



**TESTIMONY OF DON KRAUS
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FOR THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE/FOREIGN OPERATIONS
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Chairman Granger, Ranking Member Lowey, and members of the House State/Foreign Operations appropriations subcommittee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 State/Foreign Operations appropriations, and particularly the need for strong funding for the accounts which fund the United Nations within the International Affairs budget.

In this testimony I shall specifically focus on three accounts and urge you to meet the President's FY12 request funding levels:

- **Contributions to International Organizations (CIO), \$1.62 billion;**
- **Contributions to International Peacekeeping (CIPA), \$1.92 billion;**
- **and the Complex Crises Fund (CCF), \$.075 billion**

These accounts fund a relatively small but important portion of our nation's overall security arsenal. They specifically address global problems that no nation, no matter how powerful can resolve alone, including nuclear proliferation, transnational terrorism, climate change, global financial crises, pandemics and more.

It is imperative that now, more than at any other point in the United States history, that it deploys sufficient resources to maintain its leadership within international organizations in order to work cooperatively with other nations in order to achieve our national goals.

However, these accounts (which will be discussed in greater detail) cannot be viewed in a vacuum. I urge you to first support robust funding for the entire FY 2012 International Affairs budget. While I understand the constraints of the current economic and budgetary climate, funding for international affairs is a crucial investment in United State's future, its national security, and its global leadership role.

The House budget proposal under consideration disproportionately cuts international affairs funding relative to the President's request when compared to other budget functions. According to data released by the *Washington Post*, the proposed budget cuts the President's international affairs request by 43%. No other account is proportionately reduced as much. For example, Defense is cut by 3.5%, Justice by 13.6%, and Transportation by 23.8% (see Figure 1).

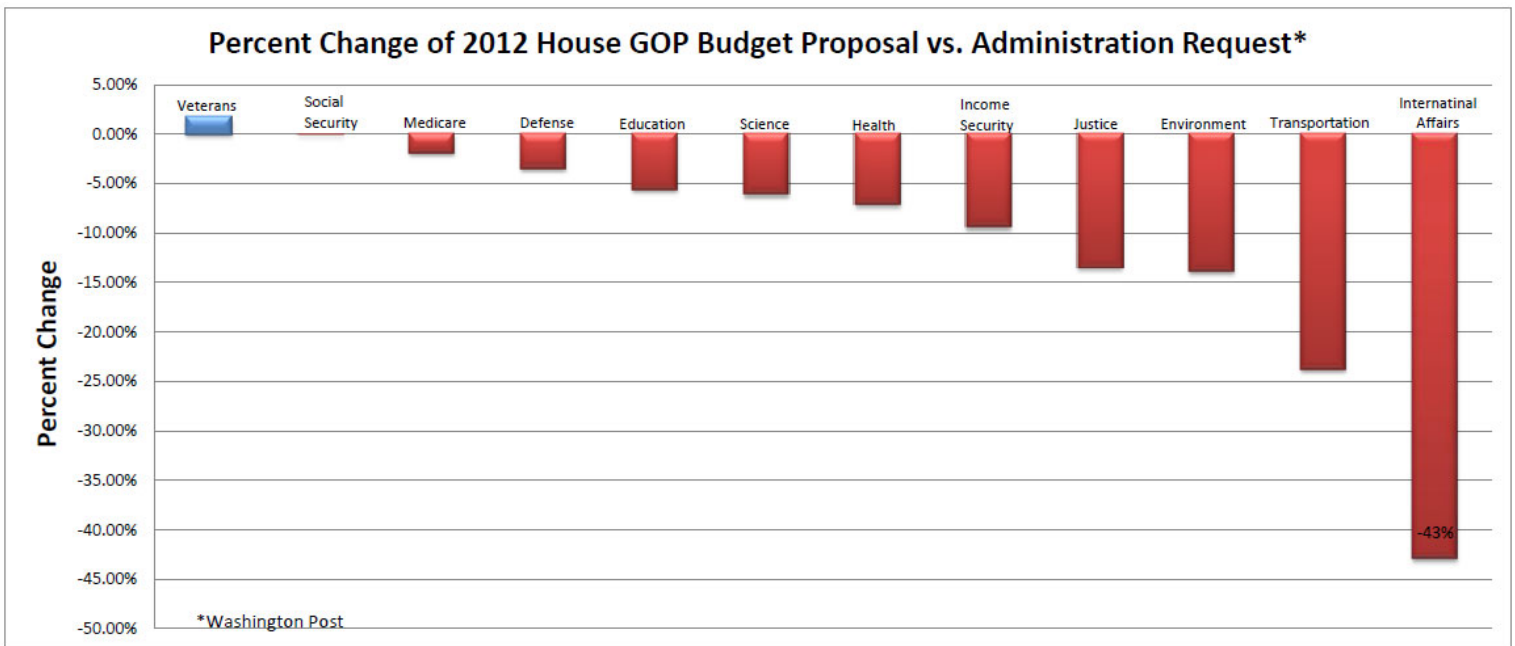


Figure 1

Madam Chair, during the past year I have travelled to South America and the United Arab Emirates to give presentations and attend conferences. A consistent theme of conversation at these events has been how the United States is on the decline – economically, militarily and diplomatically. These policy makers and academics that I have met with believe that the U.S. will not be able to maintain its leadership role in the near future. As a proud American my consistent retort has been, “don’t count us out yet.” But Madam Chair, without sufficient resources to train and deploy our diplomats, fund vital cooperative efforts and meet our obligations to international organizations, how can we continue to lead?

Robust funding for the international affairs budget, slightly over 1% of the federal budget, must remain a priority for our nation. The value added of this relatively small portion of the budget is huge and should be shielded from the deficit reduction chopping block. To put things in perspective, attempting to address our nation’s deficit by severely reducing the international affairs budget will be about as effective as cutting my daughter’s allowance in order to pay down my family’s home mortgage.

Madam Chair, as noted, three accounts that are particularly important for the Committee to support are Contributions to International Organizations (CIO), Contributions to International Peacekeeping (CIPA), and the Complex Crises Fund (CCF). The United Nations is a critical foreign policy partner for the United States. It is the one place where countries come together to promote democracy and economic development, protect human rights, bring an end to disease and poverty, resolve conflicts peacefully and meet new global challenges like terrorism and climate change. As more than one member of Congress has stated over the years, if the U.N. did not exist, we would have to invent it. U.N. activities range from facilitating an international forum for the exchange of ideas to coordinating responses to complex humanitarian crises.

Furthermore, U.N. funding is an investment which pays off many times over in terms of lives and treasure. Research has shown that for every dollar the U.S. spends on the United Nations, we get \$1.50 back. U.N. peacekeeping missions are both far less expensive and place less of a burden on U.S. personnel than “go-it-alone” missions by the United States. The UN provides the benefits of international legitimacy and offers the U.S. crucial foreign policy assets. These include years of expertise in areas such as elections, refugee assistance, emergency humanitarian relief, disease prevention, a unique capacity for brokering diplomatic solutions to violent conflict,

and a track record of cost-effective burden-sharing. Most importantly, these are tools that cannot be provided by any other instrument in the U.S.'s foreign policy toolbox.

We are currently living in an era in which a multitude of momentous events are happening around the globe, from Egypt to Cote D'Ivoire to Libya. This is a critically important time for U.N. For instance, the United Nation's quick response to the situation in Libya—the General Assembly's passage of a resolution condemning the violence in that country, suspending Libya's membership on the Human Rights Council, and referring the government's attacks on its civilians to the International Criminal Court (ICC), all within a matter of days--shows how U.N. can work quickly and effectively when confronted with international crises. Now is not time to pull back our financial support from the U.N. It needs U.S. support to continue to do the critical work it is doing. Yet this support is being threatened by those who favor short-sighted budget cuts over a sensible long-term approach to our foreign policy.

If Congress does not provide sufficient funding for the CIO and CIPA accounts, our nation will go into arrears on our U.N. dues payments. This will have devastating consequences both for the U.N. itself and for U.S. leadership in the world. The U.S. paying its U.N. dues and getting out of arrears in recent years has had an exponential positive effect on our ability to negotiate and lead at the U.N., and on our credibility in the international community. Reversing this trend with budget cuts that allow the U.S. to again slide back into arrears will undo all this critical progress.

Citizens for Global Solutions urges Congress to fully meet the President's FY 2012 request for the International Affairs budget, and to provide funding at the level of the President's request for accounts which fund the U.N and its peacekeeping missions. Specifically, we urge strong funding for the following accounts in the State/Foreign Operations budget:

- Contributions to International Organizations (CIO): The Contributions to International Organizations (CIO) account pays U.S. dues to the U.N. and 45 other international organizations, including NATO, the World Health Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the World Trade Organization. We have treaty obligations to these organizations and adequate funding is necessary in order to meet them. The United States has made a commitment, as a founding member of the U.N., to support the organization and its work. After years of late payments, the U.N. has finally gotten out of arrears and paid our U.N. dues in a timely fashion, and this trend needs to continue.
 - Failing to provide sufficient funding for CIO would mean cutting funding for critical political missions to Iraq and Afghanistan.
 - Underfunding CIO would also impact funding for NATO, which is currently leading the effort to protect civilians in Libya as well as other important activities around the world. Like the U.N., NATO needs robust U.S. support to continue these crucially important missions.
 - The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which is also funded by the CIO account, is working in Japan to contain the damage from the recent nuclear problems following the tsunami, and is working to prevent Iran and North Korea from developing nuclear weapons. This is not the time to shortchange IAEA's funding.
 - **Failing to adequately fund CIO funding would put the U.S. back into arrears and send a dangerous signal to the U.N. and the world about lack of U.S. commitment to the United Nations and other international organizations. CGS urges the House of Representatives to meet the President's FY12 budget request funding CIO at \$1.62 billion.**

- Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities (CIPA): The Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities (CIPA) account funds peacekeeping missions around the globe which protect civilians and promote stability in places from Sudan to Haiti to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This funding must be maintained at a robust level. By supporting UN peacekeeping, we lessen the burden on our own forces and reduce our own expenditures. In 2006, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study concluded that UN peacekeeping is *eight times less expensive* than funding a U.S. force. Currently, U.N. peacekeepers are engaged in critically important missions throughout the world:
 - In Cote D'Ivoire, the U.N. is working to defend democracy and protect civilians from the outbreak of post-election violence in that country.
 - In Sudan, U.N. peacekeepers are working to keep a lid on the volatile political situation as the country approaches the deadline for South Sudan to separate from the North in July, as well as working to maintain peace in the Darfur region.
 - In Haiti, the U.N. continues its work in the aftermath of last year's tragic earthquake. The continued presence of U.N. peacekeepers in Haiti remains essential to protecting civilians there.
 - **Cutting CIPA's budget would deny funds to peacekeepers in critical regions around the globe, threatening the ability of the U.N. to keep carrying out peacekeeping activities and leaving civilians vulnerable. CGS urges the House of Representatives support the President's FY12 budget request funding CIPA at \$1.920 billion.**

Additionally, the legislation which provides funding for FY 2012 should also authorize the removal of the 25 percent "cap" on U.S. peacekeeping payments to the U.N., in order for the U.S. to be able to pay its full assessed share of 27 percent of the U.N. peacekeeping budget.

- Complex Crises Fund: We are also deeply concerned with recent proposals to completely eliminate the Complex Crises Fund (CCF). The CCF provides a crucial source of funding for civilian agencies to act quickly to stem the outbreak of violence in places such as Kenya and Kyrgyzstan. **Eliminating CCF would limit the ability of the State Department and USAID to act quickly when conflicts erupt or escalate, and to undertake prevention, stabilization, and crisis response activities as necessary. CGS urges the House of Representatives to meet the President's FY12 budget request funding CCF at \$75 million.**

Madam Chair, Citizens for Global Solutions is a membership organization which educates Americans about our global interdependence, communicates global concerns to public officials, and develops proposals to create, reform, and strengthen international institutions such as the United Nations. Citizens for Global Solutions' activists, members, and supporters nationwide recognize that in today's interconnected world, our lives, our jobs and our families are increasingly affected by global problems. We monitor the Congressional appropriations process to ensure that U.S. lawmakers provide adequate resources for important foreign policy initiatives. Our priorities include the full payment of U.S. contributions to international organizations, like the United Nations, and UN peacekeeping activities, as well as funding to address regional peacekeeping and the international rule of law. On behalf of our members, I thank you for the opportunity to submit the testimony to House Appropriations Subcommittee on State/Foreign Operations.

Thank you.

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