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**CONGRESSWOMAN KAY GRANGER OPENING STATEMENT: STATE AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs will come to order.

I want to welcome the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development. Administrator Smith, thank you for being here today for your first hearing before the Subcommittee. We look forward to your testimony on the Fiscal Year 2017 budget request.

U.S.A.I.D. plays a key role in our nation's foreign policy, and the members of this Subcommittee understand and support the good work of your agency.

From lifesaving disaster assistance to global health – and other development programs that provide clean water, agriculture assistance, and education – the men and women of U.S.A.I.D. are the face of the generosity of the American people.

I would like to take a moment to highlight the impressive work of U.S.A.I.D. and other agencies in response to the Ebola epidemic. This time last year, we were fearing the worst, but the response was an unprecedented example of American leadership overseas.

Now we see another public health threat on the horizon – the Zika virus – and we expect collaboration across the U.S. Government. We want to hear your thoughts today about what can be done to immediately address the Zika outbreak with the resources and authorities available.

During the time I have chaired this Subcommittee, I have been surprised by the length of time it takes for funds to be directed toward urgent needs.

I also remain concerned about the size of U.S.A.I.D. and how difficult it can be to partner with the agency.

Administrator Smith, I appreciate the discussions we have had in your first few months on the job. I hope we can continue to work together to find real solutions to some of these long-standing problems.

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The budget request includes approximately \$11 billion that U.S.A.I.D. manages directly. Additional funds are partially administered by the agency. Unfortunately, once again, this budget proposes to sacrifice congressional priorities for administration initiatives.

For example, the request for climate change programs, including the Green Climate Fund, is proposed to be increased. Yet, basic education programs and humanitarian assistance are proposed to be reduced.

The request prioritizes malaria but suggests that tuberculosis and nutrition programs can be cut.

In addition, the Administration has once again proposed to reduce two of this Subcommittee's top priorities – biodiversity activities and programs to combat wildlife poaching and trafficking.

The Subcommittee will carefully consider how to allocate resources to address the greatest needs and meet our shared priorities.

I want to close by thanking you, the men and women of U.S.A.I.D., and your partners for the important work you do every day to improve the lives of others and promote American interests.

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