

February 28, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Chairman Shelby, and Ranking Members Granger and Leahy:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to urge you to fund important programs that support gender equality in the FY2021 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations bill and to include related Committee report language to further assist in these efforts. U.S. leadership in advancing gender equality furthermore requires maintaining the International Affairs Budget (function 150) at no less than the current enacted level. Proposed investments in gender equality should not come at the expense of poverty-focused development, global health, and humanitarian assistance.

Women and girls are chronically undervalued members of society who face abuses and violations of their human rights in staggeringly high numbers, but who deserve the same economic, social and political opportunities as others in their communities. Promoting gender equality is a matter of justice and equity, but U.S. investments in women's and girls' rights and leadership also advance American interests in security, development, and growth. A conclusive body of research and experience has shown that when women and girls are meaningfully included in all aspects of decision-making, countries are more likely to be peaceful and prosper economically. As such, advancing the political, economic, and social status of women and girls should be an essential component of U.S. Government efforts to promote global stability and strengthen our national security.

We strongly believe that American investments in programs that support the rights, agency, and health of women and girls are critical to ensuring U.S. global leadership, economic growth around the world, peaceful transitions of power, development and prosperity, countering violent extremism, and more. We also believe that robust funding for gender programming that is strategic, coordinated, and easy to track, monitor, and evaluate will increase the effectiveness of U.S. assistance dollars throughout the U.S. foreign assistance portfolio.

As you begin to draft the FY 2021 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill, we ask that you consider funding and report language for the following programs important to promoting gender equality:

- 1. GENDER EQUALITY** - We request robust funding be made available to promote gender equality in United States Government diplomatic and development efforts by raising the status, increasing the participation, economic empowerment, and ensuring the safety, health, and rights of women and girls worldwide.

Proposed Report Language

The Committee provides a total of \$1,900,000,000 for gender analysis as defined by the Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act of 2018, gender mainstreaming, and programs to promote women's political leadership, advance women's economic empowerment, as well as to implement multiyear strategies to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, empower adolescent girls, advance protection and care for children in adversity, and support the execution and monitoring of a national action plan on Women, Peace and Security Act.

- 2. WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP** - We request no less than \$50,000,000 to increase leadership opportunities for women in countries where women and girls suffer discrimination due to law, policy, or practice, by strengthening protections for women's political status, expanding women's participation in political parties and elections, and increasing women's opportunities for leadership positions in the public and private sectors at the local, provincial, and national levels.

Proposed Report Language:

The Committee directs that funds appropriated under this, the ESF, DF, CCF, AEECA, and INCLE headings be made available for programs to increase women's participation in the political process, including political parties, elections, and leadership positions in local and national governments. Funds should be awarded on an open and competitive basis and in accordance with section 7059(b) of the act.

- 3. WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT** – We request no less than \$350 million for all activities that foster women's economic empowerment, of which at least \$200 million will support activities under the Women's Global Development and Prosperity (WGDP) initiative and no less than \$100 million will support implementation of the Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act of 2018. Of the \$100 million for WEEE Act implementation, a floor of \$15 million in new funding should be allocated to implement the gender analysis requirement of the Act, including for training, technical capacity, additional gender specialist personnel, and monitoring mechanisms to ensure USAID staff are familiar with the requirements of gender analysis, receive necessary support to conduct gender analyses, and are held accountable for implementation. Additionally, we request \$50 million for renewal of the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi). Though not funded through Title III programs and therefore not included in the \$350 million request above, we would like to note here our request that the Development Finance Corporation spend at least \$700 million of their programs funds to leverage capital to support at least \$2 billion in projects under the purview of the Development Finance Corporation's 2X initiative. Additionally, to ensure the Development Finance Corporation has sufficient staff and training to fulfill the

mandate to reduce gender gaps in section 1451 (f) of the BUILD Act of 2018 (division F of Public Law 115–254) at least \$2,000,000 of their administrative expenses shall be used for this purpose.

Investment in programs that strengthen women’s access to quality economic resources and employment opportunities, support women’s entrepreneurship and financial inclusion, and break down barriers to women’s participation in the economy creates far-reaching benefits. However, women still own and control fewer assets, including property and land; earn less and experience more economic insecurity, and exercise more limited decision-making power over economic and other decisions than men, impeding their economic advancement. They also face unique barriers such as gender-based violence, disproportionate unpaid care burden, and unmet health needs that stand in the way of their progress. Programs focused on addressing the full range of factors that hold women back and perpetuate inequality are key to ending poverty and creating vibrant economies and communities. Ending child, early and forced marriage and meeting the health needs of girls helps them stay in school and in turn, educated women and girls are healthier, have healthier children, and can better contribute to lift themselves and their communities out of poverty; a girl’s income will increase by up to 25% every year she stays in school.

Proposed Bill Text and Report Language:

See Annex 1 for suggested language.

4. **ADOLESCENT GIRLS’ EMPOWERMENT** - We request no less than \$250 million dollars for the coordination and implementation of the U.S. Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls Globally. Adolescent girls face a number of unique challenges including child, early and forced marriage, lack of access to secondary education, and health risks like HIV and early pregnancy, that can have negative life-long impacts. 600 million girls will join the workforce by 2028, and it is critical that they are educated and empowered before they do so. The first-ever strategy of its kind, of any government, the Girl Strategy outlines an evidence-informed, comprehensive U.S. government approach to agency-specific responses to educate and empower adolescent girls, as well as mechanisms for inter and intra-agency coordination to harness the full power of the U.S. government and avoid duplication of efforts. By investing in the education, health, economic and social empowerment and the rights of adolescent girls to live and free from violence and discrimination through this strategy, we are helping to shape their futures and setting them, their families and communities up to prosper.
5. **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)** - We request no less than \$200,000,000 for implementation of activities to address gender-based violence pursuant to a multiyear strategy to prevent and respond to GBV. Given the prevalence of gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies, we request a portion of this appropriation be focused particularly to support programs to address GBV in humanitarian contexts through the Safe from the Start program at the State Department and USAID.

Furthermore, we request no less than \$5,000,000 (aligned with FY17 enacted) for the purpose of supporting the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Program on Female Genital

Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) to increase the abandonment of the practice and address the needs of those who have already undergone female genital mutilation/cutting. Additionally, we request new language requiring details on how this funding will be spent.

Whether in times of stability or in crises, gender-based violence is an assault on human dignity and undermines development, security, and human rights – as such, it requires a strong response and U.S. leadership in the effort to ensure women and girls can live lives free from violence. In humanitarian emergencies, GBV increases as chaos and tensions grow within households, communities and society. GBV occurs in many forms, including intimate partner violence; child, early, and forced marriage; rape; sexual assault; trafficking; female genital mutilation/cutting; and so-called “honor” killings.

Proposed Report Language:

- *The Committee notes that the 2015 U.S. Department of State and USAID Evaluation of Implementation of the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally highlights a series of recommendations essential for continued and successful implementation of this Strategy. Among them is expansion of GBV-related programming, including through stand-alone and multi-sector programs, enhancement of public awareness of all forms of GBV, and expansion of externally-facing tools and resources related to GBV. The Committee recommends the Department of State and USAID conduct activities to implement the Strategy and fulfill recommendations noted in the 2015 report and further evaluations since that time.*

 - *Gender Based Violence in Emergency Contexts – The Committee remains concerned at the extremely high rates of gender-based violence resulting from humanitarian crises. The Committee recommends an increase in additional resources to advance a multiyear strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and specific programming to address GBV in emergency settings. The Committee acknowledges that Safe from the Start programming is critical to countering gender-based violence, particularly in humanitarian emergency settings. The Committee directs the Secretary of State, in coordination with the USAID Administrator, not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, to submit a report assessing the progress made by the United States and by partners in implementation or delivery of humanitarian assistance to prevent, mitigate, and address the incidence of gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies. The report should include an aggregation and examination of data and research regarding the key drivers of gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies and gaps in response mechanisms, the critical needs of and services required by survivors or those at risk, successful program models to address, prevent, and mitigate such violence, and data on outcomes and impacts of programs supported by Safe from the Start.*
6. **CHILD, EARLY, AND FORCED MARRIAGE** -We request no less than \$25,000,000 of the \$250,000,000 for adolescent girls be dedicated to the implementation of a coordinated and comprehensive effort to end child marriage and meet the needs of married girls in alignment with the United States Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls. Around the world, 1 in 5 girls will be married before their 18th birthdays. These numbers are even

higher in times of conflict and humanitarian crisis. In fact, 9 out of 10 countries with the highest child marriage rates are fragile or extremely fragile states. Child brides are deprived of their fundamental rights to health, education and safety and commonly face risks from early pregnancy, childbirth, and intimate partner violence, all of which often perpetuate a cycle of poverty. Communities and nations also feel the impact of child marriage. Systems that undervalue the contribution of girls and young women limit their own possibilities for growth, stability, and transformation. In the past decade, child marriage has decreased by 15 percent, but no region is on track to meet the SDG target of eliminating this harmful practice by 2030. The civil society community engaged in working to end the practice of child marriage welcomes the opportunity to work with the Department of State, USAID, and OMB to ensure that all relevant bureaus and offices of these entities are strategically engaged in a coordinated intra- and inter-agency response to child marriage and report on that work in a transparent manner.

Proposed Report Language:

- *The Committee recommends funding at not less than \$25 million for programs that reduce the incidence of child and forced marriage and to meet the needs of already married adolescent girls. The Committee encourages the continued implementation of policies and programs that empower adolescent girls through diplomatic and development efforts, as well as coordination of all relevant U.S. government agencies, including but not limited to the U.S. Department of State, USAID, Peace Corps and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, to ensure the empowerment of adolescent girls worldwide, as a critical component to combat child marriage.*
 - *The Secretary of State, in consultation with the USAID Administrator, is directed to submit to the appropriate congressional committees, not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, a report on the actions taken over the previous 12 months to implement the U.S. Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls including programs to reduce the incidence of child, early, and forced marriage and address the needs of already married adolescent girls, encourage the abandonment of female genital cutting and address the needs of those who have already undergone these procedures, and the training of staff on the specific challenges and needs of adolescent girls. The report should also be posted on a publicly available website.*
7. **WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY** - We request that no less than \$90,500,000 be made available to support a multi-year implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security of 2017 and the U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security (June 2019) to expand, and improve coordination of, United States Government efforts to empower women as equal partners in conflict prevention, management, and resolution, as well as peace building, transitional processes, and relief and reconstruction efforts in countries affected by conflict, crisis, or political transition, and to ensure the equitable provision of relief and recovery assistance to women and girls. In addition to programming, capacity-building, and technical assistance, the U.S. should train U.S. military, diplomatic, development, and other staff, contractors, and grantees, as well as partner governments and militaries, on how the inclusion of women increases the effectiveness of security-related policies, programs, and outcomes, as well as on the specific laws, policies, and programming available to

enhance women's participation in all spheres of life. The establishment of senior-level gender advisors will improve conflict prevention, management, and resolution efforts by promoting women's contributions to security, through attention at both the policy and operational levels, and strengthen the U.S. Government's ability to effectively and holistically counter adversaries, promote stability, and provide relief in conflict- and crisis-affected areas of the world. Any and all programming must also include reporting requirements, such as indicators, outcomes, analysis, and the collection of sex-disaggregated data, which will serve to identify and address barriers to women's meaningful participation in the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict, as well as peacebuilding efforts, training, and programs. As the women, peace, and security (WPS) agenda is now enshrined in U.S. law and policy, and linked to the broader National Security Strategy, appropriate budget support is critical to the promotion and sustainment of democracy and the achievement U.S. of foreign policy and national security objectives.

- \$4,500,000 a year for three years for gender advisors to bolster WPS efforts full time in the Department of Defense within the six geographic combatant commands, Special Operations Command, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Joint Staff, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Cyber Command, Transportation Command, and Strategic Command.
- \$4,500,000 a year for three years for full-time gender advisors to bolster WPS efforts in the Department of State.
- \$3,000,000 a year for three years for full-time gender advisors to bolster WPS efforts in USAID.
- \$1,500,000 a year for three years for full-time gender advisors to bolster WPS efforts in the Department of Homeland Security.
- \$3,000,000 a year for three years to support WPS-related security cooperation efforts at the Department of Defense. Such support would facilitate implementation of the WPS Act by funding the participation of female forces and integration of gender perspectives in annual training, education, exercises, and engagements. Including women in international security forces advances the primary purpose of U.S. security assistance—making these forces better and stronger, and improving our national security. The U.S. should train its partner militaries on how including women improves security outcomes, and specific steps that they can take to promote women's participation.
- \$500,000 over three years to conduct gender advisor and gender focal point training courses. Members of the U.S. military and staff across the government staff should understand—through coursework and training—how the inclusion of women increases the effectiveness of security-related policies and programs, and specific steps that they can take to promote women's participation.

- \$500,000 over three years to support research and education on the impact of WPS principles on the effectiveness of security-related policies and programs.
- \$5,000,000 a year for USAID, \$5,000,000 a year for the Department of Homeland Security, \$15,000,000 a year for the Department of Defense, and \$15,000,000 a year for the Department of State for programming, research, and training to effectively implement the U.S. National Strategy on WPS.

8. **WOMEN AND GIRLS AT RISK OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM** - We request that \$19,000,000 be made available to support women and girls who are at risk from violent extremism and conflict, and activities that empower women and girls; address the needs of women and girls adversely impacted by violent extremism and conflict; increase the participation and influence of women in formal and informal political processes and institutions at the local level and within traditional governing structures; and develop and implement legal reforms and protections for women and girls at the national and local government. An analysis of thirty countries across the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia found that women were substantially more likely than men to be early victims of violent extremism. Some violent extremist groups use women and girls as a form of currency in a shadow economy, generating revenue from sex trafficking, sexual slavery, and extortion through ransom. According to New America's research, one-third of individuals associated with jihadist-inspired violence inside the United States had a record of gender-based violence, including domestic abuse or sexual violence. Violent extremist groups do not only benefit from subjugating women and girls; they also recruit them to act as informants, facilitators, recruiters, and martyrs. In fact, many violent extremist groups have made a concerted effort to recruit women and girls to their ranks. Some women and girls are motivated by ideological commitment, similar to male fighters. Others join in hopes of gaining freedoms and access to resources.

The U.S. government should increase resources to facilitate women's involvement in efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism. To address drivers of recruitment, the State Department and USAID should invest in programs to expand gender equality, including women and girls' access to resources. Department of Defense, the State Department, and USAID should invest in women's roles to counter terrorism and violent extremism. This includes through prevention-related funds, but also security funds, such as antiterrorism and law enforcement programs. It is also important to make it easier for proponents of women's involvement in de-radicalization efforts to access funding—whether in militaries, police, government, or civil society.

9. **OFFICE OF GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES – U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE –** We request that no less than \$20,000,000 be made available to support the programming of the Office of Global Women's Issues. The Office ensures that gender equality, including the rights of women and girls, are fully integrated into U.S. foreign policy and programming. These efforts are crucial to ensuring U.S. leadership on gender equality. Additional funds requested for the Office of Global Women's Issues reflects the need for

supplementary resources arising from a growing body of work the office has taken on under the Women's Global Development and Prosperity initiative.

10. TRACKING EXPENDITURES - As advocates who work in collaboration with the Administration and members of Congress, we are concerned that the progress that has been made in tracking U.S. investments in gender programming has not been matched by a systematic tracking of expenditures and their impact. This has inhibited our ability to assess how funds have been used and what they have achieved. We strongly suggest including funding in the budget to ensure that financial expenditure tracking systems at the Department of State and USAID are funded and include an explicit focus on gender expenditures in US-funded foreign operations.

Proposed Report Language

The Committee directs the Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator to submit a report to the Committee not later than 45 days after enactment of this act describing the amounts and uses of funds for programs to promote gender equality, disaggregated by country.

The Committee directs that not later than 90 days after the enactment of this act, the Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues and the USAID Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment shall jointly submit a report on the allocation of funds for gender-related programs and activities for the previous fiscal year, and to post such report on their respective agency websites.

11. GENDER AND USAID TRANSFORMATION - We support USAID's leadership in ensuring a strong focus on gender equality in the transformation process by fully integrating gender analysis, gender metrics, USAID's gender policy (ADS 205), and by supporting structures and staffing for gender equality programming.

Proposed Report Language

To support gender in USAID's Transformation, we support USAID Operating Expenses at a level of \$1,450,000,000 to enhance USAID's efforts to drive innovation, oversee program implementation, improve transparency and accountability, and apply a strong learning agenda for future programming. It is anticipated that USAID will require additional resources to implement the agencies' transformation effort above and over existing resources. The Committee further supports the appropriation of at least \$15,000,000 for additional gender staff with gender expertise, training for all USAID personnel and technical assistance to ensure that the USAID has the capacity to implement the gender analysis requirement mandated by Sec. 3 of the Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-428). The Committee provides further that funds appropriated under this heading shall be available subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

12. DATA DISAGGREGATION – We call on the U.S. Government to make significant investments in data disaggregation by gender and age to assess the impact of non-gender focused development assistance on women and girls. Once collected, this data should be publicly reported.

We need to ensure that efforts to gather gender data are strategic, coordinated and public to know where and how to invest for even greater impact.

13. OTHER REQUESTS – In addition to the priority requests outlined above, the signatories recommend support for other gender-related issues and programs funded through global health and international organizations and programs, such as sexual and reproductive health and rights, including bilateral family planning programs and the U.S. contribution to UNFPA, the leading multilateral provider of maternal and reproductive health and GBV services; maternal, newborn, and child health programs; and the DREAMS partnership to reduce HIV/AIDS in adolescent girls and young women.

Program	Bill/Report Language	FY14 Enacted	FY15 Enacted	FY16 Enacted	FY17 Enacted	FY18 Enacted	FY19 Request	FY19 Enacted	FY20 Request	FY20 Enacted
Gender Programs	Report Language	1,909	1,840	1,714	1,377	--	1,900	--	1,900	--
Women's Leadership	SEC. 7059	50	50	50 (CR)	50	50	50	50	50	50
Adolescent Girls' Empowerment	SEC. 7059	--	--	--	--	--	250	--	250	--
Gender Based Violence	SEC. 7059	150	150	150 (CR)	150	150	200	150	200	165
Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting	Report Language	--	--	--	5	5	5	--	5	5
Child, Early, and Forced Marriage	Report Language	5	10	--	11	11	25	11	25	15
Women's Economic Empowerment	Report Language	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	800	100
Women Peace and Security	SEC. 7059	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	35	--
Women and Girls at Risk from Extremism	SEC. 7059	--	--	--	15	15	19	15	19	15
Women's Political Participation	Report Language	--	--	--	--	50	50	50	50	--
Office of Global Women's Issues - DOS	CBJ and Report Language	22	12	10	10	10	10	10	10	8

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Organizations

Advocates for Youth
 Amnesty International USA
 Campbell Consulting
 CARE USA
 Friends of UNFPA
 Futures Without Violence
 Global Woman P.E.A.C.E. Foundation
 Guttmacher Institute

International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
Last Mile4D
National Organization for Women
Peace Direct
The International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
Volunteer Advocate
Women of Reform Judaism

Annex I: Additional Suggested Bill Text and Report Language

To ensure oversight and more clarity around how funds are being spent for the implementation of the Women’s Economic Empowerment Act of 2018. Text is from the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 Division G Title VII General Provisions notification requirements Sec. 7015 subsection (h):

NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS Sec. 7015 ...

(h) OTHER PROGRAM NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

(1) DIPLOMATIC PROGRAMS.—Funds appropriated under title I of this Act under the heading “Diplomatic Programs” that are made available for a pilot program for lateral entry into the Foreign Service shall be subject to prior consultation with, and the regular notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations.

(2) OTHER PROGRAMS.—Funds appropriated by this Act that are made available for the following programs and activities shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations—

(A) The Global Engagement Center, except that the Secretary of State shall consult with the appropriate congressional committees prior to submitting such notification;

(B) The Power Africa initiative, or any successor program;

(C) Community-based police assistance conducted pursuant to the authority of section 7049(a)(1) of this Act;

(D) The Relief and Recovery Fund and the Global Fragility Fund, if enacted into law;

(E) The Indo-Pacific Strategy and the Countering Chinese Influence Fund;

(F) The Global Security Contingency Fund;

(G) The Countering Russian Influence Fund; and

(H) Programs to end modern slavery

(I) Women’s Global Development Prosperity Initiative

(J) **Women’s Economic Entrepreneurship and Empowerment Act of 2018**

To ensure all development, humanitarian, and health programs adequately include the needs, challenges, and perspectives of all genders and effectively use taxpayer dollars. Text is from the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 Division G Title VII General Provisions, Sec. 7059 Gender Equality:

GENDER EQUALITY

SEC. 7059. (a) WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT.—

(1) GENDER EQUALITY.—Funds appropriated by this Act shall be made available to promote gender equality in United States Government diplomatic and development efforts by raising the status, increasing the participation, and protecting the rights of women and girls worldwide.

GENDER EQUALITY

SEC. 7059. (a) WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT.—

(1) GENDER EQUALITY.—Funds appropriated by this Act shall be made available to promote gender equality in United States Government diplomatic and development efforts by raising the status, increasing the participation, and protecting the rights of women and girls worldwide.

(A) Gender Mainstreaming—Funds appropriated Title III of this act shall be used to ensure that strategies, projects, and activities are shaped by a gender analysis (as defined in sec. 3 (a) of the Women’s Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act); that standard indicators are used to assess such strategies, projects, and activities, if applicable; and gender equality and female empowerment are integrated throughout program cycles and related processes for purposes of strategic planning, project design and implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

(B) A report on the allocations of funds used for this purpose shall be submitted to the committees of jurisdiction no later than 45 days after the passage of this Act.

Title II United States Agency for International Development Operating Expenses

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 667 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, \$1,450,000,000,1,377,246,000, of which up to \$206,587,000 may remain available until September 30, 2022: Provided, ...Provided Further that at least 15,000,000 shall be made available for additional gender staff with gender expertise to ensure that the USAID has the technical capacity to ensure that Sec. 3 of the Women’s Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-428) is appropriately implemented across the entire agency.

Title VI Export and Investment Assistance United States International Development Finance Corporation Corporate Capital Account

(1) \$136,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022, for administrative expenses to carry out authorized activities (including an amount for official reception and representation expenses which shall not exceed \$25,000) and project-specific transaction costs as described in section 1434(k) of such Act, of which \$1,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2024;

Further Provided that at least \$2,000,000 of their administrative expenses shall be used to ensure the Development Finance Corporation has sufficient staff and training to fulfill the new mandate to in section 1451 (f) of the BUILD Act of 2018 (division F of Public Law 115–254).

Report Language

To ensure all development, humanitarian, and health programs that address gender equality are sufficiently transparent and accountable we suggest the following edit to the text from the FY19 Senate Report language for Division F Title VII General Provisions, Sec. 7059 Gender Equality:

SEC. 7059. GENDER EQUALITY -- The Committee directs that funds be made available for gender programs, including to implement a multiyear strategy to respond to gender-based violence. Combating Child Marriage.—The Committee recommends not less than \$11,000,000 for programs to reduce the incidence of child marriage and address the needs of married girls consistent with section 1207 of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 112 2013 (Public Law 113–4). The USAID Administrator shall consult with the Committee prior to the obligation of funds. Political Participation.—Subsection (b) recommends not less than

\$50,000,000 under title III for programs to increase women's participation in the political process, including political parties, elections, and leadership positions in local and national governments. Funds should be awarded on an open and competitive basis.

Report.—Not later than 45 days after enactment of the act, the Secretary of State and USAID Administrator shall jointly submit a report to the Committee detailing the amount of funds expended, by country, account, and activity, under subsections (a) through (e), in fiscal years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

SEC. 7059. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.—Of the funds appropriated under titles III and IV of this Act, not less than \$200,000,000 shall be made available to implement a multi-year strategy to prevent and respond to gender based violence in countries where it is common in conflict and non-conflict settings, and of that amount funds shall be made available to PRM and OFDA to implement Safe from the Start programming to address gender-based violence in humanitarian settings.

(New Language:)

United States International Development Finance Corporation Corporate Capital Account
The Development Finance Corporation should spend at least \$700 million of their programs funds to leverage capital to support at least \$2 billion projects under the purview of the Development Finance Corporation's 2X initiative.