

**FY'16 Testimony by Jordie Hannum
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Support for the United Nations/Global Health Funding**

Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member Lowey, Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for your strong support in FY 2015 for UN and global health related accounts and I appreciate you giving me the opportunity to testify in support of a robust FY 2016 State/Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. The accounts funded by this legislation support U.S. dues assessments for the UN Regular Budget, UN Peacekeeping Budget, and a number of other critical UN activities as well as bilateral and multilateral global health interventions. We specifically support the President's request of \$2.93 billion for the State Department's Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities (CIPA) account, \$495.2 million for State's Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) account, \$150 million for the Peace Operations Response Mechanism (PORM), and \$1.54 billion for State's Contributions to International Organizations (CIO) account in FY'16. We also support the inclusion of language that enables us to pay our contributions to UN peacekeeping operations at the full assessed rate, as well as language allowing the U.S. to restore funding for UNESCO. Finally, we would like to request robust funding for a number of key Global Health accounts, including \$1 billion for Family Planning/Reproductive Health, \$235 million for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), \$59 million for polio eradication efforts through USAID, \$1.35 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and \$700 million in contributions for the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI).

In the coming year, the U.S. government is working closely with the UN, U.S. civil society, and faith partners to finalize a new set of global development goals that will build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs have been successful at helping to organize national and development policies from around the world and focusing them on eight specific areas. Bipartisan U.S. foreign policy and development priorities have long been embodied in the MDGs and the next set of goals will mirror much of what the U.S. is already playing a lead on, including governance, gender equality, peace and security, and global health.

Funding for UN Peacekeeping—CIPA & PORM

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, an intergovernmental organization that was meant—in the aftermath of World War II and the Holocaust—to help save future generations from the scourge of war, promote universal human rights, and contribute to building a healthier, safer, and more just world. Seven decades on, it is clear that the UN remains an imperfect institution. However, time has also proven that the UN is indispensable to advancing our nation's core foreign policy objectives, providing a universal platform to promote our interests and values and tackle international challenges that know no borders. For that reason, an oft-repeated maxim continues to ring true: if the UN did not exist, we would surely have to invent it.

Nowhere is this more evident than with regards to the UN's peacekeeping efforts. UN peacekeeping constitutes the largest deployed military force in the world, with more than 120,000 personnel serving on 16 missions. These operations help to stabilize countries torn apart by conflict, protect civilians from violence, and facilitate the establishment of stable and democratic governing institutions and processes. UN peacekeepers are currently active in a variety of operational contexts—from northern Mali, where they are working to secure territory previously under the control of militant groups, including an affiliate of al-Qaeda; to the Central African Republic (CAR), where they are working to restore law and order in a country torn apart by vicious sectarian violence.

These activities are not without risk: in Mali alone, 32 peacekeepers have been killed since the mission deployed in July 2013. But these operational hazards underscore the importance of what peacekeepers are sent to these countries to do.

One particularly salient example of the UN's work in this area is South Sudan. Many members of this Subcommittee, both past and present, played a central role in pushing for South Sudan's independence, and I'm certain you are dismayed by the horrific violence that has engulfed the country since December 2013. This crisis has created immense logistical and capacity challenges for the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Nevertheless, despite these difficulties, UN peacekeepers are doing important work. Currently, the mission is working to protect more than 100,000 South Sudanese civilians who have sought shelter at UN bases to escape the fighting; facilitate delivery of humanitarian assistance to hundreds of thousands more who have fled their homes; and document human rights violations. UNMISS is also working alongside UNICEF and other organizations to help end the recruitment of child soldiers in South Sudan. In late January, the UN helped negotiate the release of 3,000 child soldiers from a rebel militia, one of the largest demobilizations of children ever. While we are all disturbed by South Sudan's descent into chaos, these activities undertaken by UNMISS demonstrate that South Sudan needs a multilateral peacekeeping presence now more than ever.

None of the UN's peacekeeping work would be possible if the U.S. did not pay its peacekeeping dues. We are therefore recommending \$2.93 billion in FY'16 for the CIPA account, consistent with the President's request. It should be noted, however, that this figure could change depending on whether the State Department sufficiently utilizes transfer authorities included in the FY'15 SFOPS portion of the Cromnibus. In addition to providing \$2.118 billion in base funding for CIPA, the FY'15 bill gave State additional authorities to use funding from several other accounts to address peacekeeping costs in excess of the base appropriation. According to State's FY'16 Congressional Budget Justification, "The Department is currently reviewing FY 2015 allocations to determine available resources agency-wide." As a result, the President's CIPA request, as it currently stands, includes \$380 million to cover "unfunded requirements" from FY'15. Thus, the amount needed for CIPA in FY'16 could fluctuate based on whether all of the FY'15 transfer authorities are ultimately utilized. While we do appreciate Congress's willingness to provide transfer authorities for new peacekeeping funding streams in FY'15, we request that the FY'16 appropriations bill include direct appropriations to CIPA to fully fund peacekeeping requirements. In addition to fully funding CIPA, Congress must also lift the peacekeeping cap to allow the U.S. to pay its dues at the full assessed rate of 28.36%. Failing to do so could risk putting the U.S. into arrears; deny reimbursement to countries like Bangladesh, Ghana, and Jordan who contribute troops to peacekeeping operations; and deny critical resources to missions that are squarely in our nation's security interests.

We would also like to express support for the Administration's request for a Peace Operations Response Mechanism in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) to fund unanticipated new peacekeeping needs. Crises can arise at any time, without regard to the U.S. budget cycle. In the last few years the President did not include funding for several new critical missions in his original request, because they had not been authorized at the time of the budget release, necessitating the inclusion of funding at a later time in the process. The Response Mechanism could therefore be an effective way to deal with the budgetary challenges created by crises or unexpected scenarios that require the deployment of new or expansion of existing peacekeeping missions. It would give the U.S. flexibility to ensure that these operations are funded even if they were unanticipated at the time of the President's budget, without undermining other critical areas of demonstrated need.

While we understand that budgets are tight across the federal government, we firmly believe that UN peacekeeping is more than worth the investment. For example, a 2013 study found that deploying large numbers of appropriately tasked and adequately resourced UN peacekeepers “dramatically reduces civilian killings.” UN peacekeeping missions are also cost-effective, having been found by the GAO to be 8 times cheaper than U.S. forces acting alone. And given the long list of increasingly weighty demands currently being placed on peacekeepers, the UN is continuing to update its operations to better meet these evolving challenges. Among other things, the UN has established a High-Level Panel to undertake a comprehensive assessment of UN peace operations; continues to implement the Global Field Support Strategy, an initiative that has helped streamline administrative and logistical processes and delivered substantial cost efficiencies; and acted to improve the effectiveness of UN operations in DR Congo through the use of unarmed unmanned aerial vehicles and a “Force Intervention Brigade” to go after armed groups.

As a permanent, veto-wielding member of the Security Council, the U.S. has final say over the composition, mandate, and duration of all UN peacekeeping missions. Given this crucial leadership role, it is important that we pay our peacekeeping dues on-time, in-full, and without preconditions.

Funding for the PKO Account

We also request \$495.2 million for PKO in FY’16. This account provides voluntary funding for the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and other critical activities. In recent years, Congress has used PKO to fund assessed contributions for the UN Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA), which provides equipment and logistical support to the Somalia mission, though UNSOA funding is requested under CIPA in the President’s budget. AMISOM has made significant military gains against the terrorist group al-Shabaab recently. Nevertheless, the security situation in Somalia remains extremely volatile, and the Security Council voted in 2013 to increase AMISOM’s troop strength after a bloody terrorist attack in Nairobi, Kenya raised fears about a resurgent al-Shabaab. This makes a strong and well-resourced AMISOM all the more critical over the coming year.

Funding for the CIO Account

In addition to peacekeeping, engagement with the UN advances American foreign policy interests on a number of other fronts. For example, last year, a joint mission of the UN and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons oversaw the complete removal and destruction of Syria’s declared chemical weapons stockpile, helping to remove an extremely dangerous weapon from Syria that could have eventually fallen into the hands of extremist groups like ISIS. The UN also administers political missions in Iraq and Afghanistan that are directly in our national interests and working to promote stability in key regions of the world; monitors global compliance with Security Council sanctions against Iran, North Korea, and al-Qaeda; and, under the auspices of the World Health Organization and the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, is playing a central role in efforts to address the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

For FY’16, we are recommending full funding for the CIO account, which includes U.S. dues payments to the UN Regular Budget, at the level of \$1.54 billion included in the President’s request (with \$630 million specifically for the Regular Budget). This funding supports the UN’s core functions and serves as a particularly effective example of the financial value of U.S. engagement with the UN, as other member states pay nearly 80% of the Regular Budget’s costs. Our ability to continue reaping the benefits of these diverse UN programs and to pursue our interests at the

Security Council are contingent on staying current on our dues payments. As a result, we hope the Subcommittee will continue to support full funding for this crucial account.

We also call for the restoration of U.S. funding to UNESCO under CIO. In 2013, following two consecutive years of not paying our dues, the U.S. lost its vote in UNESCO. Some of UNESCO's largest programs are in North Africa and the Middle East promoting education, free speech, and freedom of the press. The loss of our voice significantly dilutes our influence and weakens these programs. We therefore request that Congress provide the State Department with authority to waive the cut-off of U.S. funding so that the U.S. can pay its dues and regain its seat at the table.

Expanding Access to Global Childhood Immunizations

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, approximately 2.5 million children every year. With partners like GAVI, UNICEF and others, the U.S. government is working to meet their primary goal of ending preventable childhood death by eradicating polio, decreasing global measles mortality, and strengthening immunization systems globally.

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, has helped to immunize half a billion children, saving seven million lives since its inception in 2000. As one of Gavi's original six donor countries, the United States plays a vital role; our contributions to Gavi are used exclusively for the purchase and delivery of life-saving vaccines. In January 2015, Gavi convened its second replenishment conference where it mobilized \$7.5 billion in investments, including a U.S. pledge, subject to congressional approval, of \$1 billion over four years (fiscal years 2015-2018). To meet this commitment, we respectfully request that Gavi be funded at \$235 million in FY 2016.

U.S. financial support for UNICEF helps it reach and save the world's most vulnerable children. For more than 50 years, UNICEF has been a world leader in immunizations, partnering closely with the U.S. government and others. In 2012, UNICEF supplied 1.9 billion vaccines to 96 countries. We request that Congress fund UNICEF at \$132 million in FY 2016, to allow UNICEF to continue its valuable life-saving work.

As a result of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, polio infection has dropped 99%, and the world is nearly polio free; with only three endemic countries remaining. Thanks to substantial progress in 2014, the world has never been in a better position to eradicate polio. Using innovative approaches and with the help of new partners, we are progressing along the multi-year plan to stop transmission, improve immunization rates and make a lasting impact on child health.

Africa is on the cusp of eliminating the disease on the continent. Outbreaks in the Middle East and Horn of Africa that began in 2013, which threatened to stall eradication, have been brought under control. Continued support from the U.S. will maintain leadership, foster innovation, and ensure crucial aspects of polio eradication activities will not be jeopardized. To continue eradication efforts we request \$59 million in funding for polio eradication efforts from USAID, in addition to a separate request through the Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill.

Ending Malaria Deaths

There are more than 200 million cases of malaria each year, killing over 600,000 people—mostly children under the age of five in sub-Saharan Africa. Malaria is preventable and treatable; lives do

not have to be lost to this disease. Insecticide-treated bed nets are one of the most cost-effective tools to prevent and control the spread of malaria. When used properly, bed nets can prevent malaria transmission by up to 90 percent. Due in large part to U.S. leadership, significant progress has been made in the fight to end malaria. The World Health Organization estimates that increased prevention and control measures have led to a reduction in malaria mortality rates by 47% globally since 2000 and by 54% in Africa. The U.S. must sustain this momentum: decreases in funding for malaria research and development, prevention, control, diagnosis and treatment creates the risk of disease resurgence and increases in mortality. In addition, U.S. bilateral and multilateral efforts to combat malaria complement and amplify each other. These efforts help strengthen health systems and train health workers to allow countries to better respond to public health emergencies, serving not just to aid in the fight to end malaria, but to end diseases such as Ebola as well.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria has been a vital tool to protect, diagnose and treat people living in malaria endemic countries. The original multiyear commitment from the United States has been leveraged into millions of lives saved through the provision of 450 million bed nets and 470 million treated cases of malaria in the last decade. The Global Fund relies on the predictability of funding that comes from multiyear commitments to provide stability in resource provision to countries when and how they need it most. Currently, the Global Fund has assessed its financial need to provide critical resources to countries fighting AIDS, TB and malaria at \$15 billion over the years 2014-2016. The Global Fund donors continue to seek additional resources this year to close the entire funding gap and until such time, we ask that the President's request of \$1.35 billion appropriated to allow the Global Fund to continue leveraging the full U.S. contribution at \$2 for every \$1 provided by other donors and completing the U.S. commitment to the 2014-2016 replenishment.

Working hand in hand with PEPFAR and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) continues to provide life-saving resources in the 19 focus countries as well as the Greater Mekong Subregion. Contributions to PMI have been used to holistically combat malaria through indoor residual spraying with insecticides, procurement and distribution of insecticide treated bed nets, intermittent drug preventive treatment for pregnant women and diagnosis and treatment of malaria with artemisinin-based combination therapies. In addition, PMI remains a leader in monitoring and evaluation, health systems strengthening and integration with other key public health efforts including vector-borne disease management as well as HIV/AIDS programs. As one of our flagship and most successful bilateral global health initiatives, we believe the Committee should continue their strong, bipartisan commitment to ending malaria deaths and should accept the President's request for funding PMI at \$700 million. Together, these two programs have distributed over half-a-billion life-saving insecticide-treated bed nets to those in need, in addition to other tools to fight malaria.

Saving Women's Lives

The lack of access to modern family planning is a key driver of maternal mortality in developing countries. Forty percent of all pregnancies globally are unintended, and every year close to 300,000 women die due to complications in pregnancy and childbirth, 99 percent of them in developing countries. 225 million girls and women want to delay or avoid a pregnancy, but are not using an effective family planning method. Meeting this unmet need for voluntary family planning could cut maternal deaths by one-third, cut infant deaths by one-fifth, and significantly reduce abortions. To meet the unmet need for voluntary family planning, the U.S. share of international reproductive health and family planning funding would be \$1 billion (including \$65 million for UNFPA).