

Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken
Opening Statement on Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request
House Foreign Affairs Committee
June 7, 2021

Chairman Meeks, Ranking Member McCaul, and all Committee members, thank you for this opportunity to talk about the Biden-Harris Administration's proposed budget – and how it will help us achieve our national security priorities and deliver results for the American people.

This is a critical moment for the United States and our global leadership. We face major tests, including stopping the COVID-19 pandemic, rising to the challenge of the climate crisis, and supporting a global economic recovery that delivers for American workers and families. We must revitalize our alliances and partnerships; out-compete China and defend the international rules-based order against those that seek to undermine it; renew democratic values at home and abroad; and push back against malign activity by our adversaries.

In a more competitive world, other countries are making historic investments in their foreign policy toolkit. We must do the same. That's why, in this budget, we've requested \$58.5 billion for the State Department and USAID for Fiscal Year 2022.

Here are some specifics.

This budget will **strengthen global health**. The United States has been a leader in the field for decades, in Africa and around the world. We're asking for \$10 billion for global health programs, including nearly \$1 billion for global health security, to help us prevent, prepare for, and respond to future global health crises so we can stop outbreaks before they turn into pandemics that put our safety and prosperity in danger.

This budget will **accelerate the global response to the climate crisis** by providing \$2.5 billion for international climate programs, including \$1.25 billion to the Green Climate Fund, to help developing countries implement climate adaptation and emissions mitigation programs – which is directly in our own interest.

It will **double down on the fight for democracy**, which is under threat in too many places. Our budget request includes \$2.8 billion in foreign assistance to advance human rights, fight corruption, stem the tide of democratic backsliding, and strengthen and defend democracies – for example, through technical training for elections and support for independent media and civil society. It also requests \$300 million for the National Endowment for Democracy.

This budget will **support a comprehensive strategy to address the root causes of irregular migration from Central America**. It will invest \$861 million in the region, as a first step toward a four-year commitment of \$4 billion, to help prevent violence, reduce poverty, curtail endemic corruption, and expand job and educational opportunities.

It will **reestablish U.S. humanitarian leadership**, with a request of \$10 billion in assistance to support refugees, victims of conflict, and other displaced people, and to rebuild our refugees admissions program.

It will **support our partners in the Middle East** by fully funding our commitments to key countries, including Israel and Jordan, and by restoring humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people.

It includes a budget request of \$3.6 billion to pay our assessed contributions in full to **international organizations, initiatives, and peacekeeping efforts**, including to restore our annual contributions to the World Health Organization. As China and others work hard to bend international organizations to their worldview, we must ensure that these organizations instead remain grounded in the values, principles, and rules of the world that have made our shared progress possible for decades.

Finally, to deliver in all these areas, this budget will **reinvest in our most vital asset – our people**. It will provide new resources to recruit, train, and retain a first-rate, diverse global workforce, with nearly 500 additional Foreign and Civil Service positions – the largest increase for State Department staffing in a decade. And it will modernize our technology and cybersecurity; protect our embassies and consulates; and include a direct appropriation of \$320

million for consular services worldwide, so we can continue to provide these vital services to Americans and those who seek to travel, study, or do business with the United States.

Our national security depends not only on the strength of our armed forces but also our ability to conduct effective diplomacy and development. That's how we solve global challenges, forge cooperation, advance our interests and values, protect our people, and prevent crises overseas from turning into emergencies at home. And that's why diplomacy and development are smart investments for American taxpayers.

A top priority for me as Secretary is to restore the traditional role of Congress as a partner in our foreign policy making. That's the spirit I bring to today's conversation, and I'm grateful for this chance to answer your questions.

Thank you.