

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 12, 2017

Director Mick Mulvaney
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

As Members of Congress who believe diplomacy and development are critical to the security and economic prosperity of the United States – and as the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Committees responsible for funding and overseeing those efforts – we are writing regarding the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) role in reforming the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

U.S. diplomatic and foreign assistance efforts must be efficient, effective, and accountable and the people and institutions responsible for advancing those efforts must be equally capable and empowered. With a constrained budget environment and multiple security and humanitarian crises threatening the United States and our allies, the effectiveness of these institutions and programs is more important than ever. That is why we have worked together in a bipartisan manner for more than a decade to advance reforms that have delivered tangible results, including by making the State Department and USAID more transparent and data-driven.

Though there is still much to be done, we firmly believe that reforming the diplomatic and development architecture of the United States should enhance – not impede – the ability of the State Department and USAID to advance our most pressing foreign policy priorities. Smart investments in diplomacy and development can help accelerate economic growth, create opportunity, prevent the spread of infectious diseases, stabilize communities, and mitigate the need for costly military interventions that put our Armed Forces in harm’s way. Poor planning and execution can have the exact opposite effect.

Congress has a critical role to play in the ongoing reform process. Without Congressional assent, reform will not be sustainable over the long-term. Though we have held periodic meetings with teams from the State Department and USAID, we have yet to engage with OMB on the role that it will play in this process. Toward this end, and consistent with the requirements of Section 7076(a)(2) of the Fiscal Year 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act, we request that you and your colleagues brief us as soon as possible on the role you intend to play and your work to date; share with the appropriate Congressional committees the submissions by the State Department and USAID required pursuant to Executive Order 13781 of March 13, 2017; and

engage directly and often with Congress before taking any actions to implement reform proposals that affect the instruments of U.S. foreign diplomacy and development.

We look forward to your timely reply.

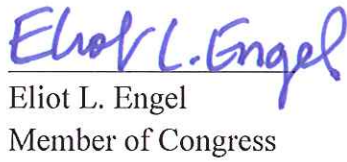
Sincerely,



Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress



Hal Rogers
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Edward R. Royce
Member of Congress