Chairman Hal Rogers
House Committee on Appropriations

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Hearing: Department of Treasury International Programs
March 18, 2015
Opening Statement As Prepared

Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member Lowey, thank you for holding this important hearing today. Secretary Lew, thank you for being with us to discuss the Department of Treasury's Fiscal Year 2016 budget request for international affairs programs.

Unquestionably, the international programs that fall under your purview at the Treasury Department have an important role to play in fostering U.S. leadership around the globe. Given the tumultuous times in which we live, this leadership is perhaps more important than ever. When Secretary Kerry testified before this committee three weeks ago, we heard from him about the global coalition joined in the fight against ISIL, the threats posed to our allies in the Middle East by a nuclear Iran, Russia's bold moves to assert herself in the region, and how the U.S. can help address the spread of disease and epidemics around the world. These are just a few examples. I say this to make the point that our contributions to international financial institutions must be targeted to ensure that we are promoting what Secretary Kerry called "the best enhancement of … our values [and] our interests." With due respect, Mr. Secretary, I am not sure we see eye to eye on some of these investments.

I would like to focus my comments today on your budget proposals, particularly the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Green Climate Fund, and the proliferation of policies affecting the U.S. coal industry and power generation for the developing world.

Taking CBO's scoring of the IMF proposal into consideration, Treasury's international programs request totals $3.1 billion – a whopping 28% increase over enacted levels. You know, and I know – that the Committee will not be able to find that level of spending and stay within our discretionary allocation. As the Chairwoman noted, the Administration has once again made an IMF proposal that has not had sufficient support in previous Congresses, and the new Green Climate Fund proposal is particularly questionable.

Next, Mr. Secretary, I have serious concerns about the Administration's position on coal-fired power generation in developing countries. The President's politically driven, anti-coal, environmental policies have wreaked havoc domestically, sending tens of thousands of hard-working Americans to the unemployment lines and casting into question our country's long-term energy security. Coal exports are the one bright spot for the thousands of mining families who are facing disastrous economic conditions in my district.

And yet Administration officials are not only interested in precluding *U.S.* investment in foreign coal-fired generation, but the U.S. is actively encouraging our *international partners*, such as Members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), to impose near-impossible conditions on the public financing of coal plants in the developing world. The results of these policies are troubling. First, I believe what we will see is significant Chinese investment in Sub-Saharan Africa. With

China's terrible environmental record, the projects they will fund will be dirtier than if American companies were involved. At the end of the day, these policies are anti-American jobs, and they will not have the intended environmental benefits. Second, the international community will not make investments in efficient coal plants in places like Pakistan or Ukraine. Given our national security interests in those countries, the US should be encouraging affordable and reliable electricity that can bolster economic growth and job creation – in turn, reducing instability. I hope you can explain how these policies are in the long-term interests of our country and our allies and partners.

Mr. Secretary, thank you for being with us today. This Committee takes seriously our role in overseeing the budget and policies of the Treasury Department, and I appreciate your continued engagement with us. I yield back.

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