

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE
November 23 - 30, 2011

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1. [Biden on Conclusion of U.S.-Iraq Higher Coordinating Meeting \(11-30-2011\)](#)

Remarks by Vice President Joseph Biden at the Conclusion of a meeting of the U.S.-Iraq Higher Coordinating Committee, Governmental Palace, Baghdad, Iraq

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Mr. Prime Minister, my distinguished colleagues, as I stated at the outset, both our countries are now launching on a new phase of this relationship. What we discussed here today was not totally new, but what we discussed here today was a way forward.

We will continue to keep our promises as we have thus far. We will in fact, as I said at the outset, draw down our military forces by the end of December in agreement with the so-called SOFA that was signed some years ago. And we're embarking on a new -- and I think we learned today, or we discussed today a new and a comprehensive civilian relationship between the United States and Iraq as sovereign partners in a way that will benefit, as I said at the outset, not only Iraq but the region and in turn the world.

Our civilian mission in Iraq -- I think it's worth saying this -- is sized. It is big, as the Foreign Minister said. But it's sized to meet the request and the obligations and the promises we've made. The reason it's as big as it is, and I say this for American audiences as well as Iraqi audiences is because in order to fully meet the obligations that the strategic framework agreement calls for, in order for Iraq to meet its incredible promise, incredible opportunities that it has before it, that we will have in country, on hand for direct relationships -- and the last thing we just discussed is how can we make these coordinating meetings more available, more regularized and more engaging because there's so much opportunity and so much work to be done. So we will have in country,

which we don't in every country, on hand experts, U.S. experts in every one of the fields that we discussed here today.

It is not a matter of us having the luxury of being able to send -- or Iraq -- diplomats and experts back and forth across the world. If we're going to get this job done together, we need to have people on the spot, on the job, in place, immediately accessible for meetings and emergencies relating to their areas they're concerned with in a matter of hours, not a matter of weeks' planning. So that's the reason why we're going to have in country not only diplomatic experts but experts on trade, agriculture, education, health care, transportation, rule of law, energy, security and the list goes on because I don't know about you, Mr. Prime Minister, but occasionally I at home have to explain why we have such a large embassy here. Why.

We are here for one reason and only one reason: to assist in the development of the capacity of this great nation. Because as you develop, as you reach your potential which has been stunted by -- stunted by Saddam and terror following it, it is good for the whole world, it will bring stability to this region. That is our sole interest in Iraq. Period. End of story.

And so in the coming months, the various joint coordinating committees in order to implement what we've set out here, as the Foreign Minister said earlier, is going to require some traditional, normal written agreements that accommodate all of the people we have here. And we appreciate that cooperation. We appreciate that is not -- that's what normally occurs where we have these bilateral relationships. But it just is bigger here because the need is greater and the request is more consequential.

As we have seen today our relationship continues to evolve in a positive way, notwithstanding the naysayers in your country and the naysayers in our country. Every year, every visit I have made here, the cooperation evolves -- is more positive. It has. It's difficult. But it is constantly moving in a direction that is forward.

We've in both our countries had to overcome certain misperceptions in both our countries, and we'll continue to have to do that. In my country some question, is this worth it? Why are we continuing to expend so much energy and money? In your country I'm sure it's the same thing you hear. Why do you need these guys? Why do you want them around?

The truth of the matter is -- the truth of the matter is I think you have demonstrated and we have demonstrated jointly that it's worth it. It is worth it as costly and as difficult and sometimes as controversial as it is.

An example, the first meeting of this joint committee, this high committee was one that took place in January of 2009 at the time the SOFA was put forward. If I'm not mistaken, you and your colleagues suggested, Mr. Prime Minister, that it couldn't just be about security. It had to be more. And so we set this committee up -- not this committee, we agreed on having a long-term, strategic agreement that went well beyond security. So the first meeting took place in January of 2009. The number of committees that existed under this umbrella committee were relatively small. It met then again in July of 2009 in a new administration.

If I'm not mistaken, Mr. Prime Minister, it was your suggestion and a very good one that we increase -- we increase the interchange that this committee had, increase the areas of -- that this committee was going to cover. It was suggested that we talk about student visas. It was suggested that we expand and have a committee relating to trade and commerce, et cetera. It continued to grow. It continued to expand as the needs became apparent and the help was available.

Today, in this meeting, the Foreign Minister and our ambassador agreed that, well, we should have another committee -- another committee within this committee based on security.

The point I'm trying to make is both our people should understand that this is of the mutual benefit to each of us and to the region, and as it continues to grow, the opportunities -- we stand ready to the extent that you want assistance. We stand ready to be of assistance with expertise that we have. Had you not been under the thumb of Saddam Hussein for so long and the victim of terror for so long, you would not need this help. You all have the capacity. You all have the capacity to do everything that need be done here. But as one of you said today, you're kind of starting from scratch. There has not been the availability of these institutions to have developed and changed and grown over the past half a century as they have in our country. We have no doubt that your capacity is as unlimited as your natural resources.

As was pointed out here today, already a great deal has been done. Most people in both -- I'll speak for my country. Most people in our country think that bulk of what we've done relates to security. Well, as was pointed out by our colleagues today, the United States has completed nearly 1,800 projects in Iraq's health sector valued at over \$800 million -- close to \$1 billion -- renovating 133 primary health care centers; providing critical emergency maternity care, along with medical and dental equipment. With the government of Iraq, we've jointly built, renovated and expanded hospitals in Basra, Baku [sic] and so on throughout this country. We've just launched a \$74 million project to improve primary health care at 360 clinics in over 18 provinces. That has nothing to do with self-interest. It has to do with the needs of the people of Iraq because for you to reach your potential, you not only need an educated population but a healthy population. So I admit most of this is directed -- what I'm saying today -- toward my citizens.

The United States government has invested over \$100 million in Iraq's transportation infrastructure, helping update regulations and standards in Iraq's civilian aviation authority. Iraq's civilian air traffic controllers -- \$60 million; dispatching systems for the Iraqi railways, et cetera.

So the generic point that I want to make is the one you all have made, and we've it made in private, but the press should know -- the press should know that this is about developing a people's capacity, it's about developing what every people in the world are entitled to, the opportunity to choose their own future and have a chance to realize their great potential.

So I want to thank everyone involved in preparing for this meeting. It's clear that a lot of work remains to be done to make it a success. I've been impressed as I've just outlined by the progress that has been made to date, and I expect even greater progress to come. Now it's time for us to get to work in the coming months the various joint coordinating committees are going to meet and meet more regularly in order to implement the plans we've discussed here today. The menu is very large, very large. The opportunities are immense.

As you've heard we have big plans. Just to cite a few. We're going to continue to expand our trade engagement, working hard to connect U.S. and Iraqi businesses in order to benefit the economies of both our countries, as well as connecting the rest of the world's businesses with Iraq. We don't look at this as an opportunity for the United States to have business opportunities. Again, everyone will benefit the more engaged, the more countries, the more Arab, as well as non-Arab countries that are engaged in -- and European countries engaged with Iraq.

The fact is that we are demonstrating our commitment, 85 American companies are going to -- with a market capitalization of \$1 trillion recently participated in a trade fair here in Baghdad. We're

going to expand exchange opportunities to connect agro-entrepreneurs with U.S. counterparts to improve agriculture as was mentioned here earlier today. We're going to collaborate to improve, as was your idea in 2009, Mr. Prime Minister, that we should have a joint committee on local law enforcement and police training. We're going to launch a new security, defense and joint coordinating committee to serve as an important forum for determining the future contours of our security relationship, made jointly and made as equal sovereigns.

As I stated before, our nations are embarking on a new phase of our relationship. Our military forces are going to draw down. There will still be security concerns, but we are confident your government is fully capable of handling those internal security concerns. And by far from leaving Iraq, the United States is going to deepen our engagement with you as we build a comprehensive relationship with a sovereign power.

And under the leadership of our able ambassador, in my view one of the best ambassadors -- I mean this sincerely, I've been doing this a long time, Mr. Prime Minister, you have gotten our best, our very best in Ambassador Jeffrey; and you know you got our best in General Austin.

And under their leadership, under Jeffrey's leadership now, his mission as I said is going to be staffed by serious, serious, serious civilian experts at his disposal and at your disposal as you wish them -- only if you wish them.

The next milestone in what will be a historic month in our relationship will come in less than two weeks when you and President Obama and I -- when President Obama and I welcome you, Mr. Prime Minister, and your delegation to Washington.

Mr. Prime Minister, the President and I -- and I speak for the President -- we very much look forward to your visit. And we thank you and the Iraq government for your leadership. And we look forward -- we look forward to building a mature 21st century relationship with a nation that has much, much to contribute to the world and to the region.

Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister.

2. Joint Statement by U.S.-Iraq Higher Coordinating Committee (11-30-2011)

The United States of America and the Republic of Iraq are committed to forging a strong partnership based on mutual interests that will continue to grow for years to come. Our two nations are entering a new phase in our relationship. We have a historic opportunity to strengthen our ties beyond security and build a multi-faceted relationship through trade, education, culture, law enforcement, environment, energy, and other important areas.

Three years ago, our nations signed the Strategic Framework Agreement (SFA), affirming both sides' desire to establish long-term bonds of cooperation and friendship. The SFA is a lasting agreement, and one that serves as the foundation on which we are building a durable and mutually beneficial relationship. Today, we gather again in Baghdad to reaffirm our commitment to this important partnership and to the principles of cooperation, sovereignty, and mutual respect articulated in the SFA.

Vice President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki convened the SFA's Higher Coordinating Committee on November 30. Together, they affirmed the significant accomplishments under the SFA thus far and charted a course for further joint efforts.

Cultural and Education Cooperation

The Republic of Iraq seeks the cooperation of the United States in its efforts to build a stronger higher education system, expanding English language programs, and preserving Iraq's rich cultural heritage, especially through assistance in conserving archeological sites such as the Babylon historical site, which the United States has helped preserve, and through support to the Iraqi Institute for Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage.

Energy Cooperation

The United States is committed to supporting the Republic of Iraq in its efforts to develop the energy sector. Together, we are exploring ways to help boost Iraq's oil production, including through better protection for critical infrastructure. The U.S. also supports Iraq through training in operations and maintenance, the provision of spare parts, and the development of the Government of Iraq's Electricity Master Plan, which will guide Iraq's electricity sector development over the next 30 years.

Law Enforcement and Judicial Cooperation

The United States and the Iraq believe that an independent judicial system is an essential component of a stable, democratic Iraq. The United States has provided assistance and professional support to develop and professionalize the Iraqi corrections system through judicial training programs for Iraqis through the Judicial Development Institute. Under the Police Development Program, the United States will continue providing advisory and technical assistance to the Iraqi police, including an exchange program that will bring groups of Iraqi police to the United States for leadership development over the next three years.

Political and Diplomatic Cooperation

The United States will continue to cooperate closely with Iraq in international fora in pursuit of shared interests. The United States also reaffirms its support for efforts aimed at resolving all remaining Chapter VII issues. In December 2010, the U.S. chaired a special session of the United Nations Security Council to bring closure to several Chapter VII issues dating to the time of the former regime in Iraq.

Services, Technology, Environment, and Transportation Cooperation

The United States is committed to supporting the Iraqi government's plans to improve services, develop its system of roads and bridges, and bring its airports up to international standards. We will improve agriculture and irrigation, support trade, and generate export opportunities through exchange programs between U.S. and Iraqi businessmen. The United States is providing Iraq the expertise it needs to design and implement an advanced banking system that will meet Iraq's current and future needs. The United States pledges to support Iraq in developing its health care services, improving public health, and health awareness campaigns.

Trade and Finance Cooperation

The United States and Iraq will continue their efforts to reinforce their financial and trade cooperation and to strengthen ties between our nations' business communities. For the first time since 1988, the U.S. participated in the recent Baghdad International Trade Fair, showcasing 85

American businesses and organizations and building on the success of the Business and Investment Conference held in Washington, D.C. in 2009. The United States is supporting the Government of Iraq's efforts in the financial sector by providing the technical expertise needed to develop private banks and microfinance institutions. In this context, the United States is developing new lending products for small and medium enterprises, in addition to the roughly \$50 million set aside for such loans. Our governments are looking forward to the next meeting and recommendations of the U.S.-Iraq Business Dialogue, a forum of Iraqi and U.S. companies that promises to strengthen commercial ties between our countries.

Security and Defense Cooperation

The United States and Iraq recognize the importance of working closely together in the area of security and defense to strengthen our two countries' security and stability. Through the Strategic Framework Agreement, we have committed ourselves to continuing and strengthening our cooperation, guided by our common interests and shared goals. At the dawn of a new chapter in our relationship, the United States and Iraq stand shoulder to shoulder in increasing our efforts to build a better future for our two nations

3. Vienna Convention Obliges Iran to Protect Diplomats (11-29-2011)

Washington — Iran is obligated under the Vienna Convention to protect the security and safety of foreign diplomats, U.S. officials said in response to the storming of two British diplomatic sites in Tehran.

In his remarks with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte at the White House November 29, President Obama said, "We're deeply concerned about that situation and we expect to see some sort of definitive action sometime very quickly."

Press reports from earlier in the day described Iranian protesters throwing petrol bombs, smashing windows, looting and burning an embassy vehicle after breaking into two British embassy compounds in Tehran.

"That kind of behavior is not acceptable," Obama said. "I strongly urge the Iranian government to hold those who are responsible to task. They have a responsibility to protect diplomatic outposts. That is a basic international obligation that all countries need to observe."

"For rioters, essentially, to be able to overrun the embassy and set it on fire is an indication that the Iranian government is not taking its international obligations seriously," the president said.

At the State Department, spokesman Mark Toner told reporters November 29 that Americans "join with the U.K. government in expressing our outrage," and that the Obama administration remains in close contact with British authorities and with other international partners.

Right now, Toner said, it is important to establish that "all of the personnel within the embassy are accounted for and safe."

Iran needs to uphold its obligations under the Vienna Convention to protect the security and safety of diplomats in Tehran, he said, and the day's incidents are "another example of Iran's disregard for its international obligations."

Asked if the Iranian government could have played a role in the protests, a senior State Department official who asked not to be identified said it is “hard to imagine” that the protests had simply been “spontaneous.”

4. U.S. Response to Iran on Chemical Weapon Issues (11-29-2011)

Remarks by Robert P. Mikulak, U.S. Permanent Representative to the 16th Session of the Conference of the States Parties, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, The Hague, Netherlands

U.S. Exercises the Right of Reply to Iran

Mr. Chairman,

I had intended to end my statement at this point. Unfortunately, some remarks made yesterday by the Permanent Representative of Iran make it necessary for me to prolong my statement and respond directly. Perhaps I should thank him for giving such a prominent place to the United States in what he said. My country is mentioned more than ten times in the text. But alas, there were no kind words, only a political rant against the United States that is apparently mostly intended for domestic consumption in Iran. But it's sad that Iran chose to use this meeting for political mud-slinging, rather than for a rational discussion of the issues that the Conference must resolve.

Iran has once again alleged that the United States will deliberately not comply with the April 29, 2012 destruction deadline, and in fact plans to retain a chemical weapons stockpile. Nothing could be further from the truth. This rhetoric is patently false given that the United States has transparently and repeatedly described our chemical weapons destruction challenges and difficulties since 2006. As I noted above, the U.S. destruction program is well ahead of where we thought it would be five years ago – we are projected to have only approximately 10 percent of our stockpile remaining on April 29, 2012. No other delegation appears to doubt the United States' full commitment and dedication to completely destroy our stockpile completely.

A delay in destroying one's stockpile, even though we are destroying it as rapidly as practicable, is not a deliberate attempt to illicitly retain chemical weapons. Such an accusation is absurd – or to use a synonym with its origins in the Dutch language – poppycock. Our chemical weapons stockpile, which remains under full OPCW verification, does not pose a security threat to anyone, while others' illicit acquisition and retention efforts pose a threat to us all. With this in mind, we trust that the other members of the Conference will continue to understand that the unrelenting and transparent CW destruction effort of the United States will continue.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the Iranian representative raised the more general issue of weapons of mass destruction, I also feel compelled to comment on this broader area as well. Our CW stockpile, which remains under full OPCW verification, does not pose a security threat to anyone, while illicit acquisition and retention efforts of Weapons of Mass Destruction threaten us all. In this connection, I need only recall the resolution adopted in Vienna at the IAEA on 18 November 2011 which stressed “that Iran continues to defy the requirements and obligations contained in the relevant IAEA Board of Governors and UN Security Resolutions” related to implementation of nuclear safeguards. It's doubly ironic that that the rule of law and the nuclear issue seem to have been brought into the OPCW by the Delegation of Iran.

Mr. Chairman,

The Permanent Representative of Iran has also made the spurious allegation that the United States provided the Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein with “chemical weapons.” This is, of course, an absurd and baseless allegation, that reflects more on Iran than on the United States.

Mr Chairman,

I ask that this statement be distributed as an official document of this meeting to the Conference.

5. Ambassador Rice’s Remarks at U.N. on Her Recent Trip to Libya (11-28-2011)

Remarks by Ambassador Susan E. Rice, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Following Security Council Consultations on Libya, November 28, 2011

Ambassador Rice: Good evening everyone. As you know from Special Representative Martin, we’ve been discussing Libya at length in the Council this evening. I had the opportunity to share with my Council colleagues a report of my own trip to Libya last week, to Tripoli and Benghazi, where I had the opportunity to meet with senior leadership including Chairman Jalil, the newly-installed Prime Minister al-Keeb, other members of the TNC, civil society groups, activists, women, the UNSMIL leadership itself, and also to visit, in Tripoli, two very important sites. One was the site of a major massacre committed by Qadhafi forces on the eve of their retreat from Tripoli, where over 100 people were killed by grenades and bullets and then their bodies burnt to death in a small warehouse no larger than the consultations room in which we were meeting.

I met with both individuals who escaped that massacre and family members of victims, or believed victims, who are desperately looking to account for their loved ones and desperate for DNA confirmation of whether their loved ones are among those whose ashes I had the misfortune of seeing.

I also visited a facility on the outskirts of Tripoli, which is, I guess for lack of a better word, a safe area, or almost a shanty-town in which African migrant workers are gathered for safety and security. It was not a detention camp, but there were nonetheless 600 to 1000 African migrant workers with whom I had the opportunity to spend over an hour. Many who were from Nigeria, Ghana, Mali, other parts of West Africa, who had congregated there as a place of comparative safety. They were not detained in that they were able to depart to try to seek work in Tripoli and come back there for shelter. But they were living in squalor and in genuine fear of what would happen to them in the future; whether they would be able to go home, as about half of them wanted to, or stay, which the other half wanted to, and be able to resume working legally and peacefully. But they were also complaining of being harassed and roughed up and mugged, essentially, as they would come back from work and make their way to the shelter and whatever small amount of money they may have earned on a daily basis might have been taken along with their watches or their cell phones.

So I underscored the seriousness of this challenge and urged that each of us, as individual nations, bilaterally, UNSMIL as part of its efforts, and of course first and foremost, the Libyan government, take this problem seriously and address it with urgency.

I also described the enormously positive reception that we received from the Libyan people, who were overwhelmingly exuberant and excited about their future, palpably relieved to be free of 42 years of Qadhafi rule, and determined to ensure that the fruits of their revolution are realized.

The Security Council was lauded universally for passing Resolution 1973, which the people of Benghazi, in particular, literally thought had saved their lives. And so the amount of — the outpouring of gratitude and warmth that I received and I felt, and that I think is attributable to the actions of the broader Council, was something quite extraordinary.

And finally, I wanted to observe and share with you my observation that in Tripoli, where we were moving around extensively, I was very much conscious of the fact that, despite the allegations that we've heard from some — that bombing was indiscriminate, that civilian facilities were hit — we saw absolutely no evidence of that. We saw very few facilities that had actually been bombed. Qadhafi's principle compound and a few of the main military barracks were the only places where we saw evidence of airstrikes and, on the contrary, it looked incredibly precise and well-targeted.

So let me stop there and take a few questions.

Reporter: On Libya, the diplomat Shalgham has said, he's complained, that he's said that Qatar has, even since the end of the conflict, been funding parties in Libya, the Islamists, he said. He made this complaint publicly. I think Ian Martin has gone to Qatar and the UAE to speak to both of them.

What does, either in your visit, or overall as the U.S., do you think that there are still countries other than Libya sort-of interfering in the process in Libya? What do you make of what Mr. Shalgham said?

Ambassador Rice: Well I've heard those concerns expressed, and I think the most important point is that all friends and supporters of the new Libya need to come together in support of the authority of the new Libyan government. And to channel all of our support and assistance, consistent with their needs and desires.

There are many different challenges that the new Libyan government is facing. How to deal with the militias; security; informing and incorporating all elements of Libyan society into an inclusive government structure; proceeding with an election process in which all feel they have a stake. And so, I think, clearly the message I received from Libyan interlocutors was gratitude for U.S. and international support but a strong assertion of their sovereign need and desire to chart their own future and the request and expectation that their partners all support their agenda.

Reporter: Given the Arab League action over the weekend and given the horrific report that came out today detailing these human rights abuses in Syria, how important is it now for the Security Council to match what the Arab League has done? And secondly, how would you counsel those that argue that it was the fact that the Security Council didn't do anything that enabled the Arab League to take ownership and, in the end, it revealed to be the right choice?

Ambassador Rice: Well, beginning with your first question, the broad point, the United States has long held the view, and I've said so many times publicly, that it's past time for the Security Council to take much more decisive action with respect to Syria. We were more than disappointed that the effort of a couple of months ago to pass a very mild resolution of condemnation was vetoed by two permanent members and others who were unable to support it.

So we think it is past time. Now, with the Arab League having acted, and it becoming increasingly clear, even for those who would rather deny it, that the Asad regime has participated in outrageous and, now, well-documented atrocities, that the patience of its neighbors as well as a larger international community has evaporated. We think it's time to revisit the question of what might be possible here in New York. We welcomed the General Assembly's resolution last week — yeah, last week — and we certainly will be talking to partners in the Council and outside the Council as to what appropriate next steps may be.

Reporter: How about the Congo elections? There have been a lot of reports of ballots not being delivered, of polling places being burned. There's been some question of the UN's objectivity. I wonder do you think it's been up to standards given how much the UN — its presence there. What does the U.S. think of the conduct of the Congolese elections?

Ambassador Rice: Well obviously we're concerned by reports of violence and indeed some deaths today in various parts of the country. We're concerned about reported anomalies in the conduct of the election, which we hope will prove to be relatively isolated. But I think it's important for everyone to remember that this election was conducted by the Congolese at their insistence. It was not, like the prior election, one that was in effect organized and orchestrated by the United Nations. The United Nations does not have a central role either in the conduct of the election or even the certification of these elections. That said, we think it's very important for the Congolese to respect the processes that have been provided by the electoral authorities, to refrain from violence, and we hope that when the situation clarifies that the disturbing reports we've heard today will prove to be the exception rather than the rule. But we need to wait and see.

6. State Department Fact Sheet: Energy-Related Sanctions on Iran (11-25-2011)

U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs

Energy-Related Sanctions under Executive Order (E.O.) 13590

On November 21, 2011, President Obama signed E.O. 13590 as part of a series of measures the United States took to increase pressure on Iran to comply with its full range of international nuclear obligations and engage in constructive negotiations on the future of its nuclear program. Executive Order 13590 expands on existing energy-related sanctions to authorize sanctions on persons that knowingly provide goods, services, technology, or support (above certain limited monetary thresholds) to Iran that could directly and significantly contribute to either the maintenance or enhancement of Iran's ability to develop petroleum resources located in Iran or to the maintenance or expansion of Iran's domestic production of petrochemical products. These sanctions are intended to further address the connection between Iran's energy sector and its nuclear program that were highlighted in UNSCR 1929 and the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act (CISADA). The United States is committed to using the E.O. and other existing sanctions to hold the Iranian regime accountable for its refusal to comply with its international obligations regarding its nuclear program.

Sanctionable Activities under E.O. 13590:

Executive Order 13590 gives the Secretary of State authority to impose sanctions on persons that knowingly engage in a number of activities in Iran's energy sector, including:

1. Goods, Services, Technology, or Support for the Development of Petroleum Resources:

- The sale, lease, or provision of goods, services, technology, or support to Iran that could directly and significantly contribute to the enhancement of Iran's ability to develop its petroleum resources, with:
 - Fair market value of \$1 million or more; or
 - Aggregate fair market value of \$5 million or more in a 12-month period.
- 2. Goods, Services, Technology, or Support for the Maintenance or Expansion of the Petrochemical Sector:
 - The sale, lease, or provision of goods, services, technology, or support to Iran that could directly and significantly facilitate the maintenance or expansion of its domestic production of petrochemical products, with:
 - Fair market value of \$250,000 or more; or
 - Aggregate fair market value of \$1 million or more in a 12-month period.

The Executive Order would not cover the purchase of petroleum resources or petrochemical products from Iran, or the shipping of those products from Iran, absent other sanctionable conduct.

Sanctions Provisions:

If a person is found to have provided a good, service, technology, or support described in E.O. 13590, the Secretary of State, in consultation with other agencies, has the authority to impose any of the following nine sanctions, prohibiting:

1. Export assistance from the Export-Import Bank of the United States, including guarantees, insurances, and extensions of credit to the sanctioned person;
2. Licenses for exports to the sanctioned person;
3. Private U.S. bank loans exceeding \$10 million in any 12-month period;
4. If the sanctioned person is a financial institution, designation as a primary dealer in USG debt instruments or services as a repository of USG funds;
5. Procurement contracts with the United States Government;
6. Foreign exchange transaction subject to U.S. jurisdiction;
7. Financial transactions subject to U.S. jurisdiction;
8. Transactions with respect to property subject to U.S. jurisdiction;
9. Imports to the United States from the sanctioned entity.

7. Ambassador DeLaurentis at U.N. Debate on New Threats to Security (11-23-2011)

Remarks by Ambassador Jeffrey DeLaurentis, U.S. Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs to the United Nations, Before the UN Security Council Open Debate on New Threats to Security.

Thank you, Mr. President. Let me start by thanking you for bringing us together to discuss these new challenges to peace and security. Many thanks also to Executive Director Fedotov, High Commissioner Guterres, and Director General Chan for their briefings today.

I also welcome the ministers from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil and Columbia to our discussions today. Mr. President, The threats we are discussing today — illicit trafficking, climate change and pandemics — know no boundaries and cannot be tackled by one country alone. They require collective action, which the Council encourages by placing these items on its agenda and taking stock of UN programs aimed at addressing them.

I would like to comment briefly on each. First, illicit trafficking of drugs and arms, and particularly trafficking in persons, is devastating — destroying lives, fueling conflict, and preying on the powerless.

The criminals involved operate in increasingly complex and diversified underground markets and networks without respect for borders, laws or basic human dignity. These networks subvert legitimate economic activities, undermine sustainable development and political stability, fuel violence and corruption, and weaken the rule of law. In some areas, these criminals are aiding and abetting terrorists, undermining effective development and governance.

We must continue to work together to deny these criminals every advantage and defeat them at every turn. We must continue to set and update international standards; pool our resources and expertise; and close safe havens.

We are already on the right track. The United Nations provides critical assistance to states for implementation of the three UN drug control conventions that form the backbone of our common approach. In 2009, the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, ECOSOC, and the UN General Assembly adopted a counterdrug action plan. International organizations, such as UNODC, are essential in the fight against transnational organized crime and drug trafficking. Member states can rely on the 2001 UN Program of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in, Small Weapons and Light Weapons... sorry, Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Tracing Instrument to deal with the issue of small arms and light weapons. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, together with the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, the primary international framework, are essential to countering trafficking in persons.

The United States continues to do its part. In 2010, we contributed \$34 million US to support UNODC's programs for treaty implementation support. In the past year, we have announced three initiatives to combat transnational threats: the Central American Citizen's Security Partnership, the West Africa Cooperative Security Initiative, and the Central Asian Counternarcotics Initiative. We are committed to working with UNODC and other nations to deny safe havens to transnational crime and provide an environment where laws can be enforced, rights are protected, and sustainable development and business can proceed.

Turning to climate change, this Council held a debate last July and heard member states' deep concerns that climate change will be a threat multiplier, exacerbating existing challenges and vulnerabilities. Climate change has the potential to reduce the availability of food and water, threaten biodiversity, raise sea levels, and disrupt weather patterns, exposing all of us to greater risk. Many regions of the world will be vulnerable to more intense and longer droughts, putting lives and livelihoods in peril. This is a particular concern where poverty or conflict already strains the capacity of communities to cope. Small and low-lying island states have real concerns about erosion and land loss due to sea level rise.

As our understanding of the effects of climate change on security evolves, including the risk of displacement and migration, we recognize the need for more collaborative analysis and action, and we believe the Council should remain open to continuing to consider this issue. The United States reaffirms the important role of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in facilitating an urgent response by all countries to address the challenge of climate change. We are committed to working with all countries to achieve a balanced and comprehensive outcome at the Framework Convention negotiations in Durban next month.

Finally, our interconnections are especially evident in global health. New infectious disease threats such as SARS and H5N1 avian influenza have emerged. Nearly eradicated diseases such as polio have returned. Infectious diseases pay no heed to international borders. A threat that emerges in one country can quickly spread across the globe, and can only be addressed through collective action.

The international community's response to the H5N1 outbreak, including sharing of information, expertise, medicines, and vaccines, was unprecedented and led to significantly improved animal-health surveillance and response capacities around the world. We all faced the challenge squarely, in both capitals and international fora. Now, we must maintain momentum to ensure those systems are regularized not only to keep the H5N1 virus in check, but also to protect us from the next emerging pandemic threat.

The United States actively supports several WHO initiatives which build on these lessons learned, including the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework and the 2005 International Health Regulations. We recently concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the WHO to strengthen collaboration in global health security, and we continue to work with partner countries to improve their own public health surveillance, preparedness, and capacities for responses.

Mr. President, transnational threats are relevant to the Council's core responsibilities. The Council of the 21st century needs to continue to work to anticipate potential threats and be part of broader efforts to intensify collaboration across the system.

We look forward to working with fellow Council members to find ways to be better informed, including by opening dialogue with institutions that don't deal with conventional security threats, such as the World Health Organization, but which are on the front line in facing these new dangers. It is also important to be open to greater engagement with other parts of the UN system and to encourage UN agencies to work more closely together to anticipate and manage unconventional threats.

Finally, these issues remind us of the importance of a more traditional priority for us — the need to build state capacity. For example, post-conflict countries already struggling to rebuild infrastructure, strengthen institutions, and consolidate peace are especially vulnerable to some of the stresses posed by transnational threats. Climate change will demand stronger and more resilient

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institutional capacities for development as well as disaster prevention and response. Emerging infectious diseases require strengthened public health systems. Village clinics will often be the first to observe emergent disease and need to be able to respond swiftly and in cooperation with wider international capacities to manage infectious disease. Trafficking networks thrive where state institutions are fragile and interdiction capacities limited.

Mr. President, new challenges to security will be an important part of our Council's work in the future. Today's debate has been a step in the right direction and we thank Portugal for its initiative.

Thank you.
