoral Systems
52. International Fund for Animal Welfare
53. International Housing Coalition
54. International Medical Corps
55. International Relief & Development, Inc.
56. International Relief Teams
57. International Rescue Committee
58. International Youth Foundation
59. IntraHealth International Inc.
60. Islamic Relief
61. Life for Relief and Development
62. Lions Clubs International
63. Lutheran World Relief
64. Management Sciences for Health
65. Medshare
66. Mercy - USA for Aid and Development
67. Mercy Corps
68. Merlin USA
69. National Association of Social Workers
70. Operation USA
71. Pact
72. PATH
73. Pathfinder International
74. PCI
75. Perkins International
76. Plan International USA
77. Planet Aid
78. Plant with Purpose
79. Population Action International
80. Population Communication
81. Project C.U.R.E
82. ProLiteracy Worldwide
83. Relief International
84. Resolve
85. ReSurge International
86. Save the Children
87. SEVA Foundation
88. Stop Hunger Now, Inc.
89. The Alliance to End Hunger
90. The Hunger Project
91. Transparency International-USA
92. Trickle Up Program
93. U.S. Climate Action Network
94. U.S. International Council on Disabilities (USICD)
95. United Methodist Committee on Relief
96. US Committee for Refugees & Immigrants
97. US Fund for UNICEF
98. VAB
99. Water for South Sudan
100. WaterAid in America
101. WellShare International
102. Winrock International
103. Women Thrive Worldwide
104. World Food Program USA
105. World Learning
106. World Neighbors
107. World Wildlife Fund

<b>InterAction FY2013 Recommendation ACCOUNT (or sub-account)</b>	<b>(incl. OCO) (in \$ thousands)</b>
<b>GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS - USAID</b>	<b>\$2,798,250</b>
Maternal and Child Health	\$650,550
Family Planning in All Accounts	\$700,000
Nutrition	\$200,000
Vulnerable Children	\$17,500
HIV/AIDS	\$350,000
Malaria	\$650,000
TB	\$236,000
Neglected Tropical Diseases	\$89,000
<b>GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS - STATE</b>	<b>\$6,142,860</b>
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria	\$1,650,000
<b>NIH GLOBAL HEALTH - HHS</b>	<b>\$605,700</b>
<b>CDC GLOBAL HEALTH - HHS</b>	<b>\$362,900</b>
<b>DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>\$2,681,532</b>
Food Security and Agriculture in all bilateral accounts	\$1,245,971
Microfinance	\$265,000
Basic Education in all accounts	\$925,000
Climate Change in All State and USAID Accounts	\$522,900
SCCF & LDCF	\$50,000
Biodiversity in all accounts	\$200,000
Water in all accounts	\$350,000
<b>MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT</b>	<b>\$898,200</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL ORG'S AND PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$348,705</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION</b>	<b>\$1,358,500</b>
<b>GLOBAL AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$134,000</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>MCGOVERN-DOLE INT'L FOOD FOR EDUCATION &amp; CHILD NUTRITION - AG BILL</b>	<b>\$209,500</b>
<b>GREEN CLIMATE FUND</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>INT'L DISASTER ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>\$1,466,000</b>
<b>MIGRATION/ REFUGEE ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>\$1,875,100</b>
<b>EMER. REFUGEE &amp; MIGRATION ASSIST (ERMA)</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>P.L. 480 TITLE II FOOD FOR PEACE - AG BILL</b>	<b>\$1,840,000</b>
<b>TRANSITION INITIATIVES</b>	<b>\$57,600</b>
<b>USAID OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,374,246</b>
<b>USAID WORKING CAPITAL FUND</b>	<b>Authority to establish and fund</b>
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES (CIPA)</b>	<b>\$2,164,580</b>
<b>PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS (PKO)</b>	<b>\$249,100</b>

**Written Testimony of  
Dr. Zeda F. Rosenberg, Chief Executive Officer, International Partnership for  
Microbicides**

**Before the  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs**

**March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Madam Chairwoman, Representative Lowey and Members of the Subcommittee, My name is Zeda Rosenberg and I serve as CEO of the International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM), a non-profit organization with the mission to develop and make available safe and effective microbicides for use by women in the developing world to prevent HIV/AIDS. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FY 2013 budget request for the Global Health and Child Survival Account at USAID. IPM urges Congress to provide \$51 million for Microbicide funding out of USAID's FY 2013 appropriation, an increase of \$6 million over the President's Microbicide line item request of \$45 million. An increase in funding is essential at this time to help ensure an optimal product development effort, especially in light of the new efficacy data showing the promise of microbicides. We are also requesting two pieces of report language for Microbicides which are included at the end of my statement. We commend the Subcommittee for the funding and leadership it is already providing in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

IPM is one of 17 nonprofit enterprises that embody an important model to advance the global health field. Known as product development partnerships, or PDPs, these organizations combine the business model of the private sector with the public sector's commitment to global public health. As of mid-2009, 17 PDPs were developing more than 122 products to respond to HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, meningitis, respiratory illnesses and other diseases.

As you know, HIV/AIDS ranks among the world's most devastating diseases because it has spread rapidly and mainly affects young women in their most productive years. Women are at a heightened risk of HIV infection due to a variety of biological, economic and social factors. Since the epidemic began, 60 million people have contracted HIV and 25 million have died. The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and other programs have made significant progress in providing antiretroviral (ARV) drugs to those who need treatment around the world. However, while treatment has been revolutionary, treatment alone will not end this epidemic. Statistics indicate that for every person who starts ARV treatment in low and middle income countries, two to three individuals become newly infected with HIV.

Current prevention strategies are not enough to stop the spread of HIV — particularly among women, who are especially hard hit by the epidemic. My testimony will provide a brief overview of the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on women, and an update on several important scientific advances of the past few years which stand to make a significant global health impact.

Women and girls continue to bear the burden of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. A mix of biology and culture renders women more susceptible to HIV infection than men. In some parts of the sub-Saharan Africa, young women (aged 15-24) are up to eight times more likely to be infected than young men of the same age. HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death globally in

women 15-44 years of age, and exacts an especially high toll in sub-Saharan Africa where the epidemic has hit hardest. The infection rate among women and girls is unyielding in every region of the world. Everyday more than 3,000 women and girls become infected with HIV.

Marriage, once thought to be a refuge from the epidemic, is no haven. Many new HIV infections occur in women who are married or in long-term relationships with one partner. In Kenya, many more married and widowed women are HIV positive than those who have never been married. In Zambia, data suggest that 60 percent of people newly infected through heterosexual transmission became infected with HIV within their marriage or while living with their partner.

The burden of caring for those with HIV/AIDS most often falls to women and girls, making them even more vulnerable. Many female caregivers have little time to earn an income, produce food, and go to school or support families. These women and girls, along with their families, are more likely to be malnourished, in poor health, or economically destitute — all factors that further increase their risk for HIV infection.

This is why microbicides are so important. Microbicides will specifically address one of the central weaknesses in the current continuum of HIV prevention options: the lack of a prevention method that women can use to protect their own health. Microbicides are biomedical products being developed to prevent HIV in women. These new products promise to make a significant difference for women worldwide, and in helping to reverse the HIV/AIDS epidemic over time.

In order for a microbicide to be most effective, it is essential that it is used correctly and consistently, and is acceptable to the user. One ARV-based gel that has shown promise for HIV prevention is tenofovir gel. In July 2010, the CAPRISA 004 clinical trial in South Africa found a 39% lower HIV infection rate in women using tenofovir gel as compared to the women using a placebo gel. In the CAPRISA trial, women were instructed to use the gel twice, up to 12 hours before sex and again within 12 hours after sex. Tenofovir gel was the first ARV microbicide to be tested in an efficacy trial. Though confirmation trials are ongoing, the study indicated that those who used the test product as recommended (higher adherence) achieved increased effectiveness.

The technology IPM is currently advancing, long-acting vaginal rings with Dapivirine (another ARV-based microbicide), are replaced once a month and may have benefits over dosage forms that need to be used more frequently as they may help ensure that the products are used consistently, thus increasing a woman's chance to be protected at any given time. Our work to date suggests a long-acting product will be easier to correctly, and consistently use, leading to greater adherence and improved effectiveness of the product. Additional research on microbicides is ongoing, including studies to confirm the efficacy of tenofovir gel (the product studied in the CAPRISA trial).

The microbicide products being tested today are based on the same type of ARV drugs being used to treat people living with HIV/AIDS and to prevent mother-to-child transmission of the virus. ARV medicines have extended and saved millions of lives across the globe — adapting those drugs to protect healthy adults from becoming infected with HIV could transform the global response to the epidemic. In fact, ARV-based microbicides are following the lead of other

life-saving prevention methods that have been successfully adapted from treatments for diseases such as malaria, influenza and pneumonia.

In closing, my recommendations to the Subcommittee are:

Funding rather than science remains the primary obstacle in our ability to provide these lifesaving products to women who need them most. The requested funding increases at USAID can help ensure the development of microbicide products is completed, and that new products are made readily available to women. This issue has received strong bipartisan support over the years. Unfortunately, global funding levels for microbicide research are well below the annual \$320 million amount recommended by experts to ensure an optimal product development effort, especially in light of the new efficacy data showing proof of concept.

IPM respectfully urges the Subcommittee to provide \$51 million for microbicide research at USAID, up from the current level of \$45 million. \$6 million in the short term could result in a truly transformative response to the epidemic by reducing HIV infections throughout the world.

In addition, I encourage the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) to continue to play a leadership role in coordinating and supporting microbicide research by defining a pathway for product rollout and access, ensuring that the communities hardest hit by HIV/AIDS will have access to microbicides as soon as regulatory bodies have provided product approval.

It is important to note that the South African government, along with USAID, recognizing the promise of microbicides to help reverse the epidemic in their country, provided funding support to the landmark CAPRISA study. Both have committed significant funding to the confirmatory study, FACTS, needed for tenofovir gel. Their leadership on this issue has been significant.

Science now indicates a way out of this epidemic, but we need additional resources to finish this research and time is of the essence. Only through a collaborative and extraordinary effort will we be able to take full advantage of the opportunity presented to us. For our part, this effort begins with the goal of enabling regulatory approval of the first safe and effective ARV based microbicide for women, and carrying through to product rollout and access. This goal cannot be reached without the support of the State Department, USAID, and NIH. The impact in terms of lives saved and infections averted will pay off, improving public health and in turn allowing for greater economic stability, productivity and well-being in nations hardest hit by the epidemic.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

**Microbicides**  
**Fiscal 2013 State, Foreign Operations**  
**Appropriations Committee Report**

**U.S. Agency for International Development/State Foreign Operations**

The Committee provides \$51,000,000 for research on and development of microbicides to prevent HIV.

The Committee recommends continued support for antiretroviral [ARV] based microbicide development and introduction and directs the Office of the United States Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) to support microbicide development, implementation and access strategies, *especially given that research has shown the potential for antiretrovirals (ARVs) to prevent HIV infection in women*. USAID should coordinate with OGAC, the National Institutes of Health, other Federal agencies and donors to expedite microbicide development, with the goal of enabling regulatory approval of the first safe and effective microbicide for women and supporting product development and efficacy trials of alternative ARV based microbicides. Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, the Committee directs USAID to provide a report on microbicide funding by recipient and activity and plans for fiscal year 2013 funds.

**Office of U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator**

PEPFAR's goal of preventing 12 million new HIV infections over 10 years will require new strategies, including the introduction of microbicides once approved. The Committee directs OGAC to provide support to USAID to advance microbicide development, implementation and access strategies, and encourages OGAC to consider support for microbicide trials. The Committee directs OGAC to provide within 45 days after enactment of this Act a strategic plan and timeline for microbicide development and access, and for making microbicides available to women once regulatory approval is achieved.



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**STATEMENT BY JEANNE BOURGAULT  
PRESIDENT, INTERNEWS**

**BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND  
RELATED PROGRAMS  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**MARCH 30, 2012**

Madame Chairwoman, on behalf of Internews, I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to the Subcommittee on the importance of access to reliable, quality, local news and information. We are very grateful for the Subcommittee's leadership and support for programs that strengthen global civil society and improve access to information. We urge the Committee to continue funding such media and civil society development programs through the Department of State and the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in fiscal year 2013. We request that the Subcommittee:

- Continue to support independent media and digital activists across the Middle East and North Africa as these countries navigate their political transitions and turn to building stable, democratic societies.
- Continue to support U.S. government funding for local media in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- Recognize and support the important role information plays in responding to humanitarian crises.
- Increase investment in independent media as a tool for addressing pressing global health issues, including HIV/AIDS.

Internews, an international non-profit organization headquartered in California, has been working to improve the flow of civic minded, locally-produced news and information for 30 years. We have worked in over 70 countries and trained more than 80,000 people in journalism and media skills.

Today we are active from Haiti to Mongolia working with local partners in pursuit of a better world. This includes working with Kenyan journalists to help prevent violence around the 2013 presidential election, training Libyan journalists as they contribute to building a new society, and supporting independent media organizations in critical countries such as Afghanistan and Pakistan.

## **MEDIA AND POLITICAL MOVMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

In places such as Libya and Tunisia, the dismantling of authoritarian regimes has meant the possibility of freedom of expression for those who work in the media. Internews has moved quickly to respond to changing circumstances, including a radically altered information environment. Internews is currently working with several media outlets across Libya to improve the quality of their reporting on local issues as well as developing a media landscape survey to better understand the existing capacity and challenges ahead for the Libyan media sector. In addition to Libya, Internews has worked with traditional and new media throughout the region. This includes training Tunisian bloggers and opening an innovative program in Iraq intended to foster understanding of the domestic natural resource extraction industry.

I ask that the Subcommittee recognize that all forms of media will play an important role in the future of Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and other nations in this important region. As historic events unfold, it is vital that this committee continue to provide support for Middle Eastern civil society, especially by empowering local and national media institutions to responsibly fill their critical role in a democracy.

## **SUPPORTING QUALITY NEWS AND INFORMATION IN SOUTH ASIA**

Internews continues to see strides in the development of a responsible media in ways that mark true progress towards stability amidst volatile conditions in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Active in Afghanistan since 2002 with support from USAID, Internews has developed a network of 46 independent, Afghan-owned and led radio stations. Four of the stations are run by women, and all make a concerted effort to create the brave conversations and programming that can improve the rights and status of women and girls. Last year, Internews began expanding support to the rapidly growing regional television sector in Afghanistan.

Beyond this network of stations, Internews is investing in local partners, helping them become sustainable independent organizations. In January, the Internews-founded partner, Nai, launched the independent and accredited Nai Media Institute (NMI), offering the first-two year vocational Diploma in Media course in Afghanistan.

Internews has also launched four regional Multimedia Production Centers (MMPCs) in Afghanistan. The centers provide local citizen access to the Internet, online literacy and training in new media skills with the aim of increasing access to information, building civil society networks, and enabling citizens' entrepreneurial development.

In Pakistan, Internews implements a variety of projects including training journalists, supporting a nationwide network of press clubs, and providing humanitarian information services in flood affected areas. In both Afghanistan and Pakistan, Internews supports leaders of local media, regional universities, and NGOs all of whom are making cutting edge gains where new generations of leaders, even in the face of enormous challenges, continue to work and make real impacts.

We ask that the Committee continue US government support, through funds provided for the U. S. Agency for International Development and the Department of State for local, independent media in Afghanistan and Pakistan for fiscal year 2013.

### **INFORMATION IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES**

Emergency situations, from earthquakes to revolutions, require concerted, cooperative efforts by local media in conjunction with humanitarian and government agencies to keep the population informed. Accurate, thorough, local-language news and information can dispel rumors and ensure that individuals have the information they need to make decisions about their lives and livelihoods.

In the Central African Republic, where access to and sharing of information with affected communities is essential but currently largely under resourced, Internews has created a unique and innovative network connecting 15 community radio stations enabling humanitarian agencies to quickly exchange information with communities throughout the country. Using mobile phones and internet connections, the network exchanges information between radio stations or between the radio stations and the coordination center.

The international community needs to do more to ensure that information delivery is a key component of humanitarian aid, along with food, water and shelter. In a survey of Pakistani flood survivors, only half said they had any access to electronic or mass media after the floods. The response to humanitarian crises must include a focused effort to provide truly lifesaving news and information to affected communities in a timely manner and in the ways they need. Internews notes the importance of emerging mobile phone technologies and online platforms that are rapidly enhancing and helping the role that traditional local media also play.

### **HARNESSING MEDIA TO RESPOND TO HIV/AIDS AND IMPROVING GLOBAL HEALTH**

In nearly a decade of work in Sub-Saharan Africa, Internews has seen the critical impact that accurate information has on public health. Supported by USAID, our projects have stimulated accurate, responsible, and effective local media coverage on HIV/AIDS and pandemic health issues. In Kenya, a PEPFAR grant was used to train and mentor journalists to educate the public on effective HIV prevention and treatment methods. Over time, these journalists matured into some of the best on the continent; some went on to cover Kenya's disputed presidential election and subsequent political crisis, using the skills they learned to draw the world's attention. Three of them were nominated for CNN's Journalist of the Year award.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

In 2011, Internews launched the Internews Center for Innovation and Learning and funded 11 pilot projects ranging from Social Innovation Camps in Bosnia to improving the flow of information in rural Indonesia through mesh networks. When combined with locally-driven, people-oriented development projects, new technologies and communication tools can deliver critically needed information faster and more efficiently in developing areas of the world.

We ask that this Subcommittee continue to recognize the importance of emerging information technologies in the developing world. Over the last ten years, the world's communications systems and norms have been re-made as desktop publishing tools, global access to the internet, and the increasing distribution of cell phones have given more of the world's population the ability to access, create and distribute information

With more citizens, businesses and governments than ever before reliant on internet and telecoms to effectively function and thrive, access to a truly open global internet is critical. Internews works to support efforts to keep the internet available, open and resilient, including where it is least available and least developed. As the threats to an open Internet increase and the challenges to access for ordinary citizens become more complex, we believe that Internet freedom will continue to be one of the hallmarks by which we measure how far and how successful we are in building and maintaining communications for all.

I urge the Subcommittee to provide funding for programs under USAID and the Department of State that support independent media, and advocate for laws and policies that promote a globally open internet and fair mobile phone markets the world over.

## CONCLUSION

We believe that a major goal of U. S. foreign policy should be universal access to quality, local and accurate information. Local media, citizen media, and civil society institutions armed with communications technologies can empower communities to build and harness the services they need to be safe and healthy, to make their voices heard, and connect to the global marketplace of goods and ideas, and build grassroots democracy. Media and information technologies can exponentially amplify American approaches to development, diplomacy and national security.

Name: W. Robert Pearson

Title: President

Affiliation: IREX

Re: Testimony for the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

As a former ambassador who also served thirty years in the US Foreign Service, I am writing in strong support of the Department of State exchanges budget at a level of \$598 million for FY13. This key public diplomacy tool for the American people cannot be underestimated. When I was ambassador to Turkey, I saw first-hand the importance of exchanges in strengthening the ties among people, universities, and communities in ways that normal state-to-state diplomacy could not accomplish. Now, as President of IREX, I continue to see how this critical investment by US taxpayers reaps long-term benefits for US communities across the nation and on the global stage. For nearly 45 years, IREX has been privileged to act abroad on behalf of the American people. As a leading international nonprofit organization with a broad global presence, working in over 120 countries, we have seen that international exchanges change lives and change minds to more fully appreciate the inestimable contribution of the United States to a safer America and a more democratic world.

### Importance of Exchanges

Let me outline for you below a few of the reasons why international exchanges are critical:

- **Exchanges build allies:** With the many challenges that face our country in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we need allies across a spectrum of key sectors (business, government, media, NGOs) in strategic countries that are willing to engage with the United States. Exchange programs are a cost-effective tool that build and nurture those relationships with unparalleled success.
- **Exchanges bring resources to US communities:** Virtually the entire State Department exchanges budget is spent in the United States or on American participants, and exchange visitors spend substantial personal funds here.
- **Exchanges change minds:** State Department evaluations regularly demonstrate that international exchange participants complete their programs with a better impression of the United States and its people. US ambassadors consistently rank exchange programs among the most useful catalysts for long-term political change and mutual understanding.

### Progress in Eurasia<sup>1</sup> is in the US National Interest

Further, not only is the US global presence in our national interest, our presence in Eurasia continues to be of vital importance. Terminating exchange programs that affect this vital stretch of geography will also end the opportunities for thousands of youth and

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<sup>1</sup> Eurasia includes the countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

engaged citizens to benefit from the American experience and put that experience to work in their own countries. Let me highlight for you below some salient truths:

- **Russia** and **Ukraine** continue to backslide from democratic principles, cracking down on opposition groups, domestic and international non-governmental organizations, and individual citizens.
- Once US forces are out of Afghanistan, the people of Central Asia will face increasing efforts to cut off American influence in a region that will remain of security importance to the United States.
- As a key energy producer, **Eurasia** contributes to energy security for consumers in the US.
- Experience demonstrated during the Cold War that the American emphasis on open societies gave hope to millions for a democratic future. Rulers in **Eurasia** would be relieved to think that pressure for human rights and democratic processes would weaken after cuts in US exchanges.

### Public Diplomacy Impact in Eurasia

One way the US has had an impact in Eurasia is through targeted public diplomacy programs such as the Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program and the Global Undergraduate Program in Eurasia and Central Asia. The Muskie Program, named after former Senator Muskie, supports his legacy of public service and democratic governance by specifically identifying practitioners who are poised to make a difference when they return home. The Global UGRAD Program plays a crucial role in inspiring youth in the region and strengthening their resolve to make a difference in their communities. The 10,000 alumni from Ukraine and Russia and across Central Asia are a reservoir of strength and hope for the entire region. Following are specific examples of the impact of these alumni in the public and private sectors:

- In recent evaluations, nearly 75% of alumni were in professional leadership positions in the public and private sectors.
- Nearly 90% remain in contact with or collaborate with Americans they met while living in the US.
- A recent survey found that 85% of Muskie alumni are working for businesses, international organizations, NGOs and the government.
- Alumni in key diplomatic and policy-making positions include the Minister of Finance in **Armenia**, Vice Prime Minister of **Kazakhstan**, **Azerbaijan's** Ambassador to the US, First Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Economic Regulations in **Kyrgyzstan**.
- Alumni are working in leadership positions in local companies including Euromonitor International, Gazprom, Halyk Invest, JSC Liberty Bank, and Titan Petrol, and in multi-national companies in Eurasia such as Chevron, Ernst & Young, Hewlett Packard, and MasterCard Worldwide.

Muskie alumnus Ambassador Elin Suleymanov, currently serving as **Azerbaijan's** Ambassador to the US, noted that his time in the US allowed him, "to learn about

everyday life in America firsthand and to develop a special appreciation for the kindness and values of the people in the Midwest.”

### Impact in America

Finally, the Muskie and UGRAD Programs are examples of how exchanges funding is spent largely in the United States, contributing to local economies. In the last 10 years, these programs have contributed approximately **\$100 million** in communities across the US.

In addition to financial resources, these foreign students also have donated their time with more than **10,000 hours** of community service across the US in one year alone. For example, a Muskie student at Northwestern University in Chicago provided free legal advice to the unemployed, immigrants, and the homeless through volunteering at a local charity. Following a tornado that devastated Joplin, Missouri three UGRAD students volunteered their time to help the community clean up and clear wreckage.

Following are a few of the many illustrative stories of the impact these exchanges have had across sectors:

- In Armenia, an alumna works in Johnson & Johnson’s External Affairs Department as a Patient Advocacy Groups manager. At J&J she uses her knowledge of evidence-based practice to build partnerships between the company and patient advocacy groups/non-profit organizations in line with the organization’s global strategy.
- Alumni in Kazakhstan, including an alumnus who works for MasterCard, contributed to the development of public service announcement videos tackling corruption in that country. The videos use the imagery of dirt to illustrate the taint of corruption to Kazakh society. The PSA videos won a social advertising competition.
- An alumnus in Ukraine started a local NGO that works to protect homeowner’s rights through the promotion of transparency in local government. The NGO fights legal battles to secure public access to comprehensive city plans, letting homeowners know if they’re going to be living next to chemically contaminated territory. His experience as a Muskie, particularly his internship with the local city council, instilled in him a passion for citizens’ rights.
- In Georgia, alumni are working to address the increasing numbers of children in foster care. Georgia has mandated the closing of all state-run orphanages, leading to a rise in foster care numbers. Two alumni have created the Georgian Foster Care Organization to advocate for increased support for foster parents and care for foster children.

**STATEMENT BY ALAN PENN  
PRESIDENT  
KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL**

**SUBMITTED TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS,  
AND RELATED PROGRAMS  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**MARCH 30, 2012**

Madam Chairwoman,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of The Eliminate Project: Kiwanis eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus. Tetanus is a preventable disease that kills one baby every nine minutes. We are advocating to protect mothers and newborns in 36 developing countries from maternal and neonatal tetanus. I ask that the Committee endorse this private and public sector project and take steps to encourage the U. S. Agency for International Development to support efforts to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. I also ask that you support maintaining funding in fiscal year 2013 for UNICEF, our Eliminate Project partner.

I am Alan Penn, the elected president of Kiwanis International. I live in Medina, Ohio, and am submitting this testimony today representing nearly 5,000 Kiwanis clubs in the United States.

The Kiwanis International family comprises nearly 600,000 adult and youth members in 80 countries and geographic areas. Kiwanis and its family of clubs, including Circle K International for college students, Key Club for high school students, Builders Club for middle school students, Kiwanis Kids for elementary school students, and Aktion Club for adults living with disabilities, annually raise more than \$107 million and dedicate more than 18 million volunteer hours to strengthen communities and serve children.

On behalf of Kiwanis International, I want to thank you for your continued support of our first Global Campaign for Children, ending Iodine Deficiency Disorders. The IDD program focused on increasing the world's access to iodized salt by funding salt iodization projects, educating people about IDD and raising awareness. In one decade, Kiwanis with support from this Committee and in partnership with USAID and UNICEF was able to increase the percentage of the world's population consuming iodized salt less than 20 percent in 1990 to 70 percent in 2000. Kiwanis raised nearly \$105 million for salt iodization projects and awareness.

Now I ask you to also support our second international campaign to eliminate tetanus from the face of the earth.

## **THE ELIMINATE PROJECT**

Kiwanis International's The Eliminate Project, announced in July 2011, is a global campaign to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT). In partnership with UNICEF, Kiwanis is targeting the poorest, most underserved women and children on Earth, and paving the way for other interventions that will boost maternal health and child survival.

Kiwanis International will raise \$110 million by 2015, immunizing more than 61 million women in 36 countries where the disease is still a public health problem.

Kiwanis International will be the world's largest single donor to eliminate MNT.

The Eliminate Project will save or protect millions of mothers and newborns. Tetanus can infect newborns, spread quickly, and kill within days. Mothers cannot even touch or comfort their babies due to the excruciating pain.

But this disease is highly preventable.

During this project, Kiwanis International is focusing where the need is greatest—on the populations least served. In fact, we are tackling the hardest leg of a difficult journey. MNT is on the brink of elimination, but sorely needs a champion to complete the work.

Our global volunteer network and strength in reaching communities and leaders, along with UNICEF's field staff, technical expertise and unbeatable supply chain, will help eliminate MNT and pave the way for other interventions.

## **MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD**

I have had the opportunity to see first-hand how The Eliminate Project can save lives.

I visited Cambodia during the spring of 2011 and saw the perilous obstacles that communities, families, mothers and children face every day.

I was fortunate enough to be welcomed into the homes of local Cambodians. In these homes, we saw families in need of our help, people without access to healthcare, without access to funding, and I was reminded that Kiwanis has an extraordinary opportunity to change real lives in real time.

The mobilization, one of the most important factors in a successful campaign, was impressive. The day before the vaccinations begin, trained health workers walked through the villages with a megaphone announcing the health services available the next day. But they didn't stop there. During the vaccination campaign, these workers swept through the villages to ensure that women who had been working in the fields knew about the vaccination campaign.

The day of the campaign, the women lined up to get their vaccinations. They received health cards, recording this opportunity to protect themselves and their future children from threats to happy, healthy lives for years to come. Many women had healthy babies and small children with them.

My most memorable moment came when I held a small infant while the mother received her vaccination. I was reminded of when I was a young boy in Honduras. My parents were missionaries, and I would often go with my mother into the mountains to visit remote villages. When my mother provided vaccines to the women, my job was to hold the babies.

I realized in Cambodia, while holding that little baby, I have come full circle. These people need help, and we have the opportunity to provide it to them.

### **MATERNAL AND NEONATAL TETANUS (MNT)**

MNT results from tetanus spores in soil entering the bloodstream. It is mainly caused by a lack of access to sanitary birthing conditions, unclean instruments used to cut the umbilical cord, and unclean post-partum cord care.

Once the disease is contracted, the fatality rate can be as high as 100 percent in underserved areas.

Most mothers and newborns that die of tetanus live in areas of Africa and South and East Asia, where many women are poor, have little access to health care, have limited information about safe delivery procedures, and continue harmful cord care practices.

### **PREVENTING MATERNAL AND NEONATAL TETANUS**

MNT is easily prevented by giving women of childbearing age a series of three vaccine doses, which costs roughly \$1.80. This cost includes the vaccinations, syringes, safe storage, transportation and more.

Women who are properly vaccinated with the tetanus vaccine will have immunity through most of their childbearing years. Babies born to mothers who have been vaccinated will be protected through the first two months of life.

When women are vaccinated for tetanus and learn about maternal health, they become empowered to take control of their well-being and that of their newborns. We believe these women matter, they deserve to give birth to healthy babies, and their babies deserve to achieve their full human potential.

## **PROGRESS**

The Eliminate Project supports UNICEF and its partners, which have already eliminated MNT in 23 countries. Thirty-six countries remain at risk, with more than 100 million women who need to be vaccinated.

Between 1999 and 2010, nearly 100 million women in some of the most remote places were protected against tetanus, saving thousands of newborns from death due to tetanus every year.

Kiwanis International is now taking on this cause and mobilizing our nearly 600,000 members to become advocates for The Eliminate Project. We will raise \$110 million by 2015.

Kiwanis family clubs across the world are hearing the call to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus and are loudly answering through action. Kiwanis Clubs are organizing fundraisers and making individual gifts; Aktion Club members are helping mothers and babies in their communities; College Kiwanis International members are becoming advocates on college campuses; high school Key Club members are organizing car washes and dances to raise money for The Eliminate Project; and Builders Clubs and K-Kids are learning about tetanus and holding bake sales to raise money to stop it.

Since launching our fundraising campaign last summer, nearly \$10 million has been raised, nearly 1,000 Kiwanis members have committed to four years of volunteer service and more than 2,000 clubs have contributed to the fundraising campaign.

The Eliminate Project will have a team of 9,000 Kiwanis members worldwide to raise funds and awareness for The Eliminate Project. Nearly 1,000 volunteers have been recruited and more than 650 have been trained. Trainings for the entire team of 9,000 volunteers will continue in the coming months as the team grows, creating an army of advocates and fundraisers for the most underserved women and children on Earth.

## **THE FUTURE**

I can visualize a world without tetanus. I have witnessed vaccination campaigns, social mobilization and birth attendant training. I have seen how UNICEF's supply chain works and how they get vaccines to the most remote places.

The elimination plans are in place. Countries are ready for implementation. All that remains is one final funding push. One push to rid the earth of this devastating disease.

Madam Chairwoman, I ask you to join us in this final push to eliminate MNT. Help us to eliminate this terrible disease and ensure that no baby ever again suffers this excruciating seven-day death.

Thank you for your consideration.

## **U.S. Aid to Latin America Should Help Those in Need and Support Human Rights**

### **Testimony submitted to the State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee**

**Submitted by Lisa Haugaard, Executive Director of the Latin America Working Group**

Thank you for the opportunity to present our recommendations regarding U.S. foreign assistance to the State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. The Latin America Working Group serves a coalition of over 50 humanitarian aid agencies, faith based groups, human rights and nongovernmental organizations interested in promoting just U.S. policies towards Latin America.

We believe it is vital for U.S. assistance to Latin America to help those most in need, focusing on poor and marginalized communities in the region. We are convinced that aid intended to address the very serious problem of organized crime and drug-related violence is best focused on strengthening judicial systems and addressing the causes of such violence, rather than providing military solutions that ultimately fail to stem the tide of crime—and indeed, often contribute to its escalation. Finally, we believe it is imperative that any U.S. police or military assistance to security forces, particularly those known to commit serious human rights abuses, include strong and enforceable human rights conditions.

**First, we urge U.S. assistance towards Latin America to focus on helping poor and marginalized communities, including indigenous, Afro-descendant, women and children.**

Therefore, we strongly advocate for funding for the following programs:

- **Increased funding for the Inter-American Foundation (IAF).** The President's request cuts funding for the Inter-American Foundation from \$22.5 million to \$18.1 million. The

IAF provides well-targeted assistance for micro-enterprise and community-based initiatives, and its limited budget cannot easily absorb the impact of a nearly 20 percent cut. In FY2011, the IAF's programs benefitted 230,000 people in poor communities; 32 percent of IAF programs benefitted indigenous communities and 24 percent benefitted Afro-descendant communities; 34 percent of beneficiaries were 18 or younger; and 51 percent were women. As the President attends the 6<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Americas, the United States should not send the message that we are cutting already very limited aid to the hemisphere for community-based initiatives for poor and vulnerable sectors.

- **Increased funding for Migration and Refugee funding for the Western Hemisphere.**

The administration's request for MRA funds for the Western Hemisphere was reduced by \$6.6 million from the estimated \$53.8 million in FY12. These counterproductive cuts would take effect at a time when the Colombian government undertakes an historic effort to restore land to several hundred thousand displaced persons and make reparations to victims of the internal conflict. Moreover, Colombia's refugee and displacement crisis is far from a problem of the past. More than 131,000 Colombians were displaced in 2010 and another 116,058 were newly displaced through November 2011. With more than 5 million displaced since 1985, Colombia has the largest number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the world. A half million more Colombians have fled over the borders into neighboring Ecuador, Panama and Venezuela. Displacement continues to disproportionately affect women and children, indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities.

- **Continued assistance for reconstruction and sustainable development for Haiti.** We strongly support assistance to Haiti to rebuild lives and livelihoods following the devastating earthquake. However, we urge USAID to greatly improve consultation with Haitian civil society organizations, and to improve transparency about programs, to ensure that aid is well designed and implemented.

**Second, we believe aid intended to address organized crime and drug-related violence is best focused on strengthening judicial systems, strengthening “social fabric” to build resilient communities, and addressing the causes of such violence.** Some of the positive programs we support include the following:

- alternative development projects to support efforts by Andean farmers to abandon coca and grow food crops instead;
- programs to help Mexico, Colombia, and Central American nations strengthen courts, prosecute drug trafficking mafias and human rights abusers, and strengthen ombudsman’s offices, oversight mechanisms over police forces, and human rights organizations so that citizens are protected;
- programs to help Central American youth avoid the grim lure of violent gangs;
- U.S. Institute for Peace programs to encourage fresh approaches to ending the long-standing Colombian conflict.

These programs in the long run are less costly and provide more sustainable solutions than do emergency military programs to address drug-related violence that has spiraled out of control.

**Third, we urge that at a minimum, any military and police assistance to countries with serious human rights problems be accompanied by human rights conditions.** These conditions identify specific human rights concerns, link progress on those concerns to military assistance and require that the State Department consult regularly with human rights groups about progress toward meeting them. Experience has shown that the conditions have not been a hindrance to the U.S. government, but rather have helped ensure that aid is used for its intended goals. Conditions provide an invaluable instrument for Congress to conduct oversight. They are also essential for the administration to receive the necessary information, and to wield the necessary leverage, to ensure that U.S. assistance does not contribute to the commission of human rights crimes by partner security forces.

To give one example, these conditions have been absolutely essential in limiting human rights abuses committed by Colombian security forces. In 2004, Colombian human rights groups began to report, at first without much impact, on a pattern of deliberate killings by the army. These extrajudicial executions, which became known as “false positives,” typically involved groups of soldiers detaining a civilian, who later turns up dead, dressed in guerrilla clothing and claimed by the army as killed in combat. In October 2008, the Colombian government was forced to acknowledge this growing practice, which was apparently motivated by efforts to obtain incentives and increase body counts, when the Soacha killings were exposed. The United Nations estimates, and cases in the Colombian justice system indicate, that members of the Colombian security forces murdered more than 3,000 civilians, the vast majority between 2004 to 2008. The State Department has documented these cases in each State Department human rights report and certification memo to Congress.

At the certification meetings required by law, human rights groups, including ours, presented the State Department with evidence of a pattern of killings. Encouraged by our organizations and by congressional oversight committees invoking the conditions, the State Department, particularly since early 2007, took action. State Department officials raised this issue with the Colombian government, which took steps to limit these abuses. New cases of extrajudicial executions began diminishing in 2009, although some still occur, and progress on investigating and prosecuting these cases remains slow. Moreover, the Santos Administration recently proposed measures that would have marked a tremendous step backwards, by returning human rights crimes committed by soldiers to military courts. While the Santos Administration appears to have reconsidered this, the final decisions have yet to be made.

If the conditions had not been in law, congressional oversight of this serious human rights problem would have been weaker, and human rights groups would have not have had the attention of the State Department in presenting these cases. Extrajudicial executions might have continued unchecked. The conditions are still essential to ensure that abuses do not spiral upwards again, that human rights crimes are tried in civilian courts, and that extrajudicial executions are effectively prosecuted.

This year we urge retaining the conditions on aid to Colombia, Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala, and restoring conditions on aid through the Central America Regional Security Initiative.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our recommendations as you reach important decisions about U.S. foreign assistance.

**FY 2013**

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Wing-Kun Tam  
International President  
Lions Clubs International



**Lions Clubs International –State, Foreign Operations and  
Related Programs Testimony, FY 2013**

**March 29, 2012**

**Statement of Wing-Kun Tam**  
**International President, Lions Clubs International**  
**Before the U.S. House Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs**  
**HT-2 The Capitol**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

I appreciate the opportunity to testify on behalf of Lions Clubs International's perspective on global health programs and international humanitarian issues. As International President of Lions Clubs International, I would like to recommend \$2,798,250 for FY 2013 for USAID Global Health Programs including sight-saving activities in child and maternal health, nutrition, vulnerable children, malaria, tuberculosis and neglected tropical disease. I would also like to recommend \$6,142,860 for FY 2013 in State Department Global Health Programs, \$2,631,546 for Developmental Assistance, as well as maintained funding for vital accounts that provide disaster, refugee and food assistance to world's most vulnerable populations.

Lions around the world working with local men, women, children and youth to provide emergency health and humanitarian services to help the world's poorest people who are overwhelmed by hunger and poverty while promoting democracy and good governance. We represent the largest and most effective NGO service organization presence in the world. Awarded and recognized as the #1 NGO for partnership globally by The Financial Times in 2007, Lions Clubs International also holds the highest four star rating from Charity Navigator.

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) has been a world leader in serving the vision and hearing needs of millions of people in America and around the world, and we work closely with other NGOs such as the World Health Organization to accomplish our common humanitarian goals. Since LCIF was founded in 1968, it has awarded more than 9,000 grants, totaling more than US \$640 million for humanitarian projects.

We currently face many complex global challenges such as the spread of tropical diseases that result in blindness, catastrophic natural disasters, the rising costs of food and energy prices and tensions from armed conflict. Meeting these challenges requires strong partnerships between the Federal government's foreign assistance programs and global development partners in the non-profit sector.

I would like to provide a brief overview of where Lions Clubs International Foundation is involved in providing global health services, and where we recommend areas where Federal partnerships should be maintained and strengthened.

#### Lions' SightFirst Programs – Combating Global Blindness

Initiated in 1990, SightFirst is the world's first humanitarian initiative to combat blindness on a global scale. A 2010 study released recently by the World Health Organization, shows that blindness and visual impairment has been reduced globally by nine percent, or 26 million people, since 2004. Lions' SightFirst program played a significant role in this achievement.

Some of the accomplishments of SightFirst include: saving the sight of millions of people at an average cost of \$6 per person; established 30 need-based Lions eye care centers around the globe to address the problem of childhood blindness; supported more than 114 million treatments of river blindness in Africa and Latin America; provided support for 4.5 million people who have trachoma; and provided 100,000 sight-restoring cataract surgeries each year.

Recently, Lions Clubs signed a new cooperative agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO) to fight unnecessary blindness and to tackle newly emerging threats to vision health from diabetes and other conditions.

### Childhood Blindness Programs

A key component of the SightFirst Program is the Lions Childhood Blindness Initiative that addresses one of the most pressing global health issues in delivering preventative, therapeutic and rehabilitative eye care to 71 million children through 30 need-based Lions eye care centers.

With the establishment of more eye care centers around the world, Lions' work can make a big difference in eradicating a global crisis where 500,000 children go blind and 60% of those die each year. The project utilizes technical advisors with backgrounds in pediatrics, ophthalmology, epidemiology and public health. Project development efforts so far envision centers with technical advisors and collaborative efforts with the respective ministries of health and local NGOs within the framework of regional blindness prevention plans.

### Cataract Surgeries Address Growing Vision Crisis

Cataracts are still the leading cause of blindness in the world as effective and inexpensive surgeries are largely unavailable to people in developing nations. Age-related cataract is responsible for 48% of world blindness (18 million people), much of it in countries surgical services are inadequate.

Lions Clubs International supports 100,000 cataract surgeries each year – 7.5 million since 1990. A recent example of our activity is a partnership with Bausch + Lomb and Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) to award the Tianjin Eye Hospital in China a \$150,000 grant to finance a specialized, pediatric cataract training initiative. The grant is made possible through the Pediatric Cataract Initiative (PCI), which funds and promotes innovative methods for overcoming visual impairments caused by pediatric cataracts.

While Lions Clubs International and its Foundation provide substantial assistance to government institutions through its grant-making process, there is a definite and quantifiable need for increased federal partnerships in addressing the problems of cataract blindness as a public health threat.

### Neglected Tropical Diseases

Lions Clubs are working toward the elimination of tropical diseases that lead to River Blindness and Trachoma. The work of Lions Clubs International in conjunction with World Health Organization, the Carter Center, and other international NGOs and foreign governments have already played a key role in bringing world health initiatives to the front-burner of federal policy. We strongly recommend that Congress support efforts to eliminate these blindness-causing diseases, so that final eradication can be achieved in the immediate future.

### Haiti Relief Effort “Lions Hope for Haiti”

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) will mark the 2nd anniversary of the devastating Haiti earthquake with several unique redevelopment projects, including opening a rebuilt nursing school and completing housing in one of Port-au-Prince’s toughest neighborhoods, Cite Soleil.

Lions have completed 403 homes and 197 are still in progress. LCIF has only about 20 people still living in tents, and is providing temporary shelters or homes to everyone originally given tents. These projects are possible due to Lions’ generous outpouring of support, providing more than US\$6 million to LCIF in support of relief efforts in Haiti. Other projects include additional housing projects, a community center and school, with additional projects currently being developed.

### Africa Famine

Lions Clubs International Foundation is supporting Lions in Africa in providing famine relief through an emergency grant for \$75,000 to help support refugee camps. These camps deliver humanitarian aid directly to those in need, including vulnerable children and women. Lions have provided more than eight tons of relief supplies. While we have seen famine conditions recede in southern Somalia, over 2 million civilians are still in need of life-saving assistance as many of these people will remain in crisis throughout 2012.

### Japan Tsunami Relief

One year ago, Lions Clubs International Foundation responded to the Japan tsunami disaster by mobilizing more than US\$21 million for relief efforts in Japan. This includes LCIF grants and donations from Lions around the world. With more than 100,000 Lions in Japan, relief efforts following the devastating earthquake and tsunami in March 2011 are well underway.

### FY 2013 Global Development and Humanitarian Funding Recommendations

Lions Clubs International is a key partner of Interaction, the largest coalition of U.S.-based international NGOs focused on the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people. Interaction and Lions Clubs support strong funding for international development and humanitarian assistance accounts in FY2013 and make the following funding recommendations for FY 2013:

- We also support ongoing comprehensive efforts to modernize and reform the way aid is delivered, as well as improved partnerships between the U.S. government, U.S. NGOs, and local governments, communities and organizations that is transparent, accountable and delivers results.
- For USAID Health programs, we echo Interaction’s recommendation of \$2,798,250 for FY 2013 with the following amounts for the following programs: \$650,000 for Maternal and Child Health; \$700,000 for Family Planning; \$200,000 for Nutrition; \$17,500 for Vulnerable Children; \$350,000 for HIV/AIDS; \$650,000 for Malaria; \$236,000 for Tuberculosis; and \$89,000 for Neglected Tropical Disease.

- For Global Health Programs at the State Department, we recommend \$6,142,860 for FY 2013 with at least \$1,650,000 targeted for the Global Fund to Fight Aids, TB and Malaria.
- For Developmental Assistance, we recommend a total of \$2,631,546 with the following amounts:
  - \$1,170,00 for Food Security in Agriculture in all bilateral accounts;
  - \$5,000 for Microfinance;
  - \$925,000 for Basic Education;
  - \$522,900 for Climate Change;
  - \$50,000 for SCCF and CDCF;
  - \$200,000 for Biodiversity;
  - \$350,000 for Water;
- For the Millennium Challenge Account, we recommend \$898,200;
- For International Organizations and Programs, we recommend \$348,705;
- For Global Agriculture and Food Security Programs, we recommend \$134,000;
- For the International Fund for Agricultural Development, we recommend \$30,000;
- For International Disaster Assistance, we recommend \$1,466,000;
- For Migration/Refugee Assistance, we recommend \$1,875,000;
- For Emergency Refugee Assistance, we recommend \$100,000.

Today we face great foreign policy and humanitarian challenges, and Lions Clubs International understands the importance of foreign assistance in addressing ever-expanding global health crises. The success of non-profit entities such as Lions Clubs show what the service sector can do for economic and social development, and we are committed to forming more effective alliances and partnerships to increase our global impact.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues on taking up the important challenge of increasing global health services. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our perspective on these humanitarian and global health issues.

Sincerely,

Wing-Kun Tam  
International President

**For additional information about Lions Clubs International and our priorities, please contact:**

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**Written Testimony of  
Dr. Dennis Schmatz  
President of the USA Board of Medicines for Malaria Venture  
and Chair of MMV's Expert Scientific Advisory Committee**

**Before the  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs**

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012**

Madam Chairwoman, Representative Lowey and Members of the Subcommittee, my name is Dennis Schmatz, I am President of Medicines for Malaria Venture's (MMV) U.S. Board and I Chair the MMV Expert Scientific Advisory Committee. I thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding fiscal year 2013 funding that this Subcommittee and Congress will provide to USAID for malaria control programs. I also appreciate the opportunity to report back about MMV's impressive successes and our portfolio of promising projects under development. MMV urges Congress to provide \$650 million to USAID to combat malaria; this would keep funding consistent at the level of fiscal year 2012, and ensure we don't lose ground on the path to eradication of this deadly disease. We commend the Subcommittee for the funding and leadership it is providing in the fight against malaria, and its recognition of the severity of the immediate global challenge we face.

Since WWII, when malaria disabled hundreds of thousands of our troops, the United States has been a key player in the development of malaria drugs.<sup>1</sup> Those treatments, originally deployed for our troops, were used in the 1950s and 1960s to assist in the first global wave of malaria eradication. As those drugs became less and less effective due to growing resistance of the parasite, the US again became involved in malaria drug development to protect our troops in East and Southeast Asia.

Since then, the United States has continued a leadership role in malaria drug research, in part to protect our continued interests around the world, and in part to care for the millions of people who contract the disease each year. When these people sicken, they are unable to earn wages, and countries lose billions of dollars in GDP per year.<sup>2</sup> In addition, malaria remains a

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<sup>1</sup> Malaria affected US soldiers during World War II throughout Europe and Asia. For example, according to the US Army Department Office of Medical History, from 9 July to 10 September 1943, during the fierce Sicilian campaign, there were 21,482 hospital admissions for malaria compared with 17,375 battle casualties. Because most of the infections were with *P. vivax*, there were many incapacitating relapses during the spring of 1944. (citation: <http://history.amedd.army.mil/booksdocs/wwii/Malaria/chapterI.htm>) According to one military historian, there were as many as half a million cases of malaria among the military during the war.

Malaria continued to threaten troops in Korea but became even more of a problem in during the Vietnam War, as the parasite developed resistance to the frontline treatment of chloroquine. (citation: <http://www.npr.org/2011/09/01/139641878/at-walter-reed-military-medicine-fights-malaria>) Although the treatment and prevention of malaria for troops has improved significantly from these earlier wars, Walter Reed Army Medical Center continues to be very active in the field of malaria treatment and prevention, and MMV has worked with the Center in its development of new medicines.

<sup>2</sup> "Taking into account initial poverty, economic policy, tropical location, and life expectancy, among other factors, countries with intensive malaria grew 1.3% less per person per year, and a 10% reduction in malaria was associated

leading cause of death in many developing countries despite being a preventable and entirely treatable disease. While recent global efforts have made significant progress against the malaria parasite, the burden of malaria remains staggering, especially for the very young, as illustrated by the following facts:

- ▲ An estimated 781,000 people died from malaria in 2011
- ▲ The majority of the people dying are children under the age of 5
- ▲ A child dies every 45 seconds from malaria and the disease accounts for approximately 20% of all childhood deaths in Africa
- ▲ 125 million pregnancies are at risk of malaria every year, and up to 200,000 infants die as a result

As both the subcommittee and the Congress has recognized, continued investment in malaria drug research benefits both the United States and its allies, both troops and civilians, around the world. In 2011, MMV received \$2.5M from USAID and \$1.15M from the NIH. In turn, we invested approximately \$10M to support research conducted in the United States using additional funds from other donors such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the governments of the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Ireland.

As a public-private partnership based in Switzerland and registered as a 501(c)(3) in the United States, our mandate is to discover, develop and deliver effective and affordable medicines to those who need them most. We lead collaborations around the world to do three things:

- ▲ protect the most vulnerable people, including children and pregnant mothers
- ▲ find new treatments that make management of malaria better, cheaper and easier
- ▲ prevent transmission and cure relapse of malaria to help finally eradicate this disease

In protecting the most vulnerable, MMV can point to two recent successes. First, in 2009, we launched Coartem® Dispersible in partnership with Novartis. Coartem® Dispersible is a cherry flavored pediatric formulation of the effective but bitter adult drug Coartem®. Before the development and distribution of this pediatric drug, adult tablets were crushed and given to children. The dosing was approximate since children often spit, or vomited it up, leading to suboptimal treatment. Since the launch of Coartem® Dispersible, over 100 million treatments of this life-saving medicine had been delivered to 39 countries and it is rapidly becoming the preferred treatment throughout Africa for young children.

Following up on this breakthrough drug, MMV partnered with Guilin Pharmaceutical Company, to manufacture and deliver injectable artesunate to treat severe malaria. Studies published in the U.K. medical journal "The Lancet" shows that injectable artesunate results in 22.5% fewer deaths than the commonly used IV quinine.<sup>3</sup> It is much easier to administer than quinine, and has fewer side effects. Because of these and other factors, "Doctors Without

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with 0.3% higher growth," Gallup, John Luke and Jeffrey D Sachs, "The Economic Burden of Malaria". Am. J. Trop. Med. Hyg., 64(1, 2)S, 2001, pp. 85–96.

<sup>3</sup>. Dondorp AM, Fanello CI, Hendriksen IC, Gomes E, Seni A, Chhaganlal KD, et al. Artesunate versus quinine in the treatment of severe falciparum malaria in African children (AQUAMAT): an open-label, randomised trial. Lancet 2010;376:1647-57.

Borders” estimates that this drug could save 195,000 lives each year.<sup>4</sup> Since it was launched in January of 2011, our partnership has been responsible for delivering over 1.1 million vials of this life-saving drug, enough for 237,000 severely ill patients.

Most recently, MMV developed Eurartesim with sigma-tau Pharmaceuticals and received European Medicines Agency approval in October, 2011. Eurartesim is highly effective against *P. falciparum* malaria in adults and children, has a simple dosing regimen (only three administrations over three days) and provides significant protection against new infections for at least two months after treatment. Developed to high international standards, Eurartesim meets WHO clinical treatment recommendations as it combines two potent antimalarial agents in a single tablet (dihydroartemisinin and piperazine) which results in potent, effective antimalarial activity while slowing the development of drug resistance commonly seen with broad use of single agents.

Additionally, in February 2012, Pyramax, the result of collaboration between MMV, and Shin Poong Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., Republic of Korea, was approved. This is the first artemisinin combination therapy (ACT) to be approved by a stringent regulatory authority for the treatment of both *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax* malaria. The project leader of Pyramax was based at the University of Iowa, IA.

MMV is very proud of what we have accomplished with all of our partners to date.<sup>5</sup> Despite our best efforts, however, there are acute medicinal needs that are still unmet. Key among them is that resistance to artemisinin, the primary compound in all of the frontline drugs, appears to be developing on the Thai-Cambodian border.<sup>6</sup> This is the same location where the last great wave of malaria resistance to chloroquine developed.

The last time this happened the world was caught empty handed, with millions of people exposed to malaria and no effective drug to cure them. Our own citizens were among them.

We simply cannot be caught empty-handed again. We must have new drugs at the ready to combat resistance when it develops. Those drugs aren't there right now. Should resistance emerge with no treatments to combat it, we will lose much of the successful work that has been accomplished to roll back malaria around the globe.

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<sup>4</sup> *Making the Switch: Ensuring Access to Improved Treatment for Severe Malaria in Africa*. Medecins Sans Frontiers. April 2011

<sup>5</sup> Among our partners in the United States are Rutgers University, Merck and Company Inc. in Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Drexel University College of Medicine, the University of Pittsburgh, Columbia University, Cornell University, Anacor Pharmaceuticals Inc. of Palo Alto, California, Bio Ventures for Global Health in San Francisco, the University of South Florida, and Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

<sup>6</sup> According to the World Health Organization's Global Plan for Artemisinin Resistance Containment “Artemisinin resistance has been confirmed in a limited area within the Greater Mekong subregion, and evidence from other potential foci in this region is under review. Experts agree that we have a limited window of opportunity to contain or eliminate the resistant parasites before they spread to higher-transmission areas, putting at risk recent progress in malaria control. The urgency is increased by the fact that no other antimalarial medicines are available that offer the same levels of efficacy and tolerability as ACTs, and few promising alternatives are available in the immediate research and development pipeline.” *Global Plan for Artemisinin Resistance Containment*, WHO 2011. p. 15.

Unfortunately, today's drugs are imperfect, either because the full treatment takes too long to complete, or the cost of treatment is prohibitive for those who need the medicines most. In order to solve this dilemma, MMV is working on a single-dose cure that is not based on artemisinin. A single-dose cure could dramatically change the way that malaria is treated throughout the world. Such a drug, currently known as OZ439, is now in Phase II studies. Incidentally, the number 439 refers to the number of different compounds we had to develop in order to get to such a promising molecule.

OZ439, which originated from a MMV-sponsored partnership with the University of Nebraska, was developed in collaboration with partners on two other continents. If it lives up to its promise, OZ439 could be one of the most valuable gifts that the United States has brought to the fight against malaria.

In truth, though, because drug development is a complex scientific process, and because there are often unexpected events during clinical development, neither MMV nor its partners can take the risk of depending on just one compound in development. Therefore we are nurturing a portfolio of promising projects around the world, including several in the United States, which can supply the next TWO generations of drugs to combat malaria.

Preventions such as nets and vaccines, vector control such as insecticides, and diagnostics all play a critical role in the fight against malaria. These interventions and the continued deployment of new drugs against this parasite will be crucial in order to eradicate the disease. If there is anything that the world learned in its last great foray into eradication, it was that over-reliance on too few tools to fight this disease - quickly led to defeat. It is for these reasons that we recommend that Congress appropriate \$650 million for fiscal year 2013 malaria programs funding, which is in line with the fiscal year 2012 appropriated level.

The United States Congress and the Executive Branch through the President's Malaria Initiative, USAID, NIH, CDC and the Walter Reed are all key contributors to this effort. MMV, is pleased to be a partner with you in this arena, and looks forward to our eventual victory in this fight. A future without malaria is within reach, but only if we stay vigilant. Without a continuous supply of innovative medicines, defeating malaria will not be possible.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony to the subcommittee.



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY  
THE HONORABLE ERIC T. WASHINGTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS,  
AND RELATED PROGRAMS  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**MARCH 30, 2012**

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman and members of the Subcommittee, for the opportunity to submit written testimony on judicial reform on behalf of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). NCSC, in association with the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA), is seeking your continued support for funding for judicial reform as part of rule of law programs implemented through the United States Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Such programs are critical to building and sustaining democracy abroad, protecting vital U.S. national interests, and fighting corruption, organized crime and terrorism.

Let me begin with two brief comments. First, the NCSC, was founded some 40 years ago at the urging of the late-Chief Justice Warren Burger to promote innovation and reform in state judiciaries across the United States and more recently around the globe. Our staff of attorneys and legislative and judicial reform specialists provides cutting edge research, knowledge, and tools that support the justice sector. We are a unique institution in that no other organization anywhere brings the variety of experiences, ideas, innovation, and support to justice administration and reform.

In 1992, after more than 20 years of working to promote equal, efficient and effective justice in United States state courts, NCSC responded to requests from the international donor community and formed the International Programs Division (NCSC International). NCSC International offers a comprehensive set of resources and a multidisciplinary staff for working with justice systems in developing countries. NCSC provides technical assistance, educational programs, leadership/management training, applied research and technological innovation to help justice systems worldwide strengthen and improve the rule of law.

Second, let me acknowledge the difficult task before you in making what are clearly going to be difficult decisions regarding budget priorities. After all, the legitimate question is: What will the United States gain from funding rule of law programs abroad? Perhaps the best answer to this is summed up in a single phrase: countries that have stable justice systems can become true democratic partners rather than be the source of costly conflicts and instability that impact America's global commitments.

Through a variety of programs and efforts, the NCSC seeks to promote the rule of law, which is at the heart of our national system of values. For example, our International Visitors Education Program is an important part of our efforts to promote justice system reform and our values as a nation. Through this program we host over 300 judges and justice system officials annually. We provide training through a combination of briefings and seminars on the U.S. justice system, continuing legal education, and special issues seminars such as judicial independence, and relations with the other branches of government. NCSC's unique state-level perspective allows us to advise countries grappling with issues not only related to federalism and decentralization but virtually every aspect of our legal system.

In addition to maintaining core competencies in court administration and judicial reform, NCSC International engages in broad justice sector interventions in fragile states with weak or divided democratic institutions. This is an effort to promote political and social stability and to create conditions that foster economic prosperity. For example, the NCSC's staff has worked around the world, engaging in comprehensive rule of law projects in Africa and the Middle East, Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. This includes countries with civil-law and common law systems, Shari'a-based systems, and traditional settlement systems.

NCSC is currently, or has recently, worked in, Honduras, Afghanistan, Iraq, Egypt, Haiti, Mexico, South Africa, Kosovo, Serbia, Mongolia, and Lebanon to name a few. We have conducted sector-wide justice reform assessments (including police and security), assisted with strategic planning and implementation, and provided support to ministries, courts, prosecutors, legal defense institutions, elementary and secondary school systems, national assemblies, and law schools. We have developed sustainable continuing legal education programs for judges and lawyers; supplied infrastructure and software improvements to courts and prosecutors; harmonized criminal procedures and coordination between police, prosecutors, and courts; introduced small-claims courts and alternative dispute resolution services; trained judges, court administrators, lawyers, and prosecutors; implemented multi-media public awareness and access to justice initiatives; and assisted national assemblies by improving their legislative drafting processes.

NCSC utilizes a number of tools that are customized to provide justice system agencies with quick assistance. For example, the Center has developed an integrated, automated court case management system that is sufficiently "generic" to allow for rapid customization and implementation of case management functions on a variety of platforms. Our CourtTools© performance management system has been adapted in other countries, such as Kosovo, in order to give local leaders a set of tools to assess performance of the court system. As a result, judges and court leaders are able to gain insight into the functioning of their courts and implement

changes that improve access, timeliness, efficiency and ethics in light of objective data. Having maintained a continuing presence in Kosovo since 2001, NCSC's efforts have helped Kosovo with the transition from international to local control; reforming and restructuring the courts and prosecutorial system to promote effective and impartial justice; and improving the efficiency of court operations both administratively and jurisdictionally.

Examples of other initiatives NCSC has implemented on behalf of U.S. Government agencies and in furtherance of US government goals include:

- Working with the U.S. Department of State's INL in Iraq, NCSC is helping to strengthen judicial independence by providing support to the High Judicial Council. Additionally, in 2011 we led a country-wide intensive assessment of Iraqi courts and the criminal justice system to assist INL in planning future assistance programs.
- From 2000-2009, NCSC, working through USAID, supported democratic governance in Mongolia. Our efforts focused on establishing a modern, accessible and effective justice system in part as a bulwark against internal and external exploitation of resources and people.
- NCSC is currently implementing a USAID-funded justice sector strengthening project in South Africa directed at implementing court management reforms and providing assistance to improve the prosecution of sex-based crimes.
- NCSC is also currently implementing a five-year USAID judicial reform and government accountability project in Serbia. The objectives of the project are to strengthen the rule of law; the independence of the judiciary and the administration of justice in Serbia; to increase public awareness of reforms in the judicial sector; and to strengthen the ability of the Serbian government, Independent Agencies, and civil society to detect and prevent corruption.
- Recently the Center implemented a three year USAID-funded rule of law project in Lebanon. Our team worked closely with Lebanese judicial institutions and the bar association to strengthen judicial independence, improve court administration, enhance the quality of legal aid services for the poor, and expand training for judges and judicial candidates.
- From 1998 to 2005, NCSC worked in Mexico focusing on promoting judicial exchanges between federal judges from Mexico and those in the U.S. At the request of the Mexican government and USAID, we provided assistance in drafting a model criminal procedure code as a first step toward modernizing Mexico's justice system.

NCSC and our colleague organizations share one ambition: to improve the lives of people through justice system reform in an effort to promote political stability, social harmony, and economic prosperity. We bear witness to the impact U.S.-funded rule of law programs have had abroad in strengthening justice systems.

Alexander Hamilton observed that a judiciary's legitimacy rests solely in the goodness and integrity of its judgment. The same may be said for a legal system and every other aspect of governing. We really have nothing to fear from nations where citizens have trust in the fairness, integrity and dedication of their governments to the common good. This requires more than good legislators, executives or judges. It requires the entire system to be oriented towards constant innovation and improvement in the administration of justice broadly defined.

Madam Chairwoman, on behalf of NCSC, I urge that this Committee continue to support and expand efforts by the Department of State and USAID to strengthen judicial reform programs as part of an overall emphasis on rule of law. Continued investments in judicial reform as part of rule of law programs abroad will save America from costly interventions in far-away places. Above all, U.S. support for rule of law programs abroad will demonstrate our nation's on-going commitment to promoting the rights of all citizens and opening the opportunities of democracy to everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.



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*The Next Step in Changing the World*

March 29, 2012

TO: The Honorable Kay Granger  
 The Honorable Nita Lowey  
 Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs  
 HT-2 Capitol Building  
 Washington, DC 20515

FROM: Kevin F. F. Quigley  
 President  
 National Peace Corps Association

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey,

I am pleased to submit this testimony and urge the subcommittee to support an appropriation of \$400 million for the Peace Corps in Fiscal Year 2013. This 6.6 percent increase would return Peace Corps to FY 2010 funding levels.

We realize you face difficult choices in funding the various programs in the international affairs account. Funding for the Peace Corps is one such difficult choice: Will the subcommittee support a modest increase that will allow the Peace Corps to sustain recent, measurable progress on many fronts and respond to growing demand, or will the subcommittee approve funding levels that will lead to a marked rollback on this progress?

- Progress – Volunteers in the Field:** Because of the strong bi-partisan support of this subcommittee, Peace Corps has reached a 40 year high, with more than 9,000 volunteers and trainees in the field. These volunteers are slated to serve for a 27-month period, meaning that approximately half the volunteers finish their service in any given year, as a new contingent replaces them. As volunteers that were selected in FY 2010 begin to conclude their service, Peace Corps is projecting that they will not be replaced with the same number of volunteers. This is not because of a lack of interest among potential volunteers or lack of requests for volunteers from other countries. Rather, it is simply a decision based on projected funding levels. Based on current projections of level funding in FY 2013, Peace Corps foresees a reduction in volunteers in the hundreds – if not 1,000 or more – over the next 12 to 24 months.

- **Progress – Country Selection:** Peace Corps continues to make important advances in addressing a key congressional concern related to country selection. The agency's Country Portfolio Review is now fully implemented. The recent review has led to plans to phase out programs in five countries over the next two years (Kazakhstan, Antigua and St. Kitts, Romania, Bulgaria and Suriname) and focus on higher priorities. For example, the agency plans to resume programs in Tunisia and Nepal in 2012. This progress with the country selection process is only partial. Unfortunately, far too many countries (more than 20) requesting volunteers continue to see those requests go unfulfilled. In many instances, those requests have been unfulfilled for years.
- **Progress – Safety and Security:** Peace Corps is in the process of implementing all phases of the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act, which Congress approved in late 2011. This includes the establishment of an Office of Victim Advocacy which is designed to “ensure that each Volunteer is made aware of, and receives access to, services provided by Peace Corps in cases of sexual assault, stalking or other crimes.” Improved training materials, coordination with leaders in the field on best practices and the formation of an advisory council are other elements of implementation. These provisions, while critical, do not come without significant costs. Putting them into operation with level funding means a reduction in funding for other important project areas. At the same time, another provision of the legislation which is underway involves a study by the Government Accountability Office concerning Peace Corps’ relationship with the Department of Labor involving support for volunteers who return home with serious injury or illness. Our organization is hearing from a growing number of individuals who claim serious difficulties in the servicing and support in relationship to these claims. As these concerns should be adequately addressed, we believe there is a strong likelihood this will require necessary financial support.
- **Progress – Development Partnerships:** In 2011, the Peace Corps announced at least ten additional strategic partnerships and collaborations with a variety of public and private organizations. Most of these partnerships are designed to strengthen the capabilities of volunteers to successfully perform grassroots development assignments that meet critical country needs. Some recent announcements and program successes are a prelude to the growing potential of these partnerships. For example, Peace Corps volunteers were recognized by the Carter Center in 2011 for their role in Guinea Worm eradication in Ghana. In Senegal, the grassroots involvement of Peace Corps volunteers contributed to 100% bed net coverage in a district in Senegal, leading to a significant expansion of collaborative efforts with leading institutions across the African continent working to prevent malaria. Volunteers also continue to be active contributors to the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which provided vital support to more than 50 million individuals in 2011. The success of effective partnerships involves agency commitment to provide resources that allow for the necessary relationship building, planning and collaboration. An investment in these agreements will ensure that ongoing and future partnerships lead to continued effective development.

- **Progress – Volunteer Diversity:** For the first time in its history, Peace Corps is reporting that 20% of its current volunteers are minorities, with a significant portion of this volunteer pool coming from volunteers recruited through universities. Some of the strategies to advance this goal were highlighted in the June, 2010 agency assessment, which noted in part, “To be effective at schools that have not traditionally produced many Volunteers - including many Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges – recruiters will need to do more than visit the school once or twice a year. Recruiters have to spend a significant amount of time cultivating relationships with administration and faculty, explain what the Peace Corps is and what it does, and demonstrate that the agency is an involved partner.” Sustaining such a recommendation will be significantly challenged under the current budget projections, which calls for reducing funding for volunteer recruitment and placement by 6 percent compared to two years ago (\$18.4 million in Fiscal Year 2011 to a projected \$17.3 million in FY 2013).

We are deeply concerned that the measurable progress outlined above will be threatened if we continue to trend downward from the resources Congress provided to Peace Corps in Fiscal Year 2010.

In addition to this progress, there are a number of other reasons why returning Peace Corps funding to Fiscal Year 2010 levels are warranted:

- **Rewarding Excellence:** 2011 marked the fourth consecutive year the Peace Corps received the Association of Government Accountants Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting, one of only 18 federal agencies to receive this recognition for demonstrated commitment to strong financial management and accountability.
- **Ongoing Benefits From Two Year Peace Corps Investment:** An independent survey in 2011 commissioned by the National Peace Corps Association and Civic Enterprises further confirmed that Peace Corps service is beneficial to our nation far beyond the two years of service. In the survey of more than 11,000 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, key findings included the following: 1) citizens who served in the Peace Corps regularly volunteer in their local communities at more than twice the national average; and 2) The survey also found that 30 percent of Returned Volunteers donate to community projects at home and/or abroad. Some of these contributions come from the nearly 150 member groups of the National Peace Corps Association. As private fundraising and service organizations, these groups contribute tens of thousands of hours of community service and hundreds of thousands of dollars in contributions to address key domestic and international needs.
- **Meaningful Jobs/Meaningful Skills:** It is always important to note, especially at a time of high unemployment, that Peace Corps volunteers who are serving our nation overseas are American citizens who are at work and who are not competing for limited job opportunities. Furthermore, the Peace Corps experience provides

volunteers with many significant technical and interpersonal skills that benefit the individual, not to mention the future employer, when s/he joins our workforce. Many of these volunteers enter professions that serve our communities. Our 2011 commissioned survey found that 33% of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in the last decade became involved in education. An equal number entered the non-profit sector, while 15% of RPCVs entered the field of health care.

This should be a time to celebrate these many achievements. Sadly, the 6.5% decrease in funding in FY 2011, level funding in FY 2012 and President Obama's proposed level funding for FY 2013 is now creating an environment where many of these recent advances will begin to be rolled back.

In comprising less than one percent of our already modest International Affairs Budget, further reductions in our Peace Corps budget have no meaningful impact in addressing our federal deficit. However, the restoration of Peace Corps to \$400 million would literally make all the difference in the world to thousands of our fellow citizens who directly touch the lives of millions, who are at work for America overseas, and who are proudly serving our nation.

Thank you for seriously considering this request.

With very best regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin F. F. Quigley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Quigley" being more prominent and stylized.

Kevin F. F. Quigley  
President



## **WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR THE RECORD**

### **House Committee on Appropriations**

### **Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs**

**Submitted by: Robert Walters, Chairman of the Board of Directors,**

**ORBIS International**

I thank the Chairwoman, the members of the Subcommittee and their staff for this opportunity to present testimony on behalf of ORBIS International and our beneficiaries across the globe that benefit every day from the partnership and support that ORBIS has received from the United States government, via USAID. Specifically, we urge the Subcommittee to include: \$3 million for USAID's Child Blindness program, \$25 million for USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) efforts; and \$100 million for USAID's Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) programs for the developing world.

#### **Introduction:**

ORBIS International is a US based global health organization dedicated to saving sight and eliminating avoidable blindness worldwide. Created in 1982 through a public/private partnership between USAID and a small group of committed US philanthropists, ORBIS has conducted over 1,000 programs in 88 countries, trained over 288,000 healthcare professionals and touched the lives of nearly 15 million children and adults.

ORBIS provides the tools, training and technology necessary for local partners in the developing world to understand their needs and develop workable and lasting solutions to unnecessary blindness. By building their long-term capacity, primarily through training of ophthalmologists and other eye care professionals, ORBIS enables its partner institutions to take action by reaching a state where they can provide, on their own, quality eye care services that are affordable, accessible and sustainable.

Continued partnership and funding from USAID is critically important to ORBIS as it strengthens, expands and fulfills its mission of: “Saving Sight Worldwide”. The critical interests to ORBIS are the continued efforts by Congress to: maintain and increase funding for USAID’s Aid to Schools and Hospital Abroad (ASHA) efforts; fulfilling the commitment made by our country and USAID to invest in the Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) programs for the developing world to the level of \$100 million; and ensuring that, despite the President’s FY13 Budget Request eradicating funding for the Child Blindness program in maternal and child health, Congress will continue to demonstrate its commitment to this program and \$3 million will be dedicated to child blindness projects.

#### **USAID Funding – Child Blindness Program**

USAID’s former-A2Z Micronutrient and Childhood Blindness Project was of great importance to ORBIS and helped fund critical research and leverage existing funds for projects in Ethiopia and Northern Peru. ORBIS, as one of the first international eye care organizations to introduce an integrated approach for the prevention and treatment of childhood blindness in developing countries, consistently seeks to improve and expand its approach of building the capacity of local partner institutions to make quality pediatric eye care services available and accessible in their communities. Continued funding from USAID has helped to contribute to our efforts to

eliminate the debilitating and needless health crisis of preventable or treatable childhood blindness.

ORBIS is thankful to the Subcommittee for its inclusion of \$2.5M for Child Blindness in FY12, an increase of \$500,000 from the previous year. However, the President's Budget for FY13 eliminates all funding for this critical program. These funds are the *only* dedicated funds in USAID for childhood blindness. While grants from this program are typically small, such grants allow existing dollars to have greater impact, leverage and depth of reach, as well as fund research and evaluation that is critical to measuring success. ORBIS strongly encourages Congress to continue its commitment to this program and demonstrate its continued understanding of the impact and pervasiveness of blindness among children in the developing world. Investments in avoidable blindness and visual impairment offer many of the greatest economic and social returns in global health, while dramatically improving the quality of life of individuals and families. More than 90% of the world's blind live in the developing world where access to eye care is extremely limited or not available, forcing millions to face lifetimes living in the dark.

#### **USAID Funding – American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA)**

Funding from USAID's ASHA program has been of particular importance to ORBIS. ASHA's initial funding helped shape ORBIS and funded the world's first Flying Eye Hospital, a DC-8 converted into a one-of-a-kind airborne ophthalmic teaching facility that has crossed the globe. The ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital is a hospital with wings that brings together dedicated eye care professionals and aviators to give the gift of sight to the blind in developing countries around the world. Onboard the Flying Eye Hospital, local doctors, nurses and technicians work alongside ORBIS International's medical team of volunteer faculty to exchange knowledge and improve

skills. The mobile teaching hospital is a unique tool in the fight against preventable blindness in developing countries. In the 48-seat classroom at the front of the plane, doctors gather for lectures, discussions and live broadcasts of surgical procedures being performed on-board the flying eye hospital operating room. If needed, surgeries can also be broadcast to an additional classroom outside the aircraft, for instance, at a nearby hospital. Large numbers of trainees observe the surgeries and ask questions of the operating surgeons via a two-way audio-visual system.

In 1992, with the retirement of the DC-8, ORBIS again benefitted from USAID funding through ASHA to build its 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Flying Eye Hospital, which is housed in a converted DC-10 aircraft. Over the last twenty-nine years, the Flying Eye Hospital has traveled to 88 countries positively affecting the lives of millions. In 2010 – 2011 alone, the Flying Eye Hospital schedule included programs in Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, Syria, Laos, Nepal, Mongolia, Guatemala and Peru.

#### **USAID Funding – Neglected Tropical Disease**

ORBIS is a leader in the global fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Region (SNNRP) of Ethiopia, a potential country for expansion of USAID's NTD Control program. Ethiopia has the highest prevalence of trachoma, the world's leading cause of infectious blindness, globally with more than 9 million children (2 in every 5 children) between the ages of one and nine suffering from active trachoma and 1.3 million adults suffering from trichiasis, its blinding form. Due to limited access to safe water (only 22% of Ethiopians have access to safe water) and poor sanitation (only 13% have adequate sanitation), this disease is extremely widespread and difficult to prevent without a large scale, comprehensive intervention. In the SNNRP, ORBIS is the largest implementer of the World

Health Organization's recommended "SAFE" (Surgery, Antibiotics, Face washing and Environment) strategy for Trachoma. Our work in Ethiopia has saved the sight of millions. Although outside USAID's current NTD geographic focus, there was an announcement in 2010 by USAID that its NTD focus would expand to Ethiopia should the NTD program be funded at \$100 million. We know that Ethiopia remains a high priority country for USAID's NTD programs and is a target for expansion, given sufficient funding. Increasing funding to NTD to \$100M, from the \$89M appropriated in FY12, and ensuring that the funding isn't cut as proposed by the President's FY13 Budget Request, would allow the expansion of the NTD program into Ethiopia, allowing ORBIS to partner with USAID, leveraging existing relationships, impacting more lives, and magnifying the progress being made in the fight against trachoma.

### **Conclusion**

Blindness has profound human and socioeconomic consequences. The costs of lost productivity and of rehabilitation and education of the blind constitute a significant economic burden for the individual, the family and society. Investments in avoidable blindness and visual impairment offer many of the greatest economic and social returns in global health, while dramatically improving the quality of life of individuals and families. ORBIS International is a trusted partner in the global coalition of organizations fighting preventable blindness. Our programs and partnerships provide the skills, infrastructure and on-going support to build the capacity and skills necessary to sustain care at a local level. As a founding member of Vision 2020: The Right to Sight, a campaign led by the World Health Organization and other leading blindness prevention organizations to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020, ORBIS is dedicated to working in partnership to create a world free of needless blindness.

**Written Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs**

**Rachel Wilson, MPH**

**Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy, PATH**

**March 30, 2012**

PATH appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding fiscal year (FY) 2013 funding on behalf of global health initiatives at the US Agency for International Development (USAID). PATH is an international nonprofit organization that transforms global health through innovation. We take an entrepreneurial approach to developing and delivering high-impact, low-cost solutions, from lifesaving vaccines and devices to collaborative programs with communities. We are requesting that the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs support the President's request of \$1.65 billion for The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and \$145 million for the GAVI Alliance, while maintaining FY 2012 levels for bilateral maternal and child health (\$651 million) and malaria (\$650 million).

We are grateful for the continued leadership of Chairwoman Kay Granger and Ranking Member Nita Lowey. We recognize that this Subcommittee faces difficult choices, and that makes it even more important to prioritize the programs that work. As an organization that partners with the public and private sectors here at home and in more than 70 other countries, we see firsthand the significant impact that USAID is able to make with a relatively small amount of funding to support the development of, and expand access to health interventions.

PATH is pleased to see that the Administration is keeping its multilateral commitments to the GAVI Alliance and the Global Fund, which leverage the support of other donors to save lives throughout the world. At the same time, we respectfully request that the Subcommittee maintain FY 2012 funding for bilateral health accounts, including the accounts for maternal and child health and for malaria. The programs funded by these bilateral accounts complement the work done by these multilateral organizations. They fill gaps in coverage, support country plans, and work directly with endemic country governments, civil society, and the private sector to help strengthen the health systems that are crucial to the sustainable delivery of lifesaving services. They also play a critical role in the development of the next generation of more cost-effective, appropriate health tools – the same types of tools, from long lasting insecticide-treated bed nets to zinc tablets, that USAID's partners around the world rely on today.

These are accounts where the US government has seen a dramatic return on its investment. The United States and its partners have made significant progress in saving the lives of children, mothers, and their families, and it would be an enormous waste – as well as more expensive in the future – to scale back now, when we are making so much progress on so many fronts and have cultivated partners who are committed to seeing these efforts through.

We also ask that the Subcommittee continue to affirm its support for the role that USAID plays in advancing innovations to ensure that people in low-resource settings have access to life-saving interventions and technologies. Due to its presence in the field and its linkages with end users, USAID plays a unique and complementary role to that of other US government agencies in the research and development of new tools for global health. While many commercial and nonprofit groups are working on health technologies, there is not a significant commercial market to incentivize research and development for conditions and diseases whose heaviest burden falls on the developing world. In addition, the lack of sophisticated laboratories and

trained personnel in many developing countries means that technologies created for wealthier countries are often not appropriate for low-resource settings. USAID helps to fill this commercial gap.

One example is the vaccine vial monitor, which helps to ensure vaccine potency and reduce wastage. UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) have estimated that the use of these monitors could save the global health community \$5 million per year. Like much of its support of new tools and technologies for global health, USAID identified a need: vaccines were being wasted in places where unreliable electricity meant that it was not always possible to keep them cold. After being flown to the countries where they are going to be used, vaccines are delivered by trucks or bicycles to rural clinics. Once in the clinics, power outages are all too common. In the past, heat-damaged vaccines were sometimes unknowingly delivered to children, or a good vaccine was thrown out because health workers feared it had gone bad. USAID invested a small amount of money that was leveraged by more substantial funding and the expertise of a private sector partner—in this case, the TEMPTIME Corporation in New Jersey—which partnered with PATH to develop a vial label that changes color when exposed to heat over time. The vaccine vial monitors show health workers at a glance whether a vaccine is spoiled. Over three billion of these monitors had been distributed through 2009.

Through PATH's partnership with USAID, 85 technologies have been invented, designed, developed, or co-developed to save lives in low-resource settings. Many of these technologies have been scaled up for use globally and billions of units have been used worldwide. More than 95 private-sector collaborators have been involved, matching USAID dollars two to one, building American businesses, cutting the costs of key interventions, and providing tools for countries to meet their own needs affordably and sustainably.

Another example of USAID's critical work is in the field of malaria. The US government is reducing malaria's burden through the Global Fund and through the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI). A recently released external evaluation of PMI deemed it to be a "very successful, well-led component of the USG Global Health Initiative," and pointedly recommended that Congress expand PMI's financial resources and geographic reach. Global and national investments in malaria control have led to declines in mortality rates among children under five years of age by more than 20 percent in a number of sub-Saharan African countries in the past five years. Globally, the estimated number of people dying from malaria each year declined from nearly 1 million people in 2000 to fewer than 655,000 in 2010. These lives were saved by bilateral and multilateral programs working in conjunction with one another on the ground to achieve maximum results. These successful efforts should be sustained and strengthened in order to ensure that these gains are not reversed.

Eliminating malaria will invariably require new tools, including vaccines. USAID is playing a crucial role in this area. Working with PATH's Malaria Vaccine Initiative and committed partners such as the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, USAID has contributed to significant advances in malaria vaccine development. Under a cooperative agreement with PATH, USAID currently supports the development of next-generation vaccines, including those that seek to build on the success to date of the world's most clinically advanced malaria vaccine candidate, RTS,S. In late 2011, the first results of a large-scale Phase 3 trial showed that RTS,S cut the number of malaria episodes by about half among children aged 5 to 17 months during the 12 months following vaccination. Since 2006, in addition to its support for research and development, USAID has supported country-level efforts to facilitate early preparation for a decision on the use of a malaria vaccine once it becomes available. The resulting decision-

making framework tool serves as another example of USAID's role in supporting the capacity of countries to determine and respond to their own needs, in partnership with the United States.

For these reasons, we support the President's FY2013 request for the GAVI Alliance and the Global Fund and ask that the Subcommittee maintain bilateral funding for malaria and maternal and child health. We also ask that the Subcommittee affirm the role of research and innovation for new tools and interventions in strengthening USAID's capacity to address critical health and development issues. We appreciate the Subcommittee's consideration of our views, and we stand ready to work with Subcommittee members and staff to ensure that the United States maintains its position as a leader in global health.

Chairwoman Granger, members of the Subcommittee, Rotary International appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony in support of continuation of funding in the amount of US\$39.5 million (\$35 million, Maternal and Child Health account and \$4.5 million, Economic Support Fund) for Fiscal Year 2013 for the Polio Eradication Initiative of the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) is an unprecedented model of cooperation among national governments, civil society and UN agencies to work together to reach the most vulnerable through a safe, cost-effective public health intervention, and one which is increasingly being combined with opportunistic, complementary interventions such as the distribution of life-saving vitamin A drops, oral rehydration therapy, zinc supplements, and even something as simple as the distribution of soap. The goal of a polio free world is within our grasp because polio eradication strategies work even in the most challenging environments and circumstances, as demonstrated by India, the most recent of the more than 200 countries that have successfully interrupted transmission of polio.

## **PROGRESS IN THE GLOBAL PROGRAM TO ERADICATE POLIO**

Thanks to this Subcommittee's leadership in appropriating funds for USAID's Polio Eradication Initiative, 2011 saw significant progress in polio eradication.

- India, once the source of more cases of polio than all other countries combined, was removed from the list of endemic countries in February 2012, after a year without a case of polio.
- Eradication efforts have led to more than a 99% decrease in cases since the launch of the GPEI, with only 31 cases to date in 2012, as compared to 67 this time last year (as of 21 March 2012). There were less than 700 cases of polio in 2011 - 50% fewer cases than in 2010.
- Incidence of type 3 polio is at historically low levels. There were 67 cases of type 3 polio in 2011 as compared to 87 in 2010. Type 3 polio is also found in fewer areas than ever before.
- Angola, one of four countries considered to have reestablished transmission of polio, only had 5 cases of polio in 2011 and has not reported a case of polio in more than six months.
- In 2011, China, which had been polio free since 1999, experienced an outbreak of polio of Pakistani origin resulting in 21 cases of polio. Such outbreaks are a tragic and costly reminder of the need to maintain high quality surveillance routine immunization in polio free countries.
- In 2011, the Presidents of Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Angola each launched National Plans to eradicate Polio in order to improve polio eradication efforts.
- A shortfall in the funding needed for polio eradication activities in polio affected and at-risk countries continues to pose a serious threat to the achievement of a polio free world.

## **THE ROLE OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**

Rotary International, a global association of more than 32,000 Rotary clubs in more than 170 countries with a membership of over 1.2 million business and professional leaders (more than 365,000 of which are in the U.S.), has been committed to battling polio since 1985. Rotary International has contributed more than US\$1 billion toward a polio free world – representing the largest contribution by an international service organization to a public health initiative ever. Rotary also leads the United States Coalition for the Eradication of Polio, a group of committed child health advocates that includes the March of Dimes Foundation, the American Academy of

Pediatrics, the Task Force for Global Health, the United Nations Foundation, and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. These organizations join us in thanking you for your staunch support of the Polio Eradication Initiative.

## **ROLE OF THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)**

In April of 1996, with the support of this Subcommittee, USAID launched its own Polio Eradication Initiative to coordinate agency-wide efforts to help eradicate polio. Congress has continued its commitment to polio eradication since that time. The following are highlights of USAID's 2011 polio eradication activities.

- USAID has contributed to the interruption of polio virus transmission in India and the decline in type 3 polio through support to WHO, UNICEF, and the CORE Group NGO Project (India, Ethiopia and Angola). In India, the CORE Group NGO Project was particularly instrumental in supporting the rapid outbreak response to the last polio case in West Bengal in early 2011 and in the seroprevalence survey that helped document high population immunity. USAID's support to WHO for polio surveillance has been critical for demonstrating the absence of polio.
- USAID's CORE Group NGO project in Angola provided the monitoring and evaluation support for the immunization campaigns in addition to community mobilization, including the coordination of high level advocacy events involving the US Ambassador and USAID Mission Director. Results from the campaign monitoring have been used to make mid-course corrections on subsequent campaigns.
- USAID's support for surveillance in both Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo, via WHO, supported the effective identification and investigation of polio cases according to international standards. USAID/Nigeria also provided support to the bilateral Targeted States High Impact Project (TSHIP) to support polio eradication efforts in Bauchi and Sokoto states, which have faced challenges due to increased political insecurity. USAID also partnered with CDC-Atlanta to conduct studies of nomadic populations in Nigeria to identify better means of mapping settlements that had been left out of immunization campaigns.
- USAID is the largest funder of the polio surveillance systems in Afghanistan and Pakistan, which are functioning at international standards. The data from the surveillance system guides all other decisions in the program, from the choice of vaccine, to identification of high risk districts.
- In Pakistan, USAID supported UNICEF's work in community mobilization to address public distrust, particularly following a false link of polio campaigns to CIA activity.
- In Afghanistan, USAID has been the lead agency in negotiating 'deconflicting' arrangements with NATO/ISAF, coalition forces and Afghan National Security Forces, providing increased security for immunization teams to conduct the campaigns.
- The following USAID-supported polio countries were able to sustain polio-free status in 2011: Bangladesh, Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Liberia, Nepal, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and Yemen. Many other countries saw few cases with no large scale outbreaks, indicating successful outbreak response: Mali, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, and Kenya. These countries received support through WHO for surveillance, which is well functioning

and detecting the cases. Most of the polio surveillance systems that have been functioning with high quality for a number of years are now sustaining their achievements while expanding to include surveillance for measles, rubella and other vaccine preventable diseases - exactly the investment strategy USAID was striving for.

In 2012, USAID staff will continue to be deeply involved in polio eradication efforts through national Inter-Agency Coordinating Committees, Technical Advisory Groups, direct observation of immunization campaigns, and in policy dialogue with host-countries. USAID will continue intense efforts to interrupt transmission of polio affected countries, refine strategies for identifying and reaching missed children, achieve or sustain certification-level surveillance, and maintain high immunity levels in polio-free countries to reduce the risk of re-importation.

### **FISCAL YEAR 2013 BUDGET REQUEST**

The World Health Organization estimates that \$2.23 billion is needed from donors for the period 2012-2013. For Fiscal Year 2013, we respectfully request this subcommittee to provide \$39.5 million for the polio eradication activities of USAID (\$35 million - Maternal and Child Health account; \$4.5 million - Economic Support Fund), the same level that was provided in the Fiscal Year 2012 budget.

### **BENEFITS OF POLIO ERADICATION**

Since 1988, over 5 million people who would otherwise have been paralyzed will be walking because they have been immunized against polio. Tens of thousands of public health workers have been trained to manage massive immunization programs and investigate cases of acute flaccid paralysis. Cold chain, transport and communications systems for immunization have been strengthened. The global network of 145 laboratories and trained personnel established during the Polio Eradication Initiative also tracks measles, rubella, yellow fever, meningitis, and other deadly infectious diseases and will do so long after polio is eradicated.

A study published in the November 2010 issue of the journal *Vaccine* estimates that the global polio eradication initiative could provide net benefits of at least \$40-50 billion if transmission of wild polio viruses is stopped within the next five years. Polio eradication is a cost-effective public health investment, as its benefits accrue forever. On the other hand, more than 10 million children will be paralyzed in the next 40 years if the world fails to capitalize on the more than \$8 billion already invested in eradication. Success will ensure that the significant investment made by the US, Rotary International, and many other countries and entities, is protected in perpetuity.



**TESTIMONY ON FY 2013 STATE DEPARTMENT FOREIGN OPERATIONS  
APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE HOUSE STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RELATED  
PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

March 30, 2012

Michael Klosson, Vice President, Policy and Humanitarian Response  
Save the Children

On behalf of Save the Children, I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony addressing the needs of children in the FY 2013 State-Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.

Save the Children has entered its 80<sup>th</sup> year as a nonprofit, child-focused organization working to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives. Today, we work in 18 states across the nation as well as in more than 120 countries, serving more than 73 million children to ensure they are safe, healthy, educated, and live in economically and food secure households. We also mobilize rapid life-saving assistance for families caught in humanitarian emergencies, such as those in the Horn of Africa, the Sahel, Haiti, or Pakistan.

For the fiscal year 2013 appropriations, Save the Children supports President Obama's overall request for the 150 account, which represents 1.6% of U.S. discretionary spending. Through our day to day work in the field, we see how important foreign assistance funding is to promote sustainable poverty reduction and to help the most vulnerable, usually children and mothers. This investment, however, is not only the right thing to do, these programs also advance U.S. economic interests. The U.S. economy is highly dependent upon emerging markets, which represent half of American exports. If they grow, we grow. In fact, 10 of America's top 15 trading partners were once recipients of foreign aid – meaning that foreign aid works. Moreover, these programs are critical investments in U.S. national security. Specifically, we ask that you include the following priorities in the FY 2013 State, Foreign Operations Appropriations bill:

- \$651 million to fund core programs within the Maternal and Child Health Account
- \$200 million for the nutrition-specific account within Global Health Programs Account at USAID
- \$1 billion for Feed the Future
- \$1.8 billion for Food for Peace
- \$925 million for basic education programs for children overseas
- Maintain FY12 funding levels for emergency and humanitarian accounts
- \$1.347 billion for USAID Operating Expenses

Save the Children's recommendations address a range of needs because we have learned from experience that the well-being of children is best approached in an integrated, holistic fashion. Strong American investment in these areas will not only benefit children in need, it will also project our fundamental values as a nation, bolster American leadership around the world and promote our core interests.

**Newborn, Child, and Maternal Health**

We urge you to make the health and survival of newborns, children, and mothers a priority. To that end, we urge the Subcommittee to support the United States Government Global Health Initiative, including \$651 million to fund core programs within the Maternal and Child Health account and \$200 million for the nutrition-specific account within the Global Health Programs account at USAID. These are among the most cost-effective, efficient, and results-driven U.S. foreign assistance programs. In fact, significant commitments from the United States and our partners have contributed greatly to reducing under-5 child mortality in the developing world from 20 million in 1960 to 7.6 million in 2010. In 15 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America that received assistance from USAID, under-5 mortality declined by an average of 33 percent between 1996 and 2006 alone, with some countries achieving a reduction as high as 50 percent. And substantial progress in maternal health has been made in many countries including Egypt, Honduras, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Peru, and parts of Bangladesh. U.S. leadership in this area also provides opportunities, such as through the upcoming Camp David G8 Summit as well as through ongoing initiatives such as the international Every Woman, Every Child global strategy launched in 2010, to leverage additional commitments from other stakeholders.

Unfortunately, despite important progress in reducing maternal and child mortality rates, millions of children and their mothers continue to die from treatable and preventable causes. Funding for maternal and child health programs over the years has barely kept pace with inflation. Without significant investment in this critical area, the U.S. government could forfeit its leadership toward achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals, which aim for significant reductions in maternal and child mortality. These funds would accelerate efforts to save mothers and children. Moreover, such American leadership also protects our security by ameliorating conditions that breed extremism: many countries with high child mortality rates or magnitude are also fragile states, recently emerging from conflict.

#### **HIV/AIDS Programs**

We support the Administration's budget request of \$1.65 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. This request demonstrates that the U.S. commitment to its pledge of \$4 billion over 3 years is a serious one. A well-financed Global Fund is essential to the AIDS response and a lifeline for tuberculosis and malaria programs. However, we do not think increased funding for the Global Fund should come at the expense of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program or other global health accounts. A reduction to this lifesaving program would be inconsistent with bold U.S. leadership on HIV/AIDS, our commitment to scale up HIV treatment to an additional two million people by 2013 and prevention of mother to child transmission interventions for an additional 1.5 million pregnant women, and to move forward to realize the goal of an AIDS-free generation.

#### **Child Hunger**

We urge you to support international food security programs and fund \$1 billion for Feed the Future and \$1.8 billion for Food for Peace. Humanitarian and development assistance programs like Food for Peace and the President's Feed the Future initiative support our values, promote our national security strategy, and help fuel long-term U.S. economic prosperity.

Global food prices are once again at high levels, sparking unrest and instability around the world and causing harm, especially in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel. It is important that we invest in a comprehensive approach to fighting hunger and poverty that includes sustainable agricultural development, child and maternal nutrition, sustainable safety nets, improved emergency response and management, disaster risk reduction, and early warning systems. With nearly a billion people in the

world suffering from chronic hunger, now is not the time to cut back on these programs. Malnutrition is the underlying cause of death for 1 in 3 children, totaling some 2.6 million children each year. U.S. leadership is vital in a stepped-up effort to fight the scourge of global hunger, and it helps mobilize commitments by other nations, as we have seen at G8 and G20 summits.

### **Education and Early Childhood Development**

Save the Children has worked with tens of millions of children, and these children tell us that education is a key to peace, security and their future prosperity. On behalf of these children, we thank Congress for its support of international basic education programs in the past and support \$925 million for basic education programs for children overseas in FY 2013. We appreciate that Congress is grappling with hard spending choices, yet cuts in the Administration's budget below the FY 2012 level would significantly and adversely impact children, their communities, and could impact political stability.

We have seen first hand – in countries such as Haiti, and Afghanistan – the difference education makes to children and the world around them. Approximately 70 million children are currently out of school, over half of whom live in conflict-affected and fragile states. Investing in quality basic education, beginning in early childhood, is essential for economic growth and stability.

Early childhood education and development programming is one of the key ways to improve school retention, and thus belongs in the U.S. government's global education assistance. Research shows that experiences in the earliest years of life play a critical role in a child's ability to grow up healthy and ready to learn.

But simply getting children into school is not enough. Too many schools around the world are failing at providing children with a quality basic education. Once children are in school, we need to ensure that they acquire the foundational skills of literacy and math. Save the Children's innovative Literacy Boost program is demonstrating that we can partner with struggling schools to improve children's reading skills. In Pakistan, for example, children in test schools who lagged 6% behind their counterparts at the start of the year finished the school year 54% better at reading for comprehension.

We are grateful for your strong and consistent leadership in providing hope and opportunity to the world's children. We believe it is now more important than ever that the United States maintain its strong commitment to, and investment in, quality basic education and early childhood programs.

### **Children in Emergency and Conflict Situations**

Children are always the most vulnerable in any conflict or emergency. With increasingly frequent and larger humanitarian crises, robust investment in the Migration and Refugee Assistance, Food for Peace, and International Disaster Assistance accounts is important for enabling the U.S., together with other international partners, to address such needs.

Major cuts to humanitarian budgets would have drastic consequences, including: the inability of the U.S. to fully respond to emerging crises like those in the Horn of Africa or the Sahel without cutting life-saving assistance in other places; the undermining of U.S. foreign policy goals at critical moments because the U.S. loses its positioning to provide support for people displaced by conflict or natural disasters in places like Afghanistan or Haiti; and the crippling of programs aimed at supporting vulnerable women and children in conflict.

The United States has been the global leader in responding to the needs of vulnerable communities. Retaining this leadership and ensuring effective humanitarian response require up-front funds for life-saving activities at the start of an emergency. They also require investment to support

recovery and longer term solutions. Continued U.S. commitment to adequate levels of humanitarian funding is thus important for our interests and the wellbeing of those we help.

### **Achieving Results**

As our nation works to address a tight budget environment, we welcome action by the State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee to ensure our foreign assistance programs are more effective, accountable, results-driven, and stretch taxpayer dollars further for children around the world. We urge Congress to support recent Administration initiatives, including the groundbreaking USAID Forward agenda, to provide the resources and personnel USAID needs to become the world's premier development agency.

To that end, we support the Administration's FY 2013 request of \$1.347 billion for USAID Operating Expenses and inclusion of a Working Capital Fund. Proper funding for USAID will help ensure effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars by modernizing our implementation and procurement systems and rebuilding the policy, budgetary, and technical capacity for USAID to make smart choices. Similarly, it is critical to support USAID's impact evaluation reforms to ensure that USAID is operating at the high standards required by country partners and U.S. taxpayers to achieve its goals. With robust funding for USAID Operating Expenses, the agency has successfully increased the number of publically accessible evaluation reports from 89 in 2010 to 295 in 2011, and has trained 300 USAID staff in evaluation. By increasing USAID's capacity, we can ensure U.S. foreign assistance programs are based on strong evidence in order to have the most impact for children and their families in the developing world.

### **Conclusion**

We thank the Subcommittee for its leadership on U.S. development programs. Your support for child-focused foreign assistance priorities is very much appreciated as Save the Children works to serve some of the most vulnerable. Robust funding for effective programs helps not only poor and vulnerable people, but it also advances our international leadership as well as our economic and national security interests. We recognize we are in a very difficult budgetary environment. At a minimum, given the stakes involved, it is vital that Congress avoid deep and disproportionate cuts to the international affairs budget. It is also important that funding for the programs highlighted in this testimony not come at the expense of other effective humanitarian and development assistance, which work together to serve the common goal of building a safer and more prosperous world.

## Testimony Submitted by Mary D. Kane, President and CEO for Sister Cities International

### For the Appropriations Committee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs concerning the FY2013 Educational and Cultural Affairs Budget

U.S. House of Representatives  
Friday, March 30, 2012

As President and CEO of Sister Cities International (SCI) I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of a \$598 million funding level (level funding with FY11 and FY12) for the educational and cultural exchange programs administered by the Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) in FY 2012.

Sister Cities International is a nonprofit citizen diplomacy network that creates and strengthens partnerships between U.S. and international communities. Sister Cities International currently represents more than 550 U.S. communities with over 2,000 international partnerships, in 136 countries. For 56 years, Sister Cities International has facilitated long-term, sustainable partnerships between cities, counties, and states. In 2011 and 2012, SCI has refocused its efforts to challenge our members to innovate and rethink the potential of these municipal relationships, with special attention directed at 1) stimulating local economic development through trade missions, cultural exchanges, and new relationships with the business community, 2) encouraging innovative programming to increase the sustainability of these city-to-city relationships, and 3) promoting peace, development, and relief through sister city programs.

International exchange has long been recognized as a vital part of U.S. foreign policy and has historically had bipartisan support. Level funding would maintain needed financial support for the exchange community, enabling hundreds of thousands of international visitors to enter the country through valuable economic, leadership, and cultural exchange programs, and providing an economic impact of **over \$20 billion** spent in the U.S. by student visitors alone (according to NAFSA: Association of International Educators and the Institute of International Education's 2011 *Open Doors* report). There are many stories of the impact of sister city, county and state exchanges over the past 56 years that not only support national security, but also provide a necessary foundation for businesses and governments to build global fluency and engage a broader range of potential partners. The scope and breadth of these mutually beneficial relationships are illustrated in the examples highlighted below.

#### Local Economic Impact of Sister City Relationships

Sister city programs provide a unique conduit for economic development that yields substantial return on investment at the local level. The successes of these partnerships as an economic tool build upon 1) the dedication of volunteers and grassroots support which ensures that the city partnerships will last for generations, 2) their ability to provide access to mayors and local businesses for international firms looking for trade opportunities, 3) their track record of trustworthy service that can be depended upon to provide strong support for international partnerships and 4) their foundation of expertise and resources from their long-time international relationships that make language and cultural support available for international businesses. Not only can these cities help bring business to their local community; their relationships abroad can be mutually beneficial to U.S. businesses seeking global markets. Sister city programs lay the foundation necessary for supporting a wide range of business

opportunities ranging from import/export agreements, trade missions, company expansion, job creation, and in-sourcing. Examples of the diverse ways cities can leverage this network for economic growth can be seen below.

*Import -Export Education and Development:* The annual Import/Export Conference is an annual exhibition of models and examples of best practices in export/import for small to medium sized businesses in the **Kent-Auburn, WA** area. This conference is led by the local chamber of commerce and Green River Community College though it was initiated through an economic exchange with Auburn's sister city in Tamba, Japan. In summer of 2010 the Tamba Mayor came to visit and a reciprocal visit happened in October of that same year and included Auburn City Economic Development Manager and Green River Community College VP of International Programs. The Tamba Merchant Association was interested in entering the Pacific NW market, and specific interest in importing goods from Auburn businesses. Export relationships now exist between a local winery and chocolate maker. This annual program incorporates hundreds of people from the community, along with engaging businesses to help improve exports to Japan from the Auburn area, resulting in thousands of dollars in increased revenue for local enterprises.

*International Trade Infrastructure:* As a result of long standing sister city relationships with Guadalajara, Jalisco and Monterrey, Nuevo León, the City of **San Antonio, TX** founded the Casa San Antonio trade office. Casa San Antonio is the direct link to Mexico for the San Antonio business community. The program assists companies interested in exporting products and services to Mexico and has seen a great deal of success and multiple duplications. Business relationships can also build sister cities partnerships. San Antonio has an extensive relationship with Japan due in large part to the Texas - Japan Trade Office. This foreign trade office has helped to forge a sister city relationship with Kumamoto City, in addition to assisting companies like Sony Microelectronics and Toyota Motor Manufacturing with locating plants in San Antonio, providing thousands of jobs, and millions of dollars into the local economy.

*Corporate Business Alliances –* The focus of the **Minneapolis, MN-Ibaraki, Japan Sister City Association's (MISCA)** centers on the presence of medical technology and bio-business industry in both cities. Recently, the committee initiated efforts to increase the linkages between the two cities by building a stronger infrastructure for sharing best practices, supporting research and development, and increasing import/export activity. Companies such as Nidec Copal (a Tokyo based medical device company) are in the process of opening operations in Minnesota. Within Minnesota, the BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota and Medtronic, Inc. are two entities that have partnered in support of this venture. In addition, both cities are assisting in the improvement of the Junior Chamber International Ibaraki to help involve young professionals in future business exchanges through internships and professional experiences. This shows dedication to long term growth and capacity building in both cities, with the potential to bring in millions of dollars to the local economies and promote job creation.

*Foreign Investment in U.S. Companies through Exchanges –* In 2011 a biotech company, ADV, involved in drug/medical research and development located in **Birmingham, AL** initiated a public/private venture in their sister city of Anshan, China with a company that works with the Chinese Health Ministry on vaccines and drug distribution and development. The Chinese delegates arranged a business exchange to Birmingham to

evaluate ADV's technology platform and start collaboration for the development of therapeutic recombinant protein drugs. After these meetings, the Chinese company agreed to pay a down payment of about \$1 million to ADV immediately to start the collaboration. The two companies will start a joint-venture to develop bio-similar and novel biological drugs for Chinese markets. The initial deal will result in over tens of millions of dollars to start for the research and development at ADV.

*Leveraging Arts and Cultural Programs for Economic Benefits – Austin, TX-Oita Sister City Committee (AOSCC)* is leveraging local music talent and music festival development to encourage local economic growth. A recent Austin delegation to Oita, Japan included local musicians and a member of the City of Austin's Director of Music Development. The AOSCC has partnered with St. Edward's University and the Austin Young Professional Association in Austin and the Asia Pacific University and the Oita Young Professional Association in Oita to develop a business internship program that focuses on music festival development. Both South by Southwest and Yumheiro Music Festivals feature musicians from their sister cities in order to maintain the theme of exchange in arts and music that has been a central feature of this sister city partnership for decades. These music festivals boast thousands of visitors every year and contribute to hundreds of thousands in local economic impact.

### **Innovative Sister City Exchanges Boost Peace and Prosperity**

Currently, SCI is encouraging city members to work outside of their traditional bilateral relationships and build strong partnerships across several countries and communities. These relationships have been leveraged in transitioning countries and newly industrialized countries to increase communication and break down political barriers between people.

*Building Diplomatic Relationships with BRIC Partners* - The recent visit to the United States by **Vice President Xi Jinping**, the presumptive next President of China, highlights the way sister city relationships can cultivate diplomatic ties with newly industrialized countries. Vice President Xi, once a provincial official in Hebei, China, participated in a Sister State exchange with the Iowa Sister States program in 1985, focusing on Iowan agricultural production. He stayed with a local family and never forgot that experience. The impression this left on the next President of China was so positive and strong that when he recently visited the United States, he not only participated in meetings in Washington, DC, and Los Angeles, CA, but he insisted on visiting his host family and friends in Muscatine, Iowa, from 27 years ago. Highlighting Iowa as the country's leading soybean producer, VP Xi's trip coincided with an agreement to boost U.S. soybean exports to China.

*Trilateral Partnerships for Peace* - The **Burlington, VT – Bethlehem, Palestinian Authority – Arad, Israel Sister City Program** committee works towards three goals: to support cultural exchanges, to facilitate programs that foster understanding and promote peace in the region, and to provide humanitarian aid to the people of Bethlehem. The committee has sponsored dialogues, exchanges, and various humanitarian activities. The partnership sponsored teenagers from each of the three cities to attend the "Seeds of Peace" camp in Maine. The summer camp empowers young leaders from regions of conflict with the leadership skills required to advance reconciliation and coexistence. Additionally, Burlington has shown films from their

sister cities in the Burlington International Film Festival; sent medical supplies to Bethlehem; sponsored Palestinian students studying in the U.S.; hosted community dialogues on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and created a sister-church relationship between a local Lutheran church and a Christian Church in Bethlehem.

*Corporate Social Responsibility and Poverty Alleviation* - Sister Cities International's Sino-African Initiative (SAI) is a two-year designed to address the manner in which **Chinese, African, and U.S. cities** can collaborate on economic development and urban poverty issues in Africa. By working with Chinese, African, and U.S. public diplomacy networks, local municipal governments, and businesses, this initiative seeks to create strategies that ensure development and poverty alleviation projects address community needs, safeguard human rights and safety, and promote transparent business practices and government accountability. 38 city members have both Chinese and African sister cities and will be encouraged to look at the potential for trilateral partnership and building better business practices in their sister cities in Africa.

### **National Security Impact of Sister Cities International**

People-to-people exchange organizations like Sister Cities International provide an effective and efficient avenue for communication, support, diplomacy, and humanitarian aid, and disaster relief in the aftermath of political and natural crises.

International exchange programs support a key U.S. State Department objective: "to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange." Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates has highlighted the importance of international exchange as a "soft power tool" when he announced, "Our civilian institutions of diplomacy and development have been chronically undermanned and underfunded for far too long," both relative to military spending and to "the responsibilities and challenges our nation has around the world." Our network works effectively to meet these challenges.

*Transitioning Countries* – The sister city relationship between **Scottsbluff/Gering, Nebraska** and Bamiyan, of Bamiyan Province, Afghanistan resulted in numerous successful nursing and agriculture projects. These significantly addressed the overwhelming needs, desires and resources of both cities. In February 2006, Governor of Bamiyan, Mohammad Rahim Aliyar, visited Scottsbluff/Gering for economic, educational and governmental tours of the area. Later in the year, five Scottsbluff/Gering representatives visited Afghanistan for tours of local and historic landmarks and met with Bamiyan officials to discuss health care and agricultural project proposals. As a direct result of these activities, the Scottsbluff/Gering-Bamiyan partnership has built models for local agriculture projects and has supported mutual health care service expansion initiatives. This partnership also brings the invaluable opportunity of travel, education, and information sharing for both Americans and Afghans.

*Community Building* – The **Greater Fort Lauderdale Sister Cities International** and the Humanitarian and Haiti Committees of Fort Lauderdale joined with the organization One Village Planet to create two new sustainable development projects in Haiti in 2010. The Women's Community Garden Project helped 150 women in Derac, Haiti create a self-sustaining community that can meet its own nutritional needs. The second project, The Mangrove Coastal Reforestation Project, planted 10,000 mangrove trees in the area

of Bas Limbe and educated the population on environmental protection.

*Disaster Assistance* – In addition to the millions of dollars raised by U.S. cities to help their Japanese partners after the March 2011 earthquake, in August and September 2011, devastating floods ravaged Sindh province in southeast Pakistan, home to Houston's sister city Karachi. Approximately 5.3 million people were affected by the floods, with more than 4.2 million acres of land flooded and 1.59 million acres of standing crops destroyed in Sindh. More than thirty organizations, community leaders, and media partners in Houston, TX joined efforts and established the Alliance of Pakistan Floods Relief Efforts to serve those affected. The **Houston-Karachi Sister City Association** partnered with non-profit organizations including: Helping Hand USA for Relief & Development, HOPE USA, Raindrops Helping Hands, and the Sindhi Association of North America (SANA). Total funds raised approximated \$81,000 and more than \$100,000 wholesale value of in-kind donated items to benefit the flood victims.

Along with other exchange partners, funding from the Educational and Cultural Affairs Budget allows these programs and thousands more to exist. Over the past decade, the support by this Subcommittee for the work of Sister Cities International members has allowed for hundreds of thousands of citizens from across the world to share their perspectives and experiences, strengthen international relationships, increase job and business growth and encourage new leaders to think globally.

I thank you again for this opportunity to voice Sister Cities International's support for the educational and cultural exchange programs that are so vital to our network. It is our hope that the Subcommittee will recognize the need for level funding of the exchanges budget at \$598 million to insure the U.S. continues to support these powerful exchange programs that have proven their success for the past 56 years.

## TAMIL AMERICAN PEACE INITIATIVE

[www.tamilamerican.org](http://www.tamilamerican.org)

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• 202.595.3123

March 28, 2012

Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey:

My name is Karunyan Arulanantham, and I am a Tamil American living in Southern California. I am a member and spokesperson for the Tamil American Peace Initiative, as well as a physician. Herewith I submit testimony in support of continued restrictions on U.S. foreign assistance and foreign military financing for Sri Lanka. I am also submitting suggested language changes for the fiscal year 2013 Appropriations cycle. Please accept our deep appreciation for the Subcommittee's continued support for such language, and for the attention you have paid to the situation in Sri Lanka.

In the past few months, it has become clear to the international community that the Sri Lankan government is unwilling and/or unable to abide by basic norms of accountability, human rights, and transparency. This February, fourteen major NGOs published an unprecedented joint statement calling for an "independent international accountability mechanism" for Sri Lanka, given the "massive scale of abuses committed in the final months of the war and the Sri Lankan government's resistance to any serious domestic inquiry."<sup>[1]</sup> This month, the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) adopted a United States-led resolution calling upon the government to implement the constructive, but limited, recommendations of its own domestic inquiry – the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC). These developments, among others,

reflect a growing understanding that accountability is possible only if international pressure is directed at the Sri Lankan government.

Our suggested appropriations language for Sri Lanka is a means by which the United States can apply such pressure, as a complement to its recent leadership in the UNHRC. Keeping the spotlight on Sri Lanka is as crucial as ever, given the International Crisis Group's (ICG) recent reports detailing a rise – rather than a fall – in human rights abuses and militarization.

“The construction of large and permanent military cantonments, the seizure of private and state [Tamil] land, and the military-led cultural and demographic changes – all threaten Sri Lanka's fragile peace,” says Alan Keenan, ICG's Senior Analyst and Sri Lanka Project Director.[2] The ICG describes how, under the guise of reconstruction in the Tamil Northeast, the Sri Lankan government has been replacing Tamil street names and sign-boards with Sinhala ones, constructing monuments for Sinhala war heroes, and building a war museum open only to Sinhalese. The military is also supervising systematic migration of Sinhalese settlers into traditionally Tamil lands, while also placing “restrictions on aid and early recovery activities,” which have “prevented the effective delivery of many social services” to war-affected Tamils.[2] Moreover, the military's “alleged involvement in enforced disappearances and other extra-judicial punishments” has eroded what little trust Tamils could place in the government. Reflecting on this status quo, ICG's Asia Program Director Robert Templer stated that “By adopting policies that will bring fundamental changes to the culture, demography and economy of the Northern Province, the government of Sri Lanka is sowing the seeds of future violence.”[2]

The outsized military presence - almost exclusively male and Sinhalese - in the Tamil Northeast has created a "desperate lack of security" for Tamil women.[3] The ICG points to "serious allegations of sexual violence by the military against Tamil women," as well as the military's inaction in the face of attacks on women by individuals known as "grease devils." Its only response has been to "brutally crack down on protestors." The ICG urges the West to "Evaluate all aid, investment and engagement in light of the risks of a return to conflict and of increasing women's insecurity in the former war zone, and insist on meeting international standards and ensuring the highest levels of transparency, external monitoring and non-discriminatory community participation in setting priorities." [3]

It is in the spirit of these recommendations, as well as the recent United States-sponsored UNHRC resolution, that we submit suggestions for the 2013 fiscal year Appropriations language regarding Sri Lanka.

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<http://www.amnestyusa.org/news/news-item/ngos-call-on-us-to-establish-international-accountability-mechanism-on-sri-lanka-at-un-human-rights>

2. <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/publication-type/media-releases/2012/asia/sri-lankas-north-recipe-for-renewed-conflict.aspx>
3. <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/asia/south-asia/sri-lanka/217-sri-lanka-womens-insecurity-in-the-north-and-east.aspx>

**DRAFT 2013 Appropriations language on Sri Lanka**

**Organization:** Tamil American Peace Initiative

**Contact** (name, email, and phone): Karunyan Arulanantham, karul@verizon.net, 661-305-7159.

(Suggested changes marked in yellow)

Sri Lanka.—

(1) None of the funds appropriated by this Act under the headings “Foreign Military Financing Program,” “Stabilization Operations and Security Sector Reform,” “Conflict Mitigation and Reconciliation” and “Peacekeeping Operations” may be made available for assistance for Sri Lanka, no defense export license may be issued, and no military equipment, training, or technology shall be conducted, sold or transferred to Sri Lanka pursuant to the authorities contained in this Act or any other Act, unless the Secretary of State certifies to the Committees on Appropriations that the Government of Sri Lanka is—

(A) conducting credible, thorough investigations of alleged war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law by government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam under international supervision;

(B) bringing to justice individuals who have been credibly alleged to have committed such violations;

(C) supporting and cooperating with any United Nations investigation of alleged war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law;

(D) respecting due process, the rights of journalists, and the rights of citizens to peaceful expression and association, including ending arrest and detention under emergency regulations;

(E) providing access to detainees by humanitarian organizations; and

(F) implementing policies to promote reconciliation and justice including substantial devolution of power to the predominantly Tamil North-East provinces.

(G) ending military control of civil affairs in the North-East by handing over administration to elected representatives and returning land acquired by the government and military since the beginning of the war to the original land owners or to local civilian authorities.

(2) Paragraph (2) shall not apply to assistance for humanitarian demining and aerial and maritime surveillance.

(3) None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be made available for assistance to units of the Sri Lankan military which have committed human rights abuses as determined by the Department of State’s Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues or the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor’s annual reports.

(4) All funds for civilian purposes must be directed through the elected civilian administration, rather than through any military structures, including funds for the police.

(5) If the Secretary makes the certification required in paragraph (2), funds appropriated under the heading “Foreign Military Financing Program” that are made available for assistance for Sri Lanka should be used to support the recruitment and training of Tamils into the Sri Lankan military, Tamil language training for Sinhalese military personnel, and human rights training for all military personnel.

(6) The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States executive directors of the international financial institutions to vote against any loan, agreement, or other financial support for Sri Lanka except to meet basic human needs, unless the Secretary of State certifies to the Committees on Appropriations that the Government of Sri Lanka is meeting the requirements in paragraph (2)(D), (E), and (F) of this subsection.

(7) *(from the 2012 Joint Explanatory Statement)* The Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations not later than 45 days after enactment of this Act, detailing what steps have been taken by the Government of Sri Lanka and international bodies to thoroughly and credibly investigate war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law during the internal armed conflict, and evaluating the adequacy of steps taken by the Government of Sri Lanka to hold perpetrators accountable. The report should indicate whether all civilians displaced by the conflict internally and externally have been allowed to return to their original places of habitation if they so wish and should indicate if the troop levels and the high security zones (HSZ) have been substantially reduced in the predominantly Tamil North-East provinces. The report should also indicate whether suspected combatants detained during the conflict remain in custody and whether humanitarian organizations have access to such detainees.

#### **Report Language:**

Congress is concerned that economic aid and reconstruction aid is not reaching those most in need of assistance due to poverty caused by the war and/or displacement during the war and requests that those distributing aid assure that aid reaches those requiring assistance rebuilding their lives following the war.

Congress is concerned about the possibility of demographic change resulting from economic, reconstruction and military aid and requests that those distributing aid assure that this potential source of future conflict be avoided.

Congress is concerned about many detained without trial under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and requests US officials in Sri Lanka to urge their urgent conviction or release.

Congress is concerned about the difficulties American citizens and nongovernmental organizations have faced in providing aid to those in need in Sri Lanka and requests US officials to work toward streamlining this important process through civilian channels.

**Statement of Mr. David D. Arnold****President****THE ASIA FOUNDATION****Submitted to the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs****March 2012**

Madame Chairwoman & Members of the Subcommittee:

I am pleased to submit testimony to this Subcommittee as President of the Asia Foundation (TAF). Over the past 58 years, The Asia Foundation has made sustained investments to build democratic institutions, support civil society capacity and empower women throughout Asia. In large measure, these investments have helped to support more politically and economically stable countries throughout the region, countries that are important and reliable allies for the United States. To sustain and build on this record of accomplishment, The Asia Foundation is requesting \$17 million for FY 2013, which represents the same level of funding as FY 2012.

Established in 1954 by a group of California business and civic leaders, The Asia Foundation is a private, non-profit, nongovernmental organization. TAF promotes good governance, the development of a robust civil society and economic reforms to foster sustainable and inclusive growth. We partner with local organizations to build coalitions for change, and also work to identify and develop reform minded individuals and future leaders. We have maintained an on-the-ground presence in countries throughout Asia for nearly six decades. Through 17 country offices, we work with hundreds of established and emerging Asian partner organizations. TAF grantees can be found throughout the public and private sectors in Asia, and are leaders of government, industry and an increasingly diverse civil society.

One of TAF's signature initiatives is the Books for Asia program; over the years, we have provided more than 40 million English-language books to more than 20 countries—860,000 in 2011 alone. Through this program, millions of Asian students, current and future leaders have gained access to global sources of knowledge and a better understanding of the United States. The Foundation's deep experience, country-specific expertise in Asia and our long-term commitment to the region distinguishes us from many other nongovernmental organizations. TAF is often called upon by the U.S. State Department and host governments to undertake sensitive tasks that only can be pursued by a private organization with the confidence of host governments and local civil society, such as the development of democratic institutions or supporting "Track Two" dialogues, and serving as a neutral intermediary in local conflict situations. In 2010, for example, TAF was chosen by the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) as the only American member of the multinational International Contact Group to support the Mindanao peace process. In Nepal, through the Nepal Transition to Peace Forum, a "Track 1.5" dialogue process created by the major political parties, TAF helps to

keep key political stakeholders engaged in constructive dialogue to prevent a breakdown of relations and to make progress in political settlements. These are just two examples of our strong credibility and position of trust in Asia, which makes TAF an irreplaceable American asset.

Asia is an increasingly critical region to the United States for economic and security reasons. Despite the advances of the last decade, many countries in Asia continue to face challenges in democracy and governance, free and fair elections, adherence to the rule of law, elimination of corruption, political volatility and, in some cases, armed conflict. In this context, we must capitalize on opportunities to promote sustainable economic growth, good governance and stable political systems, a more vibrant civil society, and respect for the rights of all, particularly women. Meeting these goals is at the heart of The Asia Foundation's mission and programs.

The Asia Foundation is requesting \$17 million for FY 2013, which represents the same level of funding as FY 2012. In making this steady state request, we are very aware of the FY 2013 budgetary pressures on the Committee. The Asia Foundation is an especially cost-effective investment for the Congress in a time of budget constraints. TAF has been particularly successful in leveraging our Congressional appropriation to raise funds from other donors to increase the impact of our programs. Multilateral and bilateral development agencies, including Britain, Australia, Denmark and others now recognize our value and have funded a wide range of critical democracy and development programs. In FY12, The Korean development agency (KOICA) has made a grant to the Asia Foundation, the first time they have ever funded a non-Korean organization. For every dollar appropriated by the Congress to the Asia Foundation, the Foundation has leveraged approximately \$4 from other sources. Yet these important leveraged funds, public and private, are invariably tied to specific projects. It is Congressional funding, through this core appropriation that provides the essential flexibility to maintain our continuous on-the-ground presence in Asia and rapidly respond to fast breaking developments, such as in Burma this year.

Over the last two fiscal years, TAF has sustained a 10 percent reduction in appropriated funding. The FY11 and FY12 reductions have already had an impact on TAF's program. For instance, we were forced to close our office in Singapore and scale back our operations in Korea. Programs in Vietnam and Thailand have also been affected. In addition, while books are donated by publishers to the Books for Asia program, the shipping costs are covered by the annual appropriation. Last year's cuts resulted in a decline of over 100,000 books being shipped to schools, universities and libraries in Asia this year.

Funding at \$17 million will sustain The Asia Foundation's program investments begun in recent years with Congressional encouragement, such as our continued work in predominantly Muslim countries, including Afghanistan, Indonesia, and Pakistan.

**THE ASIA FOUNDATION'S PROGRAM AND APPROACH:** The Asia Foundation is committed to the development of a peaceful, prosperous, just, and open Asia-Pacific region. America's efforts to build and strengthen partnerships in Asia need to be more nuanced and multifaceted than they have been in the past. The great diversity of countries in Asia require different approaches: governance challenges in Thailand, the Philippines, Mongolia, Indonesia,

and Sri Lanka do not resemble those in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal and Timor Leste. TAF's ability to adapt programs to on-the-ground circumstances is central to advancing U.S. interests in the region. The Foundation's core work remains in four major areas:

- **Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law**
- **Economic Reform, Development and Environment**
- **Women's Empowerment**
- **Peaceful and Stable Regional Relations**

The Asia Foundation is first and foremost a field-based organization. Through a cost-effective combination of grant-making and direct program operations, TAF is committed to maximizing program impact while keeping costs low—despite the continuing challenge of providing security for our field office staff.

While TAF operates some programs directly, we make nearly 800 grants a year to partner organizations in Asia. Past committee report language has commended the effectiveness of our grant-making role in building local capacity and strengthening civil society institutions throughout Asia. This longstanding approach, working directly with local partners, is both unique and needed. TAF assistance promotes reform, by providing training, technical assistance and seed funding to new and emerging local organizations, as well as working with more established partners.

We diligently evaluate and assess the impact of our programs and we are proud of our track record. As a result of TAF efforts, vibrant civil society groups, including mass-based Muslim organizations in Indonesia, now lead the way for budget reform, participate in discussions with government officials to increase transparency and organize civic education programs on the role of citizens in a democratic society. Sub-national governments in Afghanistan are learning how to budget and spend public resources to improve the lives of their constituents. Parliaments in Bangladesh, Timor Leste and Nepal now have access to information to help them make informed policy. Local business association leaders, entrepreneurs and government leaders in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Vietnam and Cambodia have access to comprehensive data through TAF's Economic Governance Indexes on regulatory barriers to growth. TAF is working together with those groups for regulatory reform. Due to TAF support, dramatic economic reforms in the Philippines have lowered costs for inter-island shipping by over 50%, increased land titles over 100% thereby expanding access to credit, and expanded low cost air passenger travel from the Clark airport, a previously underutilized resource, by over 50%. Women in Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Pakistan have access to justice and the opportunity to claim their rights to inheritance, property and education, and are better able to protect themselves from being trafficked or from gender based violence. Thousands of people across Asia, including in Burma, have access to global knowledge and have gained a better understanding of the United States through our Books for Asia program.

**FY 2013 PLAN:** Level funding at \$17 million in FY 2013 would position the Foundation to maintain and extend programs in countries struggling with corruption, internal conflicts and weak democratic processes and institutions. In particular, Congressional support at a steady state level would enable TAF to:

- Extend conflict resolution and peace processes in the Afghanistan, Philippines and Nepal, seeking real peace for the first time in a generation, and in largely Muslim southern Thailand where lack of security and conflict threatens national stability;
- Strengthen regional cooperation programs in India, to build and strengthen constructive relations with its neighbors and to support trans-border environment and water resource management;
- In consultation with the Departments of State and Treasury, increase engagement to support democratic progress in Burma;
- Counter corruption and improve public accountability efforts in the Philippines, Timor Leste and Mongolia;
- Sustain women's empowerment programs throughout the region, including developing economic opportunity for women, supporting girls' education, and countering trafficking and domestic violence.

**CONCLUSION:** While TAF has had major programs in Asia since 1954, The Asia Foundation Act of 1983 provides the statutory basis for an annual appropriation from the Congress. That Act acknowledged the importance of stable funding for TAF and endorsed its ongoing value and contributions to U.S. interests in Asia. Congressional funding had reached \$19 million in FY 2010, but has been cut by over 10% in the past two years. It is worth noting that The Asia Foundation's 1994 appropriation of \$15 million would be over \$23 million in today's inflation-adjusted dollars. We appreciate the Committee's trust and support for the Asia Foundation. This has been invaluable in achieving results and in fulfilling our shared mission to advance U.S. interests in Asia. Thus we respectfully urge that the Committee sustain its support for the Asia Foundation at \$17 million.

*(A full listing of Asia. Foundation programs may be found on our website at [www.asiafoundation.org](http://www.asiafoundation.org))*

**STATEMENT OF ANTHONY PANTALEONI  
CHAIR OF THE BOARD  
UNITED STATES FUND FOR UNICEF**

**SUBMITTED TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED  
PROGRAMS  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**March 30, 2012**

Madam Chairwoman and members of the Subcommittee, on behalf of nearly one million American supporters of the United States Fund for UNICEF, I appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony regarding the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). I respectfully ask the Subcommittee to provide at least \$132 million as the U.S. Government's voluntary contribution to UNICEF for Fiscal Year 2013, the current level for Fiscal Year 2012 that has been provided to UNICEF since Fiscal Year 2010.

I am Chair of the Board of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, a U.S. NGO that supports UNICEF's work. UNICEF has always been a part of my life. My mother, Helenka Pantaleoni, founded the original U.S. Committee for UNICEF back in 1947, and led the organization as President for 25 years. Now my daughter, Téa Leoni, serves on the Board with me as well.

Let me thank the Subcommittee for its support for the contribution to UNICEF for Fiscal Year 2012. I commend the bipartisan leadership this Subcommittee has taken to champion programs that help children around the world.

Since its creation in 1947, UNICEF has saved more children's lives than any humanitarian organization in the world. UNICEF staff work on the ground in more than 150 developing and transitional countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. UNICEF supports prenatal care, child health and nutrition, clean water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and protecting children from violence, exploitation, and AIDS.

UNICEF receives one-third of its total funding from non-government sources. This includes contributions from individuals, businesses, and foundations.

Thanks to strong support from the U.S. Congress for UNICEF and for child survival, the number of children dying before age five from preventable causes has dropped by more than half since 1960, from an estimated 20 million deaths to 7.6 million in 2011. Almost one-third of the 50 least-developed countries have reduced child mortality rates by 40 percent or more since 1990 – proof that progress for children is possible even in poor countries, if political will, sound strategies, and adequate funding are in place.

UNICEF's efforts around the world implement the compassion of the American people by helping children and families. That is why UNICEF enjoys incredible backing from Americans for its mission of child survival and development, from children participating in "Trick or Treat for UNICEF," to major corporations donating money and products. That private support is critical to UNICEF's success in saving children's lives from measles and cholera, providing access to clean water, helping children stay in school, and thwarting child traffickers trying to exploit vulnerable children.

The U.S. Fund for UNICEF is also proud of its partnerships with the private sector to save children's lives. Among many examples, Procter & Gamble and BD are making significant investments to fight maternal and neonatal tetanus; Johnson & Johnson continues its commitment to newborn care in South Asia; and UPS made a multi-year commitment to provide shipping services and improve UNICEF's supply chain and logistics systems.

The U.S. Government's longstanding and generous support of UNICEF allows it to leverage private sector funding and work with U.S. Government programs to make a real difference in saving children's lives:

- For more than 50 years, UNICEF has been a world leader in immunizations. In 2010, UNICEF supplied more than 2.3 billion vaccine doses, reaching 55 percent of the world's children. UNICEF procures vaccines for the GAVI Alliance; and also buys all vaccines and related items for global campaigns not covered by GAVI, including polio eradication, elimination of neonatal and maternal tetanus, and measles control. In addition, UNICEF works in-country to ensure that vaccines reach even the poorest children and communities.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, malaria remains a major threat to children. UNICEF is one of the largest buyers of mosquito nets in the world, delivering more than 42 million bed nets in 2010.
- About 150 million children under five – one in four – are malnourished, and malnutrition contributes to up to a third of all child deaths. We know that nutritional supplements, such as high protein biscuits, can help to bring a child back from the verge of starvation. In 2010, UNICEF provided 20,000 tons of therapeutic foods, enough to treat a million severely malnourished children.
- A global effort led by UNICEF and Kiwanis International increased household use of iodized salt from 20 per cent to 70 per cent, protecting 84 million newborns from brain damage caused by iodine deficiency, and helping thirty-four countries achieve universal salt iodization.
- Kiwanis International has now selected UNICEF as its partner for the current Kiwanis global campaign to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT). One newborn dies every nine minutes from tetanus. Our collaboration with Kiwanis is a global campaign to save the lives of babies by eliminating MNT.

- The Global Polio Eradication Initiative, a partnership led by UNICEF, Rotary International, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, and others, helped reduce polio cases by more than 99 percent over the past two decades, from more than 350,000 cases in 1988 to an estimated 1,350 in 2010. The polio campaign reached a huge milestone this year – in February, India was officially declared polio-free. UNICEF and its partners continue to support massive immunization campaigns to eradicate once and for all this terrible disease.
- UNICEF’s established presence in developing countries makes it a critical partner for the U.S. Government in responding to major disasters. For example, the hunger and child survival crisis in the Horn of Africa left more than 13 million people at risk in 2011, including 320,000 children suffering from life-threatening malnutrition. UNICEF’s ability to react early to the growing crisis, and its massive scale-up of aid following the declaration of famine in parts of Somalia, helped save the lives of thousands of children and enabled the treatment of millions of others suffering from malnutrition and disease. Clearly, the Horn of Africa still has a long way to go to recover from the famine, and UNICEF is there for the long haul.
- U.S. funding supports UNICEF’s leadership in innovation. For example, UNICEF recently helped introduce Dispersible Amoxicillin Tablets, easily dissolved in water to make them easier for children to swallow; child-friendly Flavored Oral Rehydration Salts that help children recover from diarrheal diseases; an improved Respiratory Rate Timer to diagnose pneumonia; and the Rapid Family Tracing and Reunification (RapidFTR) system that uses mobile devices to help caseworkers find families of unaccompanied children.

UNICEF’s ability to partner with the U.S. Government, and with important nonprofit partners like Rotary, Kiwanis, the American Red Cross, and the GAVI Alliance, depends on a strong U.S. contribution to UNICEF, as well as maintaining U.S. support for its bilateral child health programs. In this regard, the U.S. Fund for UNICEF supports the Administration’s requests for Iodine Deficiency Disorders, Polio Eradication, and the GAVI Alliance. Because of the importance of U.S. child survival and health programs, our organization also asks the U.S. Congress to provide \$651 million for the Maternal and Child Health Account.

As an organization completely funded by voluntary contributions, UNICEF must ensure that its operations are efficient and focused on results. UNICEF’s results-oriented budget mechanism includes key performance targets and indicators to measure results for specific programs.

Annual government contributions to UNICEF’s regular resources budget constitute the single most important funding source UNICEF worldwide. The U.S. Government’s voluntary contribution to UNICEF’s regular resources provides the foundation for UNICEF’s work to save children’s lives and improve their futures. Resources provided by this Subcommittee are critical to UNICEF’s ability to help the United States in international humanitarian crises, conflict areas, and emerging threats to the well-being of children.

Madam Chairwoman, this Subcommittee has long been a champion for the well-being of the world's children, ensuring that children are a priority of U.S. foreign assistance funding. American advocates of UNICEF's work for the world's children salute the bipartisan support this Subcommittee has provided for child survival and for UNICEF. We believe that UNICEF is an indispensable partner of the United States on initiatives to save lives and protect vulnerable children around the world.

We cannot rest on our past successes. Unfortunately, 7.6 million children under five still die every year, mostly from preventable causes. We believe that number should be zero. A strong commitment from the United States will strengthen UNICEF's capacity to meet the needs of vulnerable children, in partnership with Americans who care about children everywhere.

I respectfully ask the Subcommittee to provide \$132 million under the International Organizations and Program Account for UNICEF's regular resources for Fiscal Year 2013.

Written Testimony submitted to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations and Related Programs

By Dr. Doug Boucher

Director, Tropical Forests and Climate Initiative

The Union of Concerned Scientists

March 30, 2012

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), on behalf of our 350,000 scientist, economists and other supporters, welcomes this opportunity to submit written testimony to this subcommittee. UCS is the leading science-based nonprofit working for a healthy environment and safer world. We strongly recommend the Administration's FY 2013 requested funding level of \$178.5 million for international climate change core programs for tropical forests (including USAID/Sustainable Landscapes, Department of State, and Department of Treasury/International programs that protect tropical forests).

This level represents a decline in funding from both the FY2012 (an estimated \$189.9 M) and FY2011 (\$216.8 M) under the President's Global Climate Change Initiative (GCCCI). This decline occurs in the face of heightened threats to deforestation through agricultural activities by commercial entities. We realize the recommended level reflects the fiscal constraints of this current budget year. We therefore urge the subcommittee to oppose any further reductions in the requested FY2013 level. The \$178.5 million represents part of the total requested funding for all three "pillars" of core climate change programs, totaling \$769.2 million: tropical forests, adaptation, and clean energy technology.

Tropical deforestation contributes about 15 % annually to greenhouse gas emissions—equal to every mode of transport in the world. UCS remains concerned with continuing rapid rates of deforestation and degradation given the myriad benefits that tropical forests provide, including generating livelihoods for people, supporting a rich array of important animal and plant species, and providing ecosystem services such as clean air, clean water, and protecting shorelines.

The major global drivers of deforestation in the 21st century are agricultural, with commercial enterprises clearing forests to meet increased global demand for food commodities such as vegetable oils, soybeans, and beef. Solutions to deforestation will thus require private and public partnerships to examine ways to provide financial, social and political incentives to divert agricultural land expansion away from forests toward degraded land, and to reduce the need for additional land by improving agricultural practices.

Private companies are increasingly aware that it's a matter of economic survival to join with governments and civil society to increase sustainable production. Funding assistance to support more sustainable land use and tropical forest conservation should address these drivers of deforestation by supporting partnerships with the private sector. Putting in place such practices and at the same time and producing these commodities at a profit with zero deforestation is another important objective.

In addition, protecting tropical forests is an area of consensus amongst developed and developing nations, and notes that the requested funding can help the US government to continue to actively encourage this consensus. In addition, tropical forest nations with sufficient political will have been already successful at slowing and reversing forest loss when adequate resources are available, Brazil being one example of such success.

The role of USAID and State Department and the multilateral agencies includes building the capacity in developing countries to sustainably manage agricultural production and to put into place strong governance structures that include land tenure rights, protected forest lands, and enforcement of resource use laws, such as laws prohibiting illegal logging.

The US hardwood industry is vulnerable to illegal logging as it creates world price distortions, putting the wood industry at an unfair competitive advantage. US assistance helps reduce destructive logging practices in producing countries.

The majority of tropical deforestation is taking place in a few priority countries, and UCS encourages USAID, the State Department, and other relevant Agencies to coordinate their efforts and focus assistance for reducing tropical deforestation by pursuing a small number of high-priority bilateral and regional partnerships in key geographies.

#### Conclusion

In a global economy, the US assistance in keeping tropical forests intact has numerous economic, social, political and security interests for the US, as I have outlined above. Continuing investments in the FY2013 budget can only help stave off increased costs due to further destruction of tropical forests.

**UNITED MACEDONIAN DIASPORA**

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Testimony of Mr. Metodija A. Koloski, the President of United Macedonian Diaspora, as submitted to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations:

**April 13, 2012**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to address you. I am the President of the United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD). UMD is a leading international non-governmental organization addressing the interest and needs of Macedonian communities in the United States and throughout the world. On behalf of the close to 500,000 Macedonian-Americans, we work to foster unity, promote Macedonian culture and heritage, promote the interests of the Macedonian-American communities, and advance the U.S.-Macedonia bilateral relationship.

With the release of President Obama's proposed FY 2013 budget, the Republic of Macedonia is expected to receive \$14,975,000.00 in foreign aid investment from the United States, a dramatic decrease from \$27.5 million in FY 2011, and \$19.5 million in FY2012. The FY 2013 budget represents a 41.9 percent decrease from two years previously, meaning many projects vital to Macedonia's growth and development will no longer have sufficient funding. Our community is very concerned that the level of funding being offered to Macedonia does not accurately reflect the close relationship between the two allies.

Since formally recognizing Macedonia's independence in 1994, the United States has spurred tremendous development and growth in the country, providing over \$1 billion in foreign aid. This has helped Macedonia to overcome the economic legacy of a command economy, and the after-effects of Greece's three-year economic embargo.

Of the most important aspects of this aid has been in the educational sector. As a result of past USAID projects, a new teacher certification program has been enacted, which requires in-class experience before being granted certification, thus moving away from attendance-based certification. USAID provided over 6,000 computers to all primary and secondary schools in Macedonia, giving students an opportunity to gain experience with this necessary modern technology. As a result of these innovations, Macedonian teachers were awarded with the European Grand Prix for innovation in computer-assisted learning, at Microsoft's Innovative Education Forum in 2011. Much work remains to be done, however, especially in the ethnic integration of schools, improving youth employability, and education issues in the Roma community. Another project of note is the USAID Equal Access for Equal Opportunities, which provides assistive technologies for over 20 primary scholars in Macedonia so their students with disabilities can develop cognitive and motor skills through the use of specially adapted IT peripherals or software, and have better access to education opportunities.

USAID has also been active sponsor of the Macedonia Connects program. This program has resulted in the provision of broadband internet connectivity to almost 550 elementary and secondary schools, research institutions, and universities, allowing Macedonia to become the first all-wireless internet country in the world. The outcome of this has been lower cost internet for Macedonians, increased internet penetration, and an increased integration of the ICT sector in Macedonia. In 2005, as a result of USAID, Macedonia became the first fully wireless, or wi-fi, connected country in the world.

Funding from projects has also been used to improve the status of women and minorities in Macedonia. Due to USAID programs, women have seen their opportunities to succeed increase dramatically. From business reforms to the introduction of micro-financing, new doors have been opened to close both gender and ethnicity divides. Projects in the areas of economic growth, democracy and local government, education and anti-trafficking reforms have all seen the condition of minorities and women improve greatly. Macedonia is currently ranked tier 1 by the State Department's Human Trafficking Report. More needs to be done in regards to participation of women in local government, especially at the mayoral level.

In order for development to continue, business development is a necessary precursor. Business development had long been hindered in Macedonia due to the presence of the Yugoslav command economy, and the three-year long Greek economic embargo in the 90s, which caused unemployment to skyrocket to 70 percent. Numerous projects are ongoing in this area, and successes of past projects can be seen in Macedonia's growing economy and decreasing unemployment rates to about 32% at the moment. Currently, USAID projects are improving competitiveness, creating investment development, introducing agribusiness technology, enhancing microfinance development, and eliminating barriers to start businesses. These projects are vital to ensuring the future of Macedonia's development. For instance, due to funding from USAID projects, a profitable scrap recycling industry has developed in Macedonia, a tool company has used financing projects to expand its market share, and food safety standards have been improved across the board.

One of the biggest drivers of economic growth in Southeastern Europe has been tourism. Here too, aid money is of great importance. Aid allows for the improvement of domestic infrastructure networks, as well as the improvement of existing structures. Aid money has proved vital in the improvement of roads, as well as the modernization of Skopje's international airport. In addition to these improvements, aid money can be used to foster key sectors of the tourism market. For example, Macedonia is known for its bountiful harvests and venerable wine-making industry. Aid money has been vital in allowing this sector of the tourism and food industry to flourish. Another example, the Bovin Winery has been able to expand its oak-aging facilities and modernize the technology it uses to increase production. In 2005, USAID helped to establish Macedonia's first National Tourism Portal, <http://www.exploringmacedonia.com>.

Improving rule of law and the judicial system is another necessary precondition for continued growth. USAID has funded projects implementing judicial reform, strengthening civil society, and modernizing the Macedonian judicial system, while ensuring implementation of program to allow for citizenship for Macedonia's Roma population. However, work remains in the areas of

improving the functioning of the judicial branch, increasing transparency, fighting corruption, and improving the functioning of Parliament. Until these reforms are enacted, the progress that Macedonia has made will be incomplete.

As one of its first Parliamentary actions, Macedonia confirmed its desire to attain NATO membership. Macedonia has worked hard to complete the domestic reforms necessary for membership, and has demonstrated its firm commitment to the Alliance. Macedonia has hosted the logistics support center for the KFOR mission in Kosovo, and has provided the fourth most troops per capita to the ISAF mission in Afghanistan. This would not have been possible without the continued assistance of the United States. Aid money has driven military reforms forward, and partnership with the Vermont National Guard has allowed the Macedonian Army to be better-trained and better-equipped on the battlefield. In 2010, Macedonian troops were embedded within a Vermont National Guard deployment to Afghanistan – the first such joint deployment between the U.S. and a non-NATO member country in the history of the U.S. military. Military reforms have been impressive, and Macedonia's 7,000 strong Army has received praise from numerous United States military commanders. The importance of aid in this process should not be underestimated. Without contributions from the United States, Macedonia would still be lagging. As it is, Macedonia has completed all technical requirements for membership, and we hope the country will be invited to join the Alliance at the upcoming Chicago Summit in May, especially in light of the recent ruling by the International Court of Justice, which confirmed that Greece's veto of Macedonian NATO membership in 2008 was contrary its international legal obligations.

As has been evidenced by these success stories, aid has been a vital part of Macedonia's development and growth. Macedonia has promoted stability in the region, and worked diligently in spreading security in the world. Macedonia has been a staunch ally of the United States, and it is time for the United States to remember the contributions of its allies. It is only with restored aid, that Macedonia will continue its progress, and transition to a stage of innovation-led growth. Thanks to the support of the U.S., Macedonia has become a beacon of democracy in Southeast Europe, a role model for the region, and we believe further U.S. support will help U.S. interests in Southeast Europe. This will ensure a Europe, whole, free, and at peace, and very importantly political and socio-economic stability for Macedonia and Southeast Europe.

Thank you for the opportunity you have provided the United Macedonian Diaspora, on behalf of our nation's close to 500,000 Macedonian-American community, to submit this testimony. I would like to thank my Fellow Matthew Emery for his research assistance to put together this testimony.

**Testimony submitted to the House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs**

**By**

**Dr. Richard H. Solomon**

**President**

**United States Institute of Peace**

**March 30, 2012**

Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member Lowey and other members of the Subcommittee, I am Richard Solomon, President of the United States Institute of Peace (USIP). I appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony in support of the Administration's request for \$37.4 million for USIP in Fiscal year 2013 to further efforts to professionalize the field of international conflict management and peacebuilding, implement conflict management programs abroad, and generate and train practioners in new techniques of conflict management and prevention.

Created by Congress in 1984, USIP is the government's only national security and foreign affairs institution chartered to develop and promote non-violent approaches to international conflict management and peacebuilding. We also understand the importance for our national viability of reducing the federal budget deficit. In FY 2011, USIP's appropriation was reduced by 20 percent, leading to a consolidation of USIP's efforts -- including a 16 percent reduction in personnel. In light of the current budget environment, USIP concurs with the Administration's proposal to reduce USIP's FY 2013 appropriation by an addition 4 percent to \$37.4 million.

The greatest contribution USIP makes to reduce the federal budget deficit is its work. Peacebuilding and conflict management is cost effective. Our work helps minimize the need for costly military interventions and our programs save lives. In the last quarter century, USIP has paid for itself by many multiples through its programs—not just by our field activities in Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan, but in other conflict areas, including Sudan, the Balkans, Philippines, Northeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America. USIP's budget is equivalent to less than four hours of the cost of operations in Afghanistan. It is less than one-tenth of one percent of the budget of the Department of State, and one one-hundredth of the one percent of the defense budget. Funding USIP adequately pays regular national security dividends that far exceed the costs.

The Institute's programs encompass a wide range of activities and operations that contribute directly and uniquely to the national security of the United States. I would like to highlight a few areas in which we are currently engaged.

**Preventing Conflict:** Since 9/11, USIP's role in advancing American international interests has grown through working in partnership with the U.S. military, the State Department, other civilian agencies, nongovernmental and international organizations, and institutions of higher education and research. USIP enhances America's capability for peace and security promotion in conflict zones around the world by training locals in the skills of conflict management. USIP's operations in Libya demonstrate the capabilities that make the Institute so effective. USIP deployed its peacebuilders to Libya, shortly after the NATO decision to intervene to protect civilians. Working behind the scenes, USIP served as one of the bridges between the rebels and both the State Department and USAID, helping to assure that coordination between the U.S. government and the rebels was not perceived as U.S. meddling. The day Tripoli fell, the Institute was on the ground training over one hundred Libyans to work as post-conflict mediators and facilitators. They were able to rapidly respond throughout the country to help prevent community level violence. USIP remains engaged there today, helping address post-conflict challenges, such as transitional justice and constitution-making. USIP was the only foreign actor asked by Libya's ruling National Transitional Council's stabilization team to advise them on the role of civil society and women in the post-conflict environment. It was

for undertakings such as this that former CENTCOM commander GEN Anthony Zinni praised USIP as “the Marine Corp or special forces for foreign affairs and peacebuilding.”

**Training in Conflict Management Skills:** As is confirmed by those who serve in complex international operations, friction and uncertainty among the various actors—including the military and civilian agencies, NGOs, international organizations, foreign militaries and governments, etc.—can lead to failure, the loss of life, and wasted resources. To be effective in today’s world, military and civilian personnel need to design and implement operations across institutional and national boundaries and to work together in rapidly changing, insecure environments. USIP’s Academy for Conflict Management and Peacebuilding employs the Institute’s unique capabilities to conduct professional training in best practices and lessons learned for both civilian and military professionals. The Academy’s mission targets capacity building; its training activities are professionalizing the field of peacebuilding. Training focuses on innovative thinking and applied learning that draws on experience, anticipates future conflict management challenges, develops and assesses strategic concepts and skills, and provides analytical products that inform leaders and help shape key decisions. The Academy gives the U.S. government the ability to prepare interagency and whole-of-community participation for today’s conflicts and tomorrow’s conflict management challenges.

**Research and Innovation:** USIP’s status as a quasi-independent agency linked to Congress enables agility, flexibility and the ability to take risks. Inspired by Congress’s vision of a service that could independently collate, analyze and apply data and information relevant to conflict management and peacebuilding from open sources and all departments of the federal government, USIP’s applied research capacity provides the government a formidable resource. Staffed with professionals from many disciplines—economists, political scientists, anthropologists, lawyers, national security specialists, peace operations experts, historians, military, and diplomats—USIP’s roster includes a Who’s Who of this generation’s innovators in international conflict management and peacebuilding. As but one example, two USIP-Army fellows went on to earn their general’s stars and apply their skills in conflict management for the nation through service in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Over the past quarter century, USIP’s analytical studies, developed in close collaboration with the government and nongovernment peace and security communities, substantially rewrote

the academic and training literature for understanding contemporary conflicts and approaches to their resolution. One of USIP's most important national security contributions has been its joint collaboration with the Army on the first strategic "doctrine" ever produced for civilian actors involved in peace operations. Guiding Principles for Stabilization and Reconstruction captures the hard-won lessons of whole-of-government interventions in a practical guidebook for adaptive, creative conflict leadership at a critical time in our history. Through this analysis, the Institute recently supported the planning framework for Libya's post-conflict stabilization activities. The Institute facilitates the interagency and "whole of community" Working Group on Civil-Military Relations in Non-Permissive Environments, the nation's only regular working group of the major U.S. humanitarian assistance NGOs, the Defense and State Departments, and USAID. This group negotiated and oversees guidelines approved by SECDEF and CJCS to coordinate the relations and combined efforts of the military, civilian agencies and humanitarian NGOs in peace and stability operations.

**Service:** There is no question that the military and Defense and State Departments consider USIP an essential tool in the nation's capacity for international conflict management and peacebuilding. In testimony before the Congress, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton affirmed that USIP "fills a real place in our whole arsenal" of institutional capability for non-military engagement abroad. Sustained high levels of peacebuilding operations over the past decade, in partnership with the military and diplomatic communities, is indicative of the Institute's can-do, "selfless service" attitude. Senior U.S. officials and military leaders frequently speak of their support for, and appreciation of, the superb work of USIP's skilled peacebuilders, trainers, analysts, and support specialists. The unique capabilities they apply on the nation's behalf are extraordinary, surmounting challenging operational and security conditions with rare skill, ingenuity and determination. These American peacebuilding professionals work quietly behind the scenes, not looking for headlines but striving for practical results. With the highest standards of personal courage, they have brought an impressive pride to our federal mission. On the ground in Iraq since 2003—in fact, since three weeks after the invasion phase of the war—USIP specialists have enabled and supported critical peace and stability operations at great personal risk. During these nearly nine years in Iraq, the USIP compound suffered severe damage from six mortar and rocket strikes. One barrage destroyed an Institute vehicle. We sustained our greatest loss when two USIP staff were killed in the line of service.

Our nation is slowly emerging from a very challenging decade of war—more than 53,000 Americans killed or wounded, countless Afghan and Iraqi civilians killed, and trillion and a half U.S. dollars spent. We have learned the hard way that the old approach of going to war, conquering an enemy, and then coming home is not viable in a much more complex and interdependent world. We work to develop better ways of preventing conflict in the first place, and promoting stabilization when a conflict is over. And we train citizens of other countries to manage their own conflicts, thus reducing the need for American intervention.

Current and threatening international conflicts shape the Institute's FY 2013 request. No other federal national security institution is designed to accomplish USIP's mission. The Institute's unique training, operations, and analytical work save lives and money. USIP enhances national security, and increases the government's operational efficiency with innovation and full spectrum analysis-to-action solutions.

I strongly urge full funding of this important federal institution, which is so essential to our national security in today's world.

Outside Witness Testimony for FY2013  
Written Statement for the Record

by Adil Baguirov, Ph.D.  
Managing Director and co-founder, U.S. Azeris Network (USAN)  
Washington, D.C.

Before the United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

March 29, 2012

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Madam Chairwoman, honorable members of the Subcommittee,

To summarize USAN's request in FY2013 aid to Armenia and Azerbaijan as well as Armenia-occupied Nagorno-Karabagh region of Azerbaijan:

<b>Armenia</b>	<b>Azerbaijan</b>	<b>Armenia-occupied Nagorno-Karabagh region of Azerbaijan</b>
<b>\$0 in foreign aid except aid for democracy and human rights promotion</b>	<b>\$26 million in foreign aid (just like in FY2011 actual aid)</b>	<b>\$0 (zero)</b>
<b>\$0 (zero) FMF, \$0 (zero) IMET (Department of Defense)</b>	<b>\$3 million FMF, \$900,000 IMET (Department of Defense)</b>	<b>Not requested, not allocated, not applicable</b>

USAN is against the State Department's FY2013 proposed budget request of just \$16,330 million for the valuable strategic U.S. ally nation of Azerbaijan whilst providing as much as \$36,608 million to Armenia (which militarily occupies Azerbaijani territories, in violation of U.S. and international law). The assistance should be at the very least equal to both countries, even though Azerbaijan is more than twice the size and population, and several times the size of refugee/IDP population. In reality, because Armenia militarily occupies some 16% of Azerbaijan and thus commits action in violation of the territorial integrity or national sovereignty of another Independent State of the former Soviet Union, such as violations included in the Helsinki Final Act, per Section 7070 of the FY2012 Conference Report and other relevant U.S. laws, then none of the previously appropriated or funds under consideration shall be made available for assistance to Armenia. Thus, there should be no aid to Armenia (except for democracy-building and promotion of human rights) and \$26 million to Azerbaijan

- just like in the FY2011 actual aid allocation. Also, USAN requests to **not** include **any** direct assistance for the Armenia-occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan in FY2013. Furthermore, USAN feels that based on prior actuals, real absorption capacity and Pentagon's own assessments (and not the wants of a special interest group), there should be \$900,000 in International Military Education and Training (IMET) aid accompanied by \$3 million in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) for Azerbaijan, while since Armenia's army is occupying parts of Azerbaijan in violation of U.S. and international law, there should not be FMF or IMET aid to Armenian armed forces.

## **NO DIRECT AID TO NAGORNO KARABAKH SHOULD BE PERMITTED**

Direct aid to the Armenia-occupied Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan obviously causes irritation and protests on the part of both Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijani-Americans, and spoils the relations between allies significantly. There was no direct aid requested for Nagorno-Karabakh in either FY2013 or FY2012, or previously, it is always inserted by special interest groups as well as by the Armenian Caucas co-chairs.

Indeed, the House Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs reports, such as for FY2012, only included such innocent and praiseworthy general instructions as "Provided further, That funds made available for the Southern Caucasus region may be used for confidence-building measures and other activities in furtherance of the peaceful resolution of conflicts, including in Nagorno-Karabakh." Sources: House Subcommittee State and Foreign Operations FY 2012 Bill, July 26, 2011, p. 36, [http://appropriations.house.gov/UploadedFiles/FY12-SFOPS-07-25\\_xml.pdf](http://appropriations.house.gov/UploadedFiles/FY12-SFOPS-07-25_xml.pdf), and Text of the conference report FY 2012 (House Report 112-331), Division I, p. 40, [http://rules.house.gov/Media/file/PDF\\_112\\_1/HR2055CRbill/pcConferenceDivI-BillOCR.pdf](http://rules.house.gov/Media/file/PDF_112_1/HR2055CRbill/pcConferenceDivI-BillOCR.pdf)

In other words, the instruction was for CBM's for conflicts such as in Nagorno-Karabakh - which means money split equally among both Armenia and Azerbaijan. But instead all the money was provided directly to Nagorno-Karabakh's military junta, led by the Armed Forces of Armenia, that occupies this Azerbaijani region. Thus, how did this instruction got turned into a direct aid to the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region - and to add insult to injury, only to the Armenian residents, and not Azerbaijani displaced from there? Obviously, someone has twisted and changed the spirit and letter of the Subcommittee's and full Conference's report, and did harm to the U.S. national interests, its international and regional standing and prestige, and its appearance of an honest, neutral broker in the mediation between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

**U.S. is the only country in the world to allocate aid directly to the occupied region, bypassing central authorities in Baku.** U.S. Does not give any direct aid to similar post-Soviet conflict zones such as Abkhazia (Georgia), South Ossetia (Georgia) and Transdnistria (Moldova), not to mention many other similar

regions around the world, such as Chechnya in Russia in the 1990s and 2000s, or the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) - then why provide any direct aid to the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region?

Aside from this move sending the wrong message symbolically, this money, which is some 10% of the total (shadow) economy of the occupied territories, **frees up funds for the Armenian armed forces to continuing illegal occupation of 16% of Azerbaijan, buying arms, as well as serving as a black hole for narcotics and drug trade, arms smuggling** (there is a 132 km border with Iran), diamond and precious metals trade, etc. I am submitting several proofs of this for the record below. Hence, it is absolutely essential that the counter-productive and inappropriate allocation of direct U.S. aid to the occupied Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan be finally put to stop this year.

Official U.S. government position on the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict over NK region of Azerbaijan: "The actions taken by the government of Armenia in the context of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh are **inconsistent** with the territorial integrity and national sovereignty principles of the Helsinki Final Act. **Armenia supports Nagorno-Karabakh separatists in Azerbaijan both militarily and financially. Nagorno-Karabakh forces, assisted by units of the Armenian armed forces, currently occupy the Nagorno-Karabakh region and surrounding areas in Azerbaijan.** This violation and the restoration of peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan have been taken up by the OSCE." (Presidential Determination (PD) No. 99-8 of December 8, 1998, and PD No. 98-11 of January 26, 1998, Memorandum for the Secretary of State, Re: "Assistance Program for the New Independent States of the Former Soviet Union.")

"There were credible reports that **Armenian immigrants from the Middle East** and elsewhere, had settled in parts of **Nagorno-Karabakh and possibly other Azerbaijani territories occupied by Armenian forces.**" (Department of State, 31 March 2003, sect. 2d)

## **VILATION OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY IN FORMER SOVIET UNION - VIOLATION OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT**

The text of the Section 7070 of the Conference Report FY2012 (House Report 112-331), Division I, pp. 230-231, contained the following important legally-binding instruction, that must be followed:

### **"18 INDEPENDENT STATES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION**

19 SEC. 7070. (a) None of the funds appropriated under  
20 the heading "Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central  
21 Asia" shall be made available for assistance for a govern-  
22 mnt of an Independent State of the former Soviet Union  
23 if that government directs any action in violation of the

24 territorial integrity or national sovereignty of any other  
 25 Independent State of the former Soviet Union, such as  
 1 those violations included in the Helsinki Final Act: Pm-  
 2 vided, That such funds may be made available without re-  
 3 gard to the restriction in this subsection if the President  
 4 determines that to do so is in the national security interest  
 5 of the United States."

Similar instruction was in the Section 7073 of the House Subcommittee State and Foreign Operations FY 2012 Bill, July 26, 2011, on p. 36. Similar legal provision was in the previous appropriation bills and public laws: in the Section 7073 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010, in the Section 7073 of the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009 (H. R. 1105—383), in the Section 617 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 and others (longer list below).

Then, why is this legally-binding instruction ignored and not complied with year after year? Because it has been reported, established and certified many times by the U.S. Government (e.g., the State Department - see <http://Karabakh.UZAzeris.org> for a detailed fact sheet), that Armenia occupies Azerbaijan and thus violates the latter's territorial integrity and sovereignty, it is thus ineligible for any U.S. aid.

Longer list of U.S. Laws prohibiting assistance to any former Soviet Union state that violates the territorial integrity and sovereignty of another former Soviet state:  
 1) Public Laws 105-277 through 105-291, United States Statutes at Large (Digitized). United States Statutes at Large, Volume 112, 105th Congress, 2nd Session. Thursday, January 1, 1998.

2) Public Laws 105-89 through 105-153, United States Statutes at Large (Digitized). United States Statutes at Large, Volume 111, 105th Congress, 1st Session. Wednesday, January 1, 1997.

3) Public Law 105-118 - Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1998, Public and Private Laws. 105th Congress. H.R. 2159. Wednesday, November 26, 1997.

4) H. Rept. 108-792 - MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS FOR THE..., Congressional Reports. To accompany H.R. 4818. Saturday, November 20, 2004.

5) 150 Cong. Rec. H10235 - CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4818, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005, Congressional Record. Regarding H. Rept. 108-792. Friday, November 19, 2004.

6) H. Rept. 108-401 - MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND..., Congressional Reports. To accompany H.R. 2673. Tuesday, November 25, 2003.

7) 149 Cong. Rec. H12323 - CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2673, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004, Congressional Record. Regarding H. Rept. 108-401. Tuesday, November 25, 2003.

## MILITARY AND SECURITY AID

I believe that Azerbaijan's one-of-a-kind record as a predominantly Shi'a Muslim nation that sent peacekeepers to Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq, granted overflight and refueling rights, was among the first to offer assistance after the tragedy of September 11, offered aid to the Katrina victims, extradited international terrorists, prevented nuclear and arms smuggling and proliferation, etc., speaks for itself. However, in light of recent escalation of violence between the Azerbaijani army and the Armenian occupational army stationed in Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and seven other Azerbaijani regions adjacent to it, the State Department's statement on Armenia's military and occupation speaks for itself:

"Armenian compliance with CFE has been uneven. In addition to Armenia's longstanding failure to properly notify or carry out reductions required by the Treaty, there are serious concerns about the completeness of Armenia's data on equipment holdings. Also of concern are: evidence that Armenia may have failed to notify increases in unit holdings involving CFE Treaty limited equipment transferred from Russia, the fact that Armenia continues to station troops and CFE limited equipment on the territory of Azerbaijan without Azerbaijani permission, and evidence that Armenia made a late notification of the entry into service of multiple rocket launchers purchased from China. Another area of concern is Armenia's failure to report the apparent transfer of TLE from Russia in the mid-1990s. There has been no change in this issue by the Armenians. Armenia has taken no new steps toward resolving this issue since the Trilateral Commission, established in 1997 to investigate the transfers, stopped meeting in April 1998. Both Armenia and Azerbaijan have maintained that it is impossible for them to meet certain Treaty obligations because of security concerns associated with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.... On May 9, 2002, the U.S. imposed sanctions on two Armenian entities – Lizin Open Joint Stock Company and Armenian national Armen Sargasian – pursuant to the Iran Nonproliferation Act for the transfer of Australia Group-controlled items to Iran in the second half of 2001." ("U.S. Government Assistance to and Cooperative Activities with Eurasia –FY 2003", Released by the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, January 2004, <http://www.state.gov/p/eur/rls/rpt/37969.htm>)

## CONCLUSION

USAN makes the following requests for Azerbaijan and Armenia:

**Armenia – \$0 (zero) in development aid (except for democracy and human rights promotion); military: \$0 (zero) in FMF and IMET;**

**Azerbaijan – \$26 million development aid; military: \$5 million FMF, \$900,000 IMET;**

**Armenia-occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan - \$0.00 (zero)**

### Testimony of Wildlife Conservation Society

Submitted to House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies  
By Kelly Keenan Aylward, WCS Washington Office Director [kaylward@wcs.org](mailto:kaylward@wcs.org)  
March 30, 2012

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Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member Lowey, Members of the Subcommittee: thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the FY13 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act regarding Biodiversity, Global Health and Energy Accounts. The Bronx Zoo-based Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), has been around for over 115 years with the mission of saving wildlife and wild places worldwide. WCS fieldwork helps address threats to over 25% of Earth's biodiversity in 60 countries around the world. As an implementing partner of the U.S. government overseas, WCS is closely following foreign aid priorities related to the Global Health Initiative (GHI), the Global Climate Change Initiative (GCCII), the Feed the Future Initiative (FTF) and natural resource management, writ large. Our work demonstrates how conservation helps achieve our foreign policy and national security objectives, such as: reduce armed conflict over scarce wildlife and natural resources, preventing the spread of diseases between animals and humans; securing land tenure and promoting indigenous rights to protect tropical forest habitat and fortify the sources of drinking water for rural communities in the developing world; and developing National Parks to promote budding ecotourism and hospitality sectors in developing countries rich in biodiversity.

As the Subcommittee balances the nation's fiscal challenges with national security interests, it is important to note that international conservation comprises about 1% of our foreign assistance, which, in turn, is only 1% of the federal budget. This modest investment in sustainable natural resource management in places like Afghanistan, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and elsewhere reduces conflict around scarce resources and serves to prevent costly civil strife and potential future military interventions. This testimony will focus on programs at USAID, the State Department, and programs at the US Treasury that contribute to multilateral institutions, where conservation delivers on development and sustainable supply chains.

**USAID Biodiversity:** USAID's Biodiversity Conservation Programs help protect some of the largest and most at-risk natural landscapes while boosting economic security, regional stability and human health. Unfortunately, the President's FY13 budget doesn't include a line item for the USAID Biodiversity Program and the Congressional Budget Justification reveals only \$87 million is requested to address biodiversity challenges around the world, compared to the \$200 million enacted in FY12 SFOPs. Over 80% of the 146 armed conflicts in the past 50 years occurred in places that contain a high percentage of the world's wildlife and plant species. For example, a study from the Center for a New American Security found that depleted fish stocks eliminated the livelihoods of Somali fishermen, resulting in many of them becoming pirates. In Afghanistan and Pakistan, where WCS is the only U.S. based conservation organization at work, desertification from unsustainable land use, soil erosion caused by deforestation, and water contamination have devastated the region's inhabitants. Reversing these destructive trends is key to good governance and capacity building, which is essential for effective local management and security. This is also a goal in the world's newest democracy, South Sudan where WCS is working with the government to incorporate resource management into its development strategy. In Central Africa, despite a long history of conflict, the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) brings 6 nations together to discuss how to save the world's gorillas and elephants, the importance of sustainable development, and transboundary national park development. However, catastrophic loss of

elephants in Chad and Cameroon at the hand of heavily armed North Sudanese and Chadian horsemen remind us of the great need for a wildlife law enforcement network to train military personnel in Central Africa to deter and respond to the national security risks posed by organized crime rings crossing national borders and operating in the black market not only in ivory and rhino horn, but weapons, narcotics and humans. Examples like these emphasize the importance of incorporating conservation and natural resource management into a larger conflict-prevention strategy. WCS recommends that the USAID Biodiversity line item be restored and funded at FY12 Enacted level of \$200 million of which \$25 million is requested for CARPE, \$20 million for the Andean Amazon Conservation Initiative, \$5 million for wildlife conservation in Southern Sudan, \$2 million for a Central Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network, \$2 million for Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve, \$2,000,000 to implement and enforce the Lacey Act (section 8204 of Public Law 110-246), and \$500,000 for tiger conservation in the Russian Far East.

**Sustainable Landscapes:** The Administration's FY13 request of \$130.5 million for Sustainable Landscapes includes \$113.5 million for Development Assistance and \$17 million for Economic Support Funds to protect tropical forests from deforestation and degradation. Forests are essential for regulating water flow, capturing rainfall for drinking water and often preventing catastrophic flooding and soil erosion. Forests supply direct food, economic resources and medicinal products to the over 1.6 billion people who live in them, and are vital to the healthy ecosystems we all depend on. U.S. support will give developing countries the ability to address the drivers of deforestation and degradation, halt illegal logging and restore degraded lands. This has direct economic benefits for U.S. producers as well: unfair competition from illegally harvested timber in developing countries costs the U.S. timber industry \$1 billion annually. WCS requests funding to USAID and State Department for Sustainable Landscapes be level with the FY12 Enacted amount of \$137 million. WCS also encourages the Subcommittee to look for additional funding streams like the Indonesia Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact Green Prosperity Initiative to complete the U.S. pledge of \$1 billion for Sustainable Landscapes so that money are not diverted from other accounts, like biodiversity or adaptation assistance.

**Resilience, Adaptation and Predictive Capabilities:** The Administration FY13 Request for USAID and State Department Adaptation programs is \$190 million and includes \$141 million for Development Assistance and \$42 million for ESF. This is up from \$184.5 million in FY12 Enacted SFOPs. Some of the world's poorest countries are experiencing increased droughts, floods and other extreme weather events. These regions need technical and financial assistance to monitor changes and integrate nature-based adaptation strategies into plans that address infrastructure, health, agriculture, natural resources management, disaster risk reduction and conflict mitigation. As part of ongoing efforts to protect ecosystems and improve the livelihoods of the people living in Africa's Albertine Rift WCS has helped the Uganda National Forest Authority to determine the economic value and services the forests provide for the surrounding communities. WCS supports the Administration's FY13 request of \$190 million for adaptation assistance.

**USAID Emerging Pandemic Threats Program:** The Administration has requested \$53 million for USAID's Pandemic Influenza and Other Emerging Threats (PIOET) Office, in USAID's Global Health Bureau, down from \$189 million in FY09. WCS requests that PIOET be fully funded at \$90 million in FY13, which will enable current levels of effort to continue to protect vital global interests. These investments are intended to fight the emergence of zoonotic diseases that spread between people and animals by building essential human and institutional capacity to prevent disease transmission at its source, and controlling its spread locally and across borders regionally and

globally. Since 2009, the PIOET/EPT Program has discovered over 100 new potentially zoonotic viruses from wild animals in countries where the risk of disease emergence is high; and more than 2,400 human, animal, and environment health professionals have been trained in the prevention, timely detection, confirmation, preparedness and response to zoonotic diseases outbreaks. The Ugandan government, assisted by USAID EPT-funded partners, contained outbreaks of anthrax and a fatal hemorrhagic fever outbreak affecting hundreds of people in its territory. EPT facilitated coordinated responses by the ministries of health, agriculture and wildlife, and its support to field researchers expedited the diagnosis of the fatal hemorrhagic fever. Sustaining these investments is essential for US national security and public health interests.

**The Global Environment Facility:** The Administration requested \$129.4 million in FY13 for the U.S. Treasury to transfer the US contribution to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund. The US is one of more than 30 donors to the GEF where about 1/3 of all funds are directed to biodiversity conservation in the developing world. WCS is an implementing partner of the GEF in South Sudan and has experienced firsthand the importance of leveraging US leadership into a globally funded mechanism to promote global priority projects. WCS supports the Administration's FY13 request for the GEF.

**Tropical Forest Conservation Act:** The Administration did not include a line item for the Tropical Forest Conservation Account (TFCA) at the US Treasury Debt Restructuring Program. This debt-for-nature swap program has lead the way in developing crucial forestry conservation programs in tropical countries that leverage additional funding for conservation from private sector partners. WCS requests that the line item be restored and funded at FY12 Enacted levels of \$12 million. improve coordination and increase efficiencies within and across federal agencies so that the declines in natural resources can be halted and reversed. The strategy should translate priorities into specific programmatic recommendations in order to integrate conservation needs into broader foreign assistance, development, and security decision-making. I urge the Subcommittee to review

**In conclusion,** WCS appreciates the opportunity to share its perspectives and recommend modest funding for international conservation in the FY13 SFOPs Appropriations Act. Conservation investments are in our national security interest and assist in building capacity, strengthening governance and stabilizing regions prone to conflict and unrest.

***Ritu Sharma, Co-Founder and President, Women Thrive Worldwide***

My name is Ritu Sharma. I am the Co-Founder and President of Women Thrive Worldwide, and I am honored to submit testimony on behalf of my organization, a coalition of more than 60 groups dedicated to helping women in developing countries lift themselves and their families out of poverty. We have deeply appreciated the leadership and commitment of Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey to improving the lives of women and girls around the world.

**For fiscal year 2013, we respectfully request that the Committee hold the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) accountable for implementation of the recently released Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy, including implementation of a multi-year, comprehensive strategy to address violence against women and girls internationally. We also request that the Committee fully fund the poverty-fighting and humanitarian assistance accounts, and make resources available for USAID to implement the gender policy and the comprehensive strategy to end violence against women and girls.**

**Implementation of USAID Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy**

Since fiscal year 2010, the State, Foreign Operations Appropriations bill has mandated an increased focus on women and girls across all sectors of U.S. development assistance. Also in 2010, the State Department's Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR) called for putting women and girls at the center of the U.S. foreign policy agenda. On March 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, both of these directives became reality when USAID released its new Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy, which makes integrating gender and including women and girls central to all U.S. international assistance.

This is a remarkable step forward for more efficient and effective foreign assistance. But the true sign of success will be when these new policies in Washington result in tangible change in the lives of the poorest women, men, girls and boys in communities around the world. **The Subcommittee's oversight of full implementation of the policy will be key in this regard.**

However, this mandate will be meaningless if there are no funds to implement it. **We therefore request that the Subcommittee fully fund the life-saving poverty-fighting and humanitarian assistance accounts for fiscal year 2013, including by making funds available to integrate gender throughout U.S. foreign assistance, as directed by the new policy. Many of the resources for implementation of the gender policy will be drawn from USAID's operating expenses. Accordingly, we ask the Subcommittee to augment USAID's operating expenses, to account for the resources needed to adequately implement the gender policy, and to support overall sound program implementation and accountability.**

#### About USAID's Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy

This policy, which had not been updated in thirty years, aims to increase the capacity of women and girls, decrease inequality between genders, and reduce gender-based violence. Women Thrive applauds that the new mandate applies to all implementers and contractors, builds in accountability across USAID, and emphasizes partnerships with country governments, local women's organizations, and the private sector.

This robust new Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy is an unprecedented opportunity for USAID to make critical gains in achieving:

1. **Better Results**—Gender integration is a proven method of effective development. It ensures that programs reach all of their intended beneficiaries, rather than inadvertently excluding half the population, and that they target their resources wisely, instead of making

costly fixes after the fact. USAID will now maximize its returns on every dollar by ensuring that gender is integrated throughout the development process.

**2. Equality between Women and Men**—Gender equality means equal opportunities for all people, women and men, boys and girls alike, to achieve their personal potential and maximize their contributions to their families, economies, and societies. Gender equality is now an explicit goal of U.S. international assistance.

**3. Faster and More Balanced Economic Growth**—Gender inequality is a barrier to economic growth. Without equal opportunities, individuals and families cannot invest, innovate or lift themselves out of poverty. The promotion of women and girls' advancement, which is included in the new policy, is a critical strategy for economic growth.

**4. More Gains in Poverty Reduction**—Gender integration is key to reducing poverty. Women are at the greatest risk of being poor; yet, the same barriers that lead to poverty also leave them out of development interventions. Poverty reduction efforts will not be sustainable unless both women and men benefit. Ensuring that both women and men are included in poverty reduction efforts is a central goal of the new policy.

**5. Reductions in Violence Against Women and Girls**— Even within specific sector areas – such as health or girls' education—opportunities that would both enhance those efforts and address violence are often missed. USAID has committed to addressing sexual and gender-based violence consistently across aid accounts as part of its new policy. This will maximize the effectiveness of *all* USAID programs and help millions of women and girls to live free of violence.

**Implementation of a Multiyear Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Violence against Women and Girls**

For fiscal year 2012, Congress passed an appropriations bill that called on USAID and the State Department to develop a multi-year strategy to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in countries where it is common. USAID is already convening experts across the agency and outlining a strategy that will integrate comprehensive approaches to preventing and responding to violence against women and girls across all U.S. diplomatic and development efforts.

The Subcommittee can play an important role in supporting the development and implementation of this strategy. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Subcommittee make resources available through the Global Health, Development Assistance, Economic Support Fund, International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement, International Disaster Assistance, Complex Crises Fund, Migration and Refugee Assistance, and Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance accounts to implement a multi-year strategy to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in both conflict and non-conflict settings. In particular, we request an increased contribution to the UN Women managed United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women, where even a small contribution goes a long way in ending violence against women and girls around world. The Trust Fund is the only multilateral grant-making fund that directly supports country-driven local, regional, and national efforts to combat violence against women.

About the Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Women and Girls Globally

Globally, one out of every three women will be beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime,<sup>i</sup> with rates of domestic violence reaching up to 71% in some countries.<sup>ii</sup> This

violence is a gross human rights violation, a public health epidemic and a barrier to solving global challenges such as poverty, HIV/AIDS, armed conflict and terrorism.

As Congress directed in its fiscal year 2012 appropriations bill, the comprehensive strategy must include achievable and sustainable goals, benchmarks for measuring progress, and regular engagement with men and boys as community leaders and advocates. The strategy aims to leverage successful programs that work and to build the capacity of U.S. government personnel and local organizations to combat this injustice. The fiscal year 2012 appropriations bill also directs the Department of State to identify and take emergency measures to respond to violence against women and girls in situations of armed conflict.

This strategy will ensure that all efforts to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls will be streamlined, coordinated, and integrated into the ongoing work of both USAID and the Department of State. It will maximize returns on U.S. investments in *all* development sectors by ensuring that sexual and gender-based violence are taken into account at all stages of program planning, design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.

### **Thank You**

I thank the Subcommittee for the opportunity to submit testimony on the fiscal year 2013 budget and its impact on those living in poverty in the developing world. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that women, men, girls and boys around the world are free to live safe, full, and productive lives.

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<sup>i</sup> Heise, L., et al. 1999. "Ending Violence against Women." Population Reports. Series L. No. 11. Baltimore, Maryland: Population Information Program, Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health.

<sup>ii</sup> Garcia-Moreno C., et al. 2005. WHO Multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women: Initial results on prevalence, health outcomes, and women's responses. Geneva: World Health Organization.

**TESTIMONY OF WORLD WILDLIFE FUND ON  
The Fiscal Year 2013 Budget  
FOR THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS  
March 29, 2012**

**Questions -- Please contact Todd Shelton, Vice President of Government Relations,  
[todd.shelton@wwfus.org](mailto:todd.shelton@wwfus.org)**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on the fiscal year 2013 (FY13) budget. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is the world's largest private conservation organization, operating in more than 100 countries, and working to protect vital wildlife, wildlife habitat, and natural resources. With the support of 1.2 million members in the United States and more than 5 million members worldwide, WWF combines global reach with a foundation in science to meet the needs of both people and nature. WWF understands that in these times of austere budgets every dollar must be evaluated for its contribution to U.S. economic and national security interests. Healthy and renewable natural resources – fertile soil, forests, grasslands, freshwater, fisheries, and wildlife – are the foundation of prosperity, security, and health. They provide clean water, reliable food supplies, medicines, and opportunities for sustainable economic growth. Increasing demand for these essential services, however, is testing the planet's ability to provide for its people. As the global population grows from seven billion people to an estimated nine billion by 2050, coupled with increasing consumption rates, the demand for food, water, and energy is expected to double, making the conservation of this natural capital more critical than ever. For this reason, we urge the Committee to support international conservation and climate accounts within the State, Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.

- \$2.525 billion for the Development Assistance Account for the US Agency for International Development (USAID), including continuing in FY13 a line item for biodiversity (\$200 million);
- \$770 million for the Global Climate Change Initiative (GCCCI);
- \$129.4 million for the Global Environment Facility (GEF);
- \$6.84 million for International Conservation Programs within International Organizations & Programs, and,
- \$12 million for the implementation of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA).

**THE CROSS-CUTTING NATURE OF CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Safeguarding the planet's natural wealth is more than just good stewardship. In the developing world, where natural resources are the very lifeblood of economies, conservation is a basic investment in future growth. In addition, the link between eroding resources and the increased likelihood of instability and conflict is clearer than ever.<sup>1</sup> These scarcity-driven conflicts too often become U.S. problems requiring disaster assistance or costly military interventions.

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<sup>1</sup> Center for a New American Security, "Natural Security" report, [http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/CNAS\\_Working%20Paper\\_Natural%20Security\\_SBurke\\_June2009\\_OnlineNEW\\_0.pdf](http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/CNAS_Working%20Paper_Natural%20Security_SBurke_June2009_OnlineNEW_0.pdf)

Ensuring a sustainable natural resource base is essential to the continued growth of the world's emerging economies – America's newest trading partners. Exports to developing countries are growing three times as fast as those to other countries and now represent nearly half of all U.S. exports. For every 10% increase in exports, there is a 7% increase in employment domestically,<sup>2</sup> directly connecting the stability of governments and markets in the developing world to U.S. job growth. Since developing countries rely disproportionately on their natural wealth for economic growth, strengthening international conservation also enhances America's long-term economic security.

Through conservation programs, the U.S. is protecting the competitiveness of American businesses and the integrity of global markets, including critical supply chains. The illegal extraction of natural resources distorts international markets, increasing the cost of doing business abroad and unfairly undermining U.S. products and companies that adhere to the law and industry guidelines. American jobs are directly impacted as a result. For example, illegal timber extraction in developing countries is estimated to cost the U.S. forest products industry roughly \$1 billion per year in lost revenue.<sup>3</sup> By promoting sustainable forestry practices abroad, U.S. agencies are protecting American workers and the vital natural resources that provide us with essential goods and services.

To safeguard the immediate and future results of conservation and broader development efforts, the U.S. must address climate change. Historical trends are no longer a predictor of the future -- growing seasons are shifting, water availability is irregular, and the intensity and frequency of natural disasters is rising. Ignoring climate change impacts handicaps the U.S. to protect its investments, whether they are at home or abroad.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF VITAL PROGRAMS

### **Bilateral Economic Assistance – USAID: Development Assistance**

#### **• Biodiversity - \$200m**

Most U.S. foreign assistance for on-the-ground conservation is delivered through USAID and its robust portfolio of conservation programs. USAID is working with communities, non-governmental organizations, and governments to develop natural resource policies and management practices that conserve biodiversity and sustain local livelihoods. These programs help protect some of the largest, most at-risk natural landscapes and the livelihoods of millions of people who directly depend on them for their survival and economic growth. By maintaining and restoring the natural resources that supply fertile soil, clean water, food and medicines, these USAID programs enhance U.S. economic and national security interests, reducing conflict over resource scarcity and improving the stability of trading partners.

The shining example is Namibia where, from 1993 to 2008, USAID's Living in a Finite Environment (LIFE) program helped launch and secure the "conservancy" movement. Begun

<sup>2</sup> USGLC Booklet, [http://www.usglc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/USGLC\\_Economic\\_one\\_pager.pdf](http://www.usglc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/USGLC_Economic_one_pager.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Seneca Creek Associates, LLC, and Wood Resources International, LLC. "Illegal" Logging and Global Wood Markets: The Competitive Impacts on the U.S. Wood Products Industry, prepared for American Forest & Paper Association. November 2004, pg. 26.

shortly after Namibia achieved independence in 1990, the LIFE program helped to stabilize both wildlife populations and rural communities, empowering local people to manage their wildlife sustainably and find economic opportunities through ecotourism. The result has been a stunning success: prior to 1994, rural communities did not benefit from the wildlife on their lands; in the past decade, those benefits increased from roughly \$600,000 in 2000 to over \$6 million in 2010. CBNRM has also promoted local decision-making, democratic engagement and a culture of stability built on sustainability.

USAID is now replicating this model in other areas where wildlife can provide the foundation for rural development. The Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA) is a conservation area on an unprecedented scale. Encompassing 109 million acres and crossing five southern Africa countries—Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe – KAZA is the largest trans-boundary conservation area in the world. The KAZA project is empowering Southern African communities by increasing their participation in natural resource management and making them direct benefactors of increased tourism due to the conservation of their wildlife. By pooling their resources, KAZA countries can better conserve the landscape and attract investors, providing an economic boost to the people who live within the conservation area and leveraging additional resources needed to remove thousands of miles of fencing across the KAZA landscape, which will reopen corridors for elephants and other species, and protect upland forests, whose river flows feed wetlands and supply freshwater to KAZA communities. These efforts are enhanced by complementary USAID programs, such as the Animal and Human Health for the Environment and Development (AHEAD) program, which is engaging with the KAZA Secretariat and other regional and multilateral bodies to address the linked issues of wildlife health, domestic animal health, human health and local livelihoods.

#### **Bilateral and Multilateral Economic Assistance – USAID, Department of State, and Department of Treasury**

- **Climate Change - \$770m**

Global climate change investments are traditionally divided into three buckets - Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and/or Sustainable Landscapes, Adaptation, and Clean Energy.

REDD and/or Sustainable Landscapes programs mitigate the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the world's largest and most biologically diverse tropical forests. Forests cover 30 percent of the planet's land area, house up to 90 percent of all terrestrial species, regulate the planet's climate, and directly sustain the livelihoods of 1.6 billion people worldwide. According to the U.S. National Cancer Institute, 70 percent of the plants identified as having anti-cancer characteristics are also found only in tropical forests. Reducing deforestation through sustainable management practices is vital to protecting these essential storehouses of biodiversity and carbon, as well as the essential goods and services that they provide people around the globe, including in the United States.

Adaptation programs seek to build resilience to climate change in the world's most vulnerable countries and communities through linked efforts involving all development sectors, including agriculture, natural resources management, health, energy and infrastructure, and using decision support tools.

Clean energy programs and activities reduce climate change by promoting the sustainable use of renewable energy technologies, energy efficient end-use technologies, carbon sequestration, and carbon accounting. Illustrative activities include supporting the development and implementation of Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS), supporting legal and policy frameworks necessary for energy efficiency, enabling the transfer and adoption of renewable energy technology, such as solar and wind, reforming energy markets to ensure more transparency and encourage investment, and building national and private sector capacity to monitor and manage GHG emissions.

### **Multilateral Assistance – International Organizations & Programs**

- **International Conservation Programs – \$7.9m**

Through the State Department's International Conservation Programs, the U.S. government provides core support to international organizations and programs addressing global challenges through cooperation, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

U.S. support is especially important to curbing illegal trade in rare and threatened wildlife. Worth hundreds of millions of dollars annually, illegal wildlife trade threatens global efforts to protect endangered species and reduce biodiversity loss, undermines sustainable livelihoods, weakens the rule of law, and harms U.S. businesses by undercutting legal markets for goods such as timber.

IO&P programs also preserve globally significant wetlands, promote sustainable management of the world's forests and provide forums for international discussion on key topics. For example, through funding to the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the United States supports a wide range of forest conservation and capacity building initiatives. Programs in Indonesia are engaging indigenous people to help promote conservation of forests and protected areas, and efforts in Brazil are facilitating community-based forest management, both of which are contributing to the recent fall in deforestation rates in these key countries. Between 2000 and 2010, around 32 million acres of forests were converted to other uses or lost through natural causes each year – a significant decrease from the roughly 40 million acres that were lost on average each year during the 1990s. In Ghana, the ITTO is focused on reforestation and the highlighting the importance of forest resources in improving nutrition for women and their families. Other efforts include programs to strengthen compliance with CITES tropical timber listings and workshops held in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service on compliance with and effective implementation of the Lacey Act amendments of 2008, which are designed to combat illegal timber harvesting operations and the corresponding trade.

### **Multilateral Assistance – International Financial Institutions**

- **Global Environment Facility - \$129.4m**

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is an independently operated, international financial facility that unites 182 countries and combines the ingenuity and creativity of U.S. corporations, international institutions, non-governmental organizations and donor and recipient governments to provide grants to address global environmental issues in the context of sustainable development. GEF funding is disbursed through ten international organizations, all of which are

required to meet rigorous fiduciary standards. Recent reforms have made the GEF even more efficient and effective. The U.S. has a strong influence on GEF strategies and programming, which support many U.S. national and international priorities, and receives a very high rate of return for its contributions: for every U.S. dollar invested in the GEF, about \$32 dollars are leveraged from other countries and other sources of project co-financing.

The Amazon Basin is one of the thermostats of the planet, helping to regulate temperature, rainfall and other weather patterns thousands of miles away. During its first phase, the GEF-funded Amazon Region Protected Area (ARPA) program has helped turn an area the size of Poland (77 million acres) into legally protected forestland, far exceeding the original goal of 44.5 million acres. These protected areas could prevent 67 million acres of deforestation through 2050, avoided emissions equivalent to more than 1/3 of the world's annual CO<sup>2</sup> output. The GEF is providing \$15.9 million, leveraging \$70 million in co-financing, to support the second phase of ARPA, which aims to bring an additional 49 million acres under protection.

### **Department of Treasury – Treasury Technical Assistance and Debt Restructuring**

- **Implement the Tropical Forest Conservation Act - \$12m**

The Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) was enacted in 1998 to give eligible developing countries the option to relieve official debt owed to the U.S. Treasury while generating funds in local currency for tropical forest conservation. Debt owed to the U.S. is reduced in exchange for debtor governments' commitments to pay local currency to protect its forests. The TFCA also strengthens civil society by creating local foundations that provide small grants to community and other non-government groups, building grassroots capacity to complement government sponsored forest conservation activities.

The TFCA offers a unique opportunity for public-private partnerships. The majority of agreements have included significant funds raised by U.S.-based NGOs. As of November 2011, \$194 million in U.S. government funding has been used to complete 18 TFCA debt-for-nature agreements in 14 countries. Over time, this will generate more than \$295 million in long-term commitments for tropical forest conservation in Bangladesh, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and the Philippines.

In 2008, the U.S. and Peruvian governments concluded a second TFCA debt agreement to generate \$25 million over 7 years for protecting and restoring Peru's tropical forests. In 2010 alone, \$2,288,683 was approved with significant co-financing through 21 grants targeting strategic interventions in and around protected areas. Three grants were co-financed as part of a collaborative effort between Peru's two TFCA programs to address the Buffer Zones of Protected Natural Areas. The projects are developing tourism as a conservation tool in the forests of Madre de Dios' Santa Rita Alta Community, strengthening management in the Bahuaja Sonene National Park to make it more sustainable and participatory, and increase local revenues from tourism, research and educational opportunities in Manu National Park.

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