
Statement of Chairwoman Nita M. Lowey
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs
Public Witness Hearing: Outside Witnesses
March 12, 2020
2358-C Rayburn

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

To our distinguished witnesses, welcome, and thank you for coming to our Subcommittee to present your views on the agencies and programs funded by the State Department, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs appropriations.

Our public witnesses represent a wide array of perspectives and expertise that help Congress better assess the impact and effectiveness of foreign assistance. As we assess the President's budget request for Fiscal Year 2021, your voices are critical to the appropriations process.

Let me be clear: Our nation's security cannot afford a budget that does not adequately fund our diplomatic and development programs, or life-saving humanitarian assistance. Diplomacy and development programs are our best hope to tackle the difficult issues facing the world, making the draconian cuts proposed by this administration irresponsible.

For as long as I have been a part of this Subcommittee, we have had bipartisan agreement that foreign assistance is critical to our national security and to maintaining America's leadership

role in the world. As Chairwoman, I have every expectation that we will produce a bill that maximizes each taxpayer dollar while responding to today's many needs.

We are eager to hear your testimonies and look forward to working with your organizations throughout the appropriations process.

Before we begin with our first witness, let me turn to Ranking Member Rogers for his opening remarks. Mr. Rogers –