

Statement for the Record

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for Counternarcotics and Stabilization Policy

before the

Subcommittee on International Development, International

Organizations, and Global Corporate Social Impact

Committee on Foreign Affairs

U.S. House of Representatives

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Good morning Chairman Castro, Ranking Member Malliotakis, and members of the subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about the Department of Defense's efforts in implementing the Global Fragility Act. I am grateful to appear with my Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) colleagues and look forward to today's discussion.

The Department of Defense is proud to support U.S. Government stabilization activities and has been working closely with the State Department, USAID, and other departments and agencies on these efforts well before the Global Fragility Act was passed in December 2019. Based on experiences and lessons learned from our engagements in conflicted-affected States, we are now

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turning to focus on how we can leverage the Department's various tools to partner with governments, civil society, and other actors to build stability and promote peace in the focus countries as implementations begins. DoD has strong and enduring bilateral relationships with quite a few of the U.S. Strategy to Prevent Conflict and Promote Stability selected countries, with engagement from our office, the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, the Joint Staff regional offices, as well as the Combatant Commands and defense attaché and security cooperation officers at priority Posts. Our Combatant Commands' desk officers, together with the defense attaché and security cooperation officers, will play a key role in planning and implementation.

DoD's role in Global Fragility Act implementation is to support the efforts of the Department of State as the lead, and the U.S. Agency for International Development as the lead implementer. In that role, DoD will coordinate on the strategy and ensure that the ten-year plans for the priority countries and regions align the relevant goals, objectives, plans, and benchmarks with DoD policy, regional strategies, campaign plans, and operational plans. In our support role, DoD will also assist with logistics, services, and supplies for State, USAID, and other partners as needed through Defense Support to Stabilization. The Department appreciates Congress adding the priority countries to this legislation

We will also use our traditional defense security cooperation programs, such as personnel exchanges, training and exercises, the State Partnership Program,

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train-and-equip capacity building activities; International Military Education and Training, institutional capacity building activities and Civil-Military Support Element deployments, and Key Leader Engagements to support defense institution building in order to help partner nations develop and manage capable security forces subject to appropriate civilian control.

Through our high-level role on the Prevention and Stabilization Steering Committee that will lead and oversee Strategy implementation, DoD will help ensure coherence, integration and learning across related efforts to promote stability and peace, including Women Peace and Security and atrocity prevention.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and distinguished members of the committee. I look forward to answering your questions.