

Testimony by Peter Yeo, March 1, 2013
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Support for CIO, CIPA, PKO, and Global Health UN Accounts

Mr. Yeo: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony in support of strong FY 2014 funding for the ‘Contributions to International Organizations’ (CIO), ‘Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities’ (CIPA), and ‘Peacekeeping Operations’ (PKO) accounts within the State Department Budget. These accounts fund U.S. dues assessments for the United Nations Regular Budget, the United Nations Peacekeeping Budget, and a number of other critical UN activities. I would also like to highlight the global health work being carried out through multilateral and bilateral channels and ask for a robust commitment to the International Organizations and Programs (IO&P), Family Planning and Reproductive Health, and Global Health Programs accounts within the State Department and USAID Budgets. Our requested funding levels are outlined below:

Account/Program	FY’12 Actual	FY’13 Pres. Request	FY’14 BWC/S@L/NBN/UAP Request
CIPA	\$1.828 billion	\$2.098 billion	\$2.093 billion
CIO	\$1.551 billion	\$1.57 billion	Pres. FY’14 Request
CIO-UN Regular Budget	\$569 million	\$568 million	\$618 million
PKO	\$383.8 million	\$249.1 million	Pres. FY’14 Request
Polio (SFOPS)	\$146.6 million	\$160.4 million	\$200 million
Measles/Other Global Immunization (HHS/CDC)	\$49.3 million	\$49.1 million	\$49.1 million
The GAVI Alliance (SFOPS)	\$130 million	\$145 million	\$175 million
UNICEF (IO&P)	\$131.8 million	\$125 million	\$135 million
President’s Malaria Initiative	\$650 million	\$619 million	\$680 million
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria	\$1.3 billion	\$1.65 billion	\$1.65 billion
UN Women (IO&P)	\$7.5 million	\$7.9 million	\$17 million
United Nations Population Fund (IO&P)	\$35 million	\$39 million	\$65 million

The Importance of the UN Regular Budget

The UN Regular Budget supports a number of the body’s core functions, and serves as a particularly effective example of the strategic and financial value of U.S. engagement with the UN, as other UN Member States pay nearly 80 percent of costs. Funded under the CIO account, the regular budget finances, among other things, UN political missions in Iraq (UNAMI) and Afghanistan (UNAMA) that are currently working to make both countries more peaceful, governable, and

democratic. In light of the departure of American soldiers from Iraq in late 2011 and ongoing drawdown of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, these missions are taking on an even more prominent role in efforts to rebuild and stabilize both countries, and will therefore need continued support.

The UN Regular Budget also funds a variety of other important multilateral initiatives, including: monitoring mechanisms for Security Council sanctions against rogue states like Iran and terrorist groups like al-Qaeda, and the coordination of humanitarian efforts around the world. In order to continue reaping the benefits of these diverse UN programs, however, we must stay current on our dues payments. **As a result, we request that the Subcommittee provide \$618 million for the UN regular budget in FY'14 – higher than last year due to the increase in costs for UN political missions like those in Afghanistan and Libya - and an overall level of funding in CIO commensurate with the FY'14 Admin. request.**

Allowing the U.S. to Continue Funding Critical UN Specialized Agencies

In addition to the UN regular and peacekeeping budgets, the U.S. also makes assessed contributions to various UN specialized agencies that promote key U.S. foreign policy, economic, national security, and public health priorities. As the Subcommittee is aware, two U.S. laws that prohibit U.S. funding to any UN entity that grants full membership status to the Palestinians have been triggered for UNESCO, immediately ending all U.S. funding for the agency. As a result, the U.S. will lose its vote at the next biennial UNESCO General Conference in October 2013.

While our current inability to continue funding UNESCO is damaging enough, this could just be the tip of the iceberg. If the Palestinians seek membership in other specialized agencies, the U.S. could be forced to pull out of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). Ending our financial support for these agencies could have serious implications for a variety of American public health and economic priorities.

In light of these concerns, we request Congressional support for Presidential waiver authority pertaining to section 414 of P.L. 101–246 and section 410 of P.L. 103–236, on a case-by-case basis, if the President determines and certifies in writing to the Speaker of the House and the Senate President pro tempore that to do so is in the U.S national interest. We also request that the U.S. resume funding to UNESCO at an appropriate level based on available resources.

UN Peacekeeping Operations

The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) oversees the second largest deployed military in the world, with more than 110,000 personnel deployed on 14 missions around the world. Their activities are a boon to U.S. interests and are also extremely cost-effective, as other UN member states bear nearly three-quarters of their costs, and UN missions overall are eight times cheaper than U.S. forces acting alone.

Currently, UN peacekeepers are working to consolidate recent democratic gains in Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire, strengthen government capacity and prevent conflict in South Sudan, address violence and facilitate humanitarian aid in Darfur, and promote stability in DR Congo. Peacekeepers will continue to play a pivotal role in ensuring continued progress on these goals over the coming year, and it is therefore crucial that our nation fully fund our peacekeeping dues. **As a result, we request that the Subcommittee provide \$2.093 billion for CIPA during FY'14.**

We also request that you fully fund the **Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) Account at a level commensurate with the President's FY'14 budget request.** This account has been a critical source of funding for the equipment and logistical support package provided by the UN to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in recent years.

Paying Our Peacekeeping Contributions at their Full Assessed Rate

In addition to fully funding CIPA and PKO, we also request that language be included in FY'14 appropriations legislation that would enable the U.S. to pay its assessed **peacekeeping**

contributions at their full assessed rate of 28 percent. Similar language has been included with bipartisan support in previous years' appropriations bills. Failing to ensure that UN peacekeeping missions have the resources they need threatens their ability to stabilize conflict zones and sends a poor signal to countries willing to contribute personnel so the U.S. doesn't have to.

Ending Vaccine Preventable Disease

Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective ways to save the lives of children, improve health and ensure long-term prosperity in developing countries. Immunizations have saved the lives of more children than any other medical intervention in the last 50 years. As a result of U.S. leadership, vaccines currently save approximately 2.5 million children every year. The Global Alliance for Vaccinations and Immunizations (GAVI) plays a critical role in keeping children safe. As a result, over 325 million children have been immunized, 5.5 million lives have been saved and millions of cases of disease have been prevented. **We request the committee fund GAVI at \$175M for FY'14, which will fulfill the 2011 Admin. pledge to contribute \$450M over 3 years.**

UNICEF has long been a committed partner in ending childhood deaths and helps to vaccinate 60% of the world's children. Their ability to work in 190 countries every day helps save thousands of lives of children around the world and we request that the committee support full funding for UNICEF and appropriate \$135M.

Polio is on its last legs, but if we don't achieve complete eradication, the long-term costs of polio immunization will continue for decades. There are only three countries where polio is still endemic, we can see the end of this disease in sight. Polio paralyzed more than 1,000 children each day in the 1980's, but today, after efforts to immunize every child, the number of new cases of polio has dropped 99%, leaving the world nearly polio-free. **We request that the committee work with the Labor, Health and Human Services subcommittee to appropriate \$200M for polio eradication efforts through USAID and CDC.**

Ending Malaria Deaths

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria has been a vital tool to protect people from malaria. They have distributed 270 million insecticide treated bed-nets since its founding, saving the lives of millions. The President's request of \$1.65B for FY2013, when appropriated and enacted, will fulfill the President's 2010 pledge to contribute \$4B over three years.

We believe that with the new leadership and a new funding model, the U.S. should continue leveraging the other donor country and private sector commitments and fund the Global Fund at \$1.65B.

Under the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), more than 31 million bed nets have been distributed, and in 2011 alone more than 28 million people were protected with indoor residual spraying (IRS). PMI has contributed to more than one million lives being saved in the last decade alone. **We believe the committee should continue their strong, bipartisan commitment to ending malaria deaths and appropriate \$680M for PMI.**

Saving Women's Lives

The lack of access to modern family planning is a key driver of the 75 million annual unintended pregnancies worldwide and the resulting yearly net increase of 83 million into the global population. Since 1995, U.S. financial assistance for family planning and reproductive health programs in the developing world has declined by more than 30 percent when adjusted for inflation. **The number of women in these countries has grown by more than 300 million in the same time period. To meet the unmet need, the U.S. share of international reproductive health and family planning funding would be \$1B (including \$65M for UNFPA). For UN Women, we request \$17.0M, which more than doubles last year's budget request, but is the amount needed to keep the U.S. on UN Women's Executive Board.**