

**SECRETARY OF STATE MIKE POMPEO
WRITTEN STATEMENT TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED
PROGRAMS
ON THE FY 2020 BUDGET
MARCH 27, 2019**

Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Rogers, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee:

I appreciate the opportunity to discuss the Administration's FY 2020 budget request for the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

To support our National Security Strategy and achieve our foreign policy goals, the President has submitted an FY 2020 budget request of \$40 billion for the State Department and USAID.

The proposed request will allow us to protect our citizens at home and abroad, advance American prosperity and values, and support our allies and partners overseas.

It will promote partner countries' economic and security self-reliance as they begin to transition away from U.S. assistance programs, which the American people have generously underwritten for decades.

We make this request mindful of the burden on American taxpayers, and our obligation to deliver exceptional results on their behalf.

In an era of great power competition, the State Department and USAID's work is key to our security, the protection of our freedoms, and the promotion of American values.

China is proactively applying its power and exerting its influence in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond. Under President Trump's leadership, the United States is responding decisively to China's aggressive actions. The United States' future security, prosperity, and leadership depends on maintaining a free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific. To advance the Indo-Pacific strategy, the budget request nearly doubles U.S. foreign assistance resources targeting this crucial area compared to the FY 2019 request.

Russia poses threats that have evolved beyond external or military aggression, and now include influence operations targeting America and the Western world. This budget prioritizes countering Russian malign influence in Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia, and further strengthens the Department's own systems against malign actors.

Our diplomatic efforts toward the final, fully-verified denuclearization of North Korea are the most successful that have ever been undertaken. We remain committed to that goal. This budget provides for our diplomatic outreach to continue, and to continue implementation and enforcement of sanctions until we achieve our objective.

We know that the Islamic Republic of Iran's authoritarian regime will continue to use their nation's resources to proliferate conflict in Iraq, Yemen, Syria, and beyond. It will continue to

bankroll terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah.

The United States will therefore work together with our allies and partners to counter Tehran's aggressive actions to undermine peace and security in the Middle East and beyond.

As the people of Venezuela continue to fight for their freedom, the budget request includes funding to support democracy and prosperity in Venezuela. The budget also requests new authority to support a democratic transition in Venezuela, including transferring up to \$500 million to foreign assistance accounts.

The budget also delivers on the President's commitment to optimize the effectiveness of our outdated and fragmented overseas humanitarian assistance. It ensures the United States will remain the world's largest single donor of humanitarian assistance. The proposal maximizes the impact of taxpayer dollars, helps more beneficiaries, and delivers the greatest outcomes by consolidating our humanitarian programming in a new bureau at USAID. This budget request also preserves the State Department's lead role on protection issues, as well as the U.S. refugee admissions program. Further, through available funding in 2019 and 2020, the United States will have on average approximately \$9 billion available per year to support overseas humanitarian programs, maintaining the highest level of U.S. overseas humanitarian funding ever.

President Trump has made the protection of religious freedom a key priority at home and abroad. The Fiscal Year 2020 budget supports our efforts to continue U.S. leadership in the promotion of global religious freedom and the protection of persecuted religious and ethnic minorities all

around the world. This July, the State Department will host the second annual Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom.

American assistance is helping to reverse the devastation and suffering caused by ISIS and associated terrorist groups. But much work remains to be done. Working by, with, and through local partners and community leaders, our assistance programs clear explosive remnants of war to help keep families safe, restore access to critical health and education services, improve economic opportunities, and more.

As we work to promote economic growth, the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget includes a request for \$100 million for a new Fund at USAID for the White House-led Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative. Through the Fund, we will work to find and scale proposals that advance women's economic empowerment across the developing world, in support of the Initiative's goal of reaching 50 million women by 2025.

There are few efforts as important to this Administration and to the safety and security of the American people as border security. The State Department and USAID budget request will strengthen visa vetting, and improve our targeting of illicit pathways that transnational criminal organizations use to traffic people, drugs, money, and weapons into our nation.

President Trump has made it clear that U.S. foreign assistance should serve America's interests, and should support countries that help us to advance our foreign policy goals. This budget therefore maintains critical support for key U.S. allies, including Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and

Colombia, among others.

The FY 2020 Request also includes \$175 million for a Diplomatic Progress Fund. These funds will be used to respond to new opportunities arising from potential progress in diplomatic and peace efforts around the world.

Finally, the diplomatic challenges we face today are compounded by rapid advancements in technology and an ever-changing media environment. We need our colleagues to be safe, prepared, and ready to take on any challenge at a moment's notice. The FY 2020 budget will fully fund State and USAID's current workforce levels, enabling us to take on emerging policy challenges. We are also modernizing our human resources, IT infrastructure, and organizational structures to stay on the cutting edge of 21st century innovation.

We must continue to put American interests first and remain a beacon of freedom to the world. With the support of Congress, and through the strategic, efficient use of resources, this budget will do just that.

Thank you.