

**U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**  
**Chairman John F. Kerry**  
**Opening Statement For Hearing On FY 2011 International Affairs Budget**  
**February 24, 2010**

**Chairman Kerry Welcomes Increase In The FY 2011 International Affairs Budget To  
Combat Climate Change**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry (D-MA) chaired a hearing on President Obama’s 2011 international affairs budget.

“I am pleased to see that this budget includes a 38% increase in funding to address international climate change, especially in the wake of Copenhagen,” said Chairman Kerry. “While much has been said about what wasn’t accomplished at Copenhagen, far too little has been said about what was.”

*Full text of Chairman Kerry’s opening statement as prepared is below:*

Madame Secretary, welcome. I can’t think of a time in our history when we’ve had a greater need for energetic diplomacy to make the case for America globally. We all appreciate your hard work, and we welcome this chance to hear from you.

The international affairs budget is the backbone of our civilian efforts worldwide. From fighting HIV/AIDS to supporting our aid workers and diplomats in frontline states like Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq, this budget secures the tools we need for an effective foreign policy.

We recognize that we are operating in a difficult fiscal environment. But these funds are vitally needed for our national security. As Defense Secretary Gates said in expressing his regret that America effectively abandoned Afghanistan after the 1980s: “if we abandon these countries, once we are in there and engaged, there is a very real possibility that we will pay a higher price in the end.” It is with this history in mind and lessons learned the hard way that we turn to this budget now.

This year’s total international affairs budget request of \$58.5 billion represents a 2.8% increase over FY 2010 amounts including this year’s supplemental. This money is a fraction of a fraction—just 1.4% of the overall budget. We are discussing just one-sixteenth of our national security budget. Compare that with our 2011 Defense budget of \$708 billion and it’s clear that our foreign policy is badly out of balance.

This year’s budget represents the beginning of our efforts to move funds that had migrated elsewhere back to the State Department budget. One-quarter of the additional \$6 billion in this budget for Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan is for programs previously funded through the Defense Department—including Iraqi police training, and the Pakistan Counterinsurgency Capability Fund. As we grow our civilian capacity, we will have to defend civilian budgets for programs that are vital to our security no matter how they are funded.

As we discussed last year, I believe that Congress should get back into the business of writing authorizing legislation. Senator Lugar and I have recently introduced legislation authorizing the State Department’s management and operations, and passed the Foreign Assistance Revitalization and Accountability Act out of this Committee.

Madame Secretary, I strongly support robust funding for the international affairs budget, and I look forward to hearing from you on that. Members will also take this opportunity to hear from you on our full range of foreign policy challenges.

For my part, I am pleased to see that this budget includes a 38% increase in funding to address international climate change, especially in the wake of Copenhagen. While much has been said about what wasn’t accomplished at Copenhagen, far too little has been said about what was. The Copenhagen Accord united the

world's nations behind unprecedented new commitments to reduce emissions and report on their progress; and, for the first time, nations agreed on financing targets.

We were able to convince others to take action in large part because we made commitments ourselves. President Obama told the world, "I'm confident that America will fulfill the commitments that we have made: cutting our emissions in the range of 17% by 2020, and by more than 80% by 2050 in line with final legislation... We have charted our course, we have made our commitments, and we will do what we say."

As a country, we have put our credibility on the line. I am working with Senators Graham and Lieberman on comprehensive climate legislation to meet our mitigation commitments. And I am eager to hear your thoughts on how we can keep our word on the range of issues included in the Copenhagen Accord, including adaptation assistance and technology transfer.

A new cycle of climate negotiations are already underway and set to conclude this December in Mexico. We have already seen in Copenhagen how US leadership can reinvigorate a stalled and fractured debate. Now we face the even tougher challenge of matching our words with action.

Madame Secretary, with so many pressing diplomatic challenges unfolding at once—from climate change to Iran's nuclear program to rebuilding shattered lives in Haiti—I'm reminded of the old Chinese saying, "may you live in interesting times." We certainly do. It's a pleasure to welcome you back to this Committee, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on all the foreign policy challenges we confront today.

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