

President Obama's First 100 Days

Managing Global Insecurity Project Recommendations and an Evaluation of U.S. Global Engagement

We must strengthen our cooperation with one another, and with other nations and institutions around the world, to confront dangers that recognize no borders. As the world has become less divided, it has become more interconnected. And we've seen events move faster than our ability to control them -- a global economy in crisis, a changing climate, the persistent dangers of old conflicts, new threats and the spread of catastrophic weapons. None of these challenges can be solved quickly or easily. But all of them demand that we listen to one another and work together.

--President Obama's remarks in Prague; April 5, 2009.

OVERVIEW

President Obama took office with a sweeping agenda to restore America’s image globally and to rebuild U.S. alliances to meet the common challenges of the 21st Century—from economic instability and climate change to nuclear proliferation and terrorism. As the new administration reaches the 100 day milestone, the following brief assesses progress toward a new era of U.S. global leadership. We compare the early actions of the Obama administration to the recommendations of the Managing Global Insecurity (MGI) Project, a two-year initiative on transnational threats and modernizing the international security system.

MGI previously recommended a four track agenda for the new President, working alongside global leaders, to revitalize international cooperation:



While it is premature to evaluate success on issues and policies that will take months and years to achieve - high-level appointments, speeches, diplomatic visits, and early actions still provide an indication of the new administration’s priorities and strategies. Despite an unenviable set of foreign policy challenges, including a global financial crisis and two ongoing wars, President Obama and his team have already made significant progress. Assessing across MGI’s four tracks, the following summary chart reflects a striking correlation between early Obama administration action and MGI recommendations.

MGI Tracks	Summary - Obama Administration Action
Restoring Credible American Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive Order to close Guantanamo within a year and steps toward a revised U.S. detention policy worldwide <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive Order and national dialogue on an end to torture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. commitment to international agreements/bodies: e.g. START, CTBT, post-Kyoto climate agreement, joining Human Rights Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Messaging on international cooperation – Asia, Russia, Latin America, Muslim World, Europe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase of civilian-side foreign affairs budget request by 11%

Revitalizing International Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Leadership of the G20 as an expanded group of nations to address the financial crisis ☑ Support for International Monetary Fund and World Bank reform ☑ Push to evolve NATO and the EU toward 21st Century challenges ☑ Commitment to reform/expand the UN Security Council
Tackling Shared Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ <i>Nuclear proliferation</i>: new strategy with Russia on disarmament; seeking ratification of CTBT; revitalize NPT treaty ☑ <i>Climate change</i>: pledge to negotiate a post-Kyoto agreement; leadership on Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate; declaring carbon a health risk; ☑ <i>Economic instability and poverty</i>: commitment to conclude WTO round; new U.S. focus on global development ☑ <i>Global Terrorism</i>: shift from Global War on Terrorism to interagency strategy to address Al Qaeda and affiliates ☑ <i>Conflict management</i>: Developing strategy for U.S. support for UN peacekeeping
Internationalizing Crisis Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ <i>ME Peace</i>: Early and high level attention on Israeli-Palestinian peace deal – dispatched envoy; President Obama engagement ☑ <i>Afghanistan</i>: New strategy for Afghanistan/Pakistan; new troop commitments; regional/international engagement on strategy ☑ <i>Iraq</i>: Announcement of target date for troop withdrawal; regional/international diplomacy for political settlement. ☑ <i>Iran</i>: U.S. to be active participation in P5+1 talks; President Obama Nouruz message; engagement of Iran in international conference on Afghanistan

The Obama administration has demonstrated impressive progress in moving forward a new vision for global engagement. However, the test will come in implementation—developing policies on complex and interrelated issues and ensuring domestic politics are aligned to support the global agenda. Four issues pose a particular challenge to success:

- The threat of protectionism in the wake of the global financial crisis. US protectionist policies could undermine U.S. relations with China, jeopardize achievement of G20 goals, and threaten the global economic recovery;
- The potential for deteriorating relations with Iran. Worsening of US-Iran relations would undermine progress toward a global standard for states seeking nuclear energy, erode the core bargain of the nonproliferation treaty, and impact U.S./Russia arms control efforts;
- The challenge of implementing the U.S. Afghanistan/Pakistan strategy and making progress, working closely with the international community, in addressing the broader threat of Al Qaeda. (Pakistan poses a particular threat as its volatile politics and state weakness are potentially explosive); and
- The task of generating the strategy, political will, and resources to strengthen international institutions to more effectively address transnational threats.

With high expectations in the U.S. and globally, the administration will have to deliver results. President Obama and his team must build on early success and translate a compelling vision into a comprehensive strategy with priorities, timelines, and resources to build an international system that can meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

ACTION ACROSS A FOUR TRACK AGENDA

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S FIRST 100 DAYS

The following pages provide a detailed comparison of Obama administration's early policies and action against the recommendations of the Managing Global Insecurity (MGI) Project. Over the past two years, MGI created a simultaneous dialogue—American and global—about today's transnational threats, America's role in the world, and action needed to modernize the international system. With two high-level advisory groups—one American and bipartisan, one international—MGI held meetings and events across the United States and in key capitals worldwide.

The Project's consultations and research form the foundation for the Project's *Plan for Action Report: A New Era of International Cooperation for a Changed World – 2009, 2010, and Beyond (November, 2008)*, policy briefs, a book, *Power and Responsibility: Building International Order in an Era of Transnational Threats (February 2009)*, and an extensive web of MGI supporters.

TRACK 1 – RESTORING CREDIBLE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

MGI calls for the United States to re-establish itself as a good faith global partner and demonstrate American commitment to a rule-based international system. Polls show that

Ultimately, the challenges of the 21st century can't be met without collective action... But I am committed to respecting different points of view and to forging a consensus instead of dictating our terms. –President Obama's remarks following the G20 Summit; April 2, 2009

President Obama has been able to capitalize on his global popularity and to begin to reverse much of America's lost prestige and popularity in his first months in office. The new President has acted quickly to send strong signals that he remains committed to a cooperative approach to U.S. global leadership and that the new administration will listen, not just dictate outcomes. During his first 100 days, he showed commitment to consult both America's traditional allies and emerging powers, abide by international law, and

reach out to the Muslim world.

U.S. COMMITMENT TO A RULE-BASED INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

To signal U.S. commitment to the international rule-of-law, MGI called on the new U.S. administration to close the Guantanamo Detention facility, initiate efforts toward a more sustainable U.S. detainee policy, and declare U.S. commitment to uphold the Geneva Conventions, the Convention Against Torture and other laws of war.

- ☑ *Target Date for Closing Guantanamo:* President Obama signed an Executive Order pledging to close Guantanamo within a year. The Obama administration appointed a senior diplomat (Daniel Fried) as a special envoy on the detention camp to navigate the political, security, and legal issues to meet the closure timetable.
- ☑ *Toward a Sustainable Detainee Policy:* The President's Executive Order sets up a taskforce to study what longer-term policy the U.S. should embrace for detention facilities worldwide. Attorney General Eric Holder named two lawyers to develop guidelines for interrogation, transfer of detainees and legal rules for detention of future terrorism suspects.
- ☑ *Executive Order on Interrogation Methods:* President Obama signed an Executive Order revoking the Bush administration legal re-interpretations of interrogation methods permitted under the 1949 Geneva Conventions. CIA Director Leon Panetta has said the so-called "black sites" - have been closed and decommissioned.

MESSAGING ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In the face of transnational threats and profound security interdependence, MGI underscored that even the strongest nations depend on the cooperation of others to protect their own national security. MGI called for a new era of international cooperation built on the principle of responsible sovereignty: the idea that states must take responsibility for the external effects of their domestic action—that, in an interconnected world, sovereignty entails obligations and duties toward other sovereign states as well as to one's own citizens.

At home, I've often spoken about a new era of responsibility. I believe that this era must not end at our borders. In a world that's more and more interconnected, we all have responsibilities to work together to solve common challenges.

--President Obama's remarks following the G20 Summit; April 2, 2009

- ☑ *Early outreach to Asia:* Secretary of State Clinton chose Asia as the destination for her first foreign trip, emphasizing a new focus on the “trans-pacific” relationship and solutions to the problems of the 21st Century lie through Asia. Stopping first in Japan, Clinton reinforced U.S. relations with this traditional ally.
- ☑ *Cooperation with China:* Secretary Clinton made clear that pressing China on human rights issues would not trump engaging the Chinese on other critical issues such as climate change and economic insecurity. President Obama and President Hu Jintao of China agreed on a “U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue” for issues from economy and trade to counterterrorism, proliferation and health.

The clear lesson of the last twenty years is that we must both combat the threats and seize the opportunities of our interdependence. .. America cannot solve the most pressing problems on our own, and the world cannot solve them without America. The best way to advance America's interest in reducing global threats and seizing global opportunities is to design and implement global solutions. This isn't a philosophical point. This is our reality. —Hilary Clinton's confirmation hearing, January 13, 2009

- ☑ *Sustaining the Trans-Atlantic Dialogue:* In President Obama's trip to Europe for the G20 Summit, NATO 60th Anniversary Summit, EU-US Summit, and a speech in Prague, he underscored the importance

of transatlantic partnership as a foundation for revitalizing international institutions to address 21st Century threats.

- ☑ *Engagement with Russia:* During a meeting with the Russian Foreign Minister, Secretary Clinton sought to “reset” relations (albeit with a bad translation) opening a cooperative dialogue on issues from arms control to Middle East peace and Iran’s nuclear ambitions.
- ☑ *Shared Responsibility in Latin America:* The Obama administration pledged a “shared responsibility” to address regional challenges and committed to work with Mexico on both the supply and demand sides of the war on drugs and consequent violence spilling across the border. During the Summit of the Americas, Obama said that the U.S. would be a leader, not a lecturer, of democracy, focusing on conciliatory outreach to Venezuela and Cuba.
- ☑ *Building Bridges to the Muslim World:* President Obama visited Turkey as his first visit to a Muslim country as President and emphasized U.S. support for Turkey’s membership in the European Union. In a wider message intended to be heard across the Middle East, Obama said America was “not at war with Islam”. Secretary Clinton has reached out publicly to both Iran and Syria, inviting the Iranians to attend the regional conference on Afghanistan and sending two senior envoys to Damascus.

STRENGTHENING CIVILIAN TOOLS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

In order to meet complex 21st Century challenges, MGI recommends a dramatic strengthening of U.S. civilian-side national security instruments, including doubling the size of the foreign service in 10 years and re-writing the Foreign Assistance Act to elevate development priorities and improve aid effectiveness.

- ☑ *Increased Civilian-Side Foreign Affairs Budget:* The President and Secretary Clinton have emphasized the importance of strengthening diplomatic and development tools for national security. The President’s FY2010 international affairs budget request of \$53.8 billion is an increase of 11% from last year and includes the creation of several hundred diplomatic and development jobs.
- ☑ *Shift of Defense Budget Toward 21st Century Challenges:* Secretary Gates announced a U.S. Defense budget that will move the U.S. away from spending for conventional warfighting and high technology to a more balanced approach that includes both convention and irregular warfare, including counter-insurgency capacities.
- I *Incomplete/In Progress:* Despite a commitment to global development and building civilian side capacity, the administration has yet to name a USAID Administrator, thereby undermining USAID morale, leaving questions regarding administration priorities, and stalling reforms. Re-writing the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act is also still a work in progress and will require concerted cooperation between administration officials and Congress.

TRACK 2: REVITALIZING INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

MGI calls for increasing the legitimacy and effectiveness of key international institutions by pushing for greater representation of emerging powers and re-focusing mandates to 21st Century challenges. The global financial crisis has sparked the emergence of the G20 leaders Summit and reform of the International Monetary Fund. But economic security is but one shared goal. Revitalized international institutions are also vital to progress on issues such as climate change, nuclear proliferation, and global poverty.

G8 EXPANSION AND REFORM FOR LEGITIMACY AND EFFECTIVENESS

MGI calls for the creation of a Group of 16 (G16) to foster cooperation between the G8 and other major and rising powers. Replacing the outdated G8, the G16 would serve as a pre-negotiating forum to forge preliminary agreements on major global challenges

- ☑ *U.S. Leadership at the London Summit:* President Obama provided leadership at this historic Summit, working alongside an expanded leaders group to put forward an unprecedented set of comprehensive and coordinated actions. The President also offered to host a follow-up G-20 Summit in late 2009.

In an age when our economies are linked more closely than ever before, the whole world has been touched by this devastating downturn. And today, the world's leaders have responded with an unprecedented set of comprehensive and coordinated actions --President Obama in remarks following the G20 Summit - Feb 24, 2009

More than 60 years ago, our leaders understood that a global institution that brings all of the world's countries together would enhance, not diminish, our influence, and bring more security to our people and to the world. The president-elect has affirmed America's commitment to the United Nations as an indispensable, if imperfect, institution for advancing America's security and well-being in the 21st century.—Susan Rice during her confirmation hearing US PermRep to the UN – January 19, 2009

- I *Incomplete/In Progress:* The U.S. has not announced a clear policy vis-à-vis the Italian hosted G8 in July, 2009. In order to be effective on issues such as climate change and nuclear proliferation, an expanded group of countries must be at the table. Questions also remain regarding the relationship between the G20 and an expanded G8 and how these leaders Summits relate to other international institutions.

IFI REFORM FOR LEGITIMACY AND EFFECTIVENESS

MGI calls for an end to the U.S. and Europe monopoly on leadership at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, and refocusing these institutions toward 21st Century challenges.

- ☑ *IMF and World Bank Reform:* President Obama pushed for reform and resourcing of the IMF and World Bank as a key component of the G20 Communiqué. The success of the G20 process will be helpful in driving IFI reform measures.

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

MGI highlights the important role regional institutions play in the international system and calls for bolstering regional organizations, particularly a 10-year capacity building effort for the African Union and support for a regional security mechanism for the Middle East.

- ☑ *NATO/EU Summits:* At the NATO 60th Anniversary Summit and the EU-US Summit, Obama focused on strengthening these regional organizations to respond to the crisis in Afghanistan and evolve to address 21st Century transnational challenges.
- ☑ *Resourcing the AU for Somalia:* The U.S. pushed for investments at the AU to address the conflict in Somalia.

UN SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM

MGI argues that decisive expansion of the G8 in 2009 would lay a credible foundation for action on UNSC expansion within Obama's first term.

- ☑ *Commitment to UNSC Reform:* U.S. PermRep to the United Nations Susan Rice has stated that the U.S. supports expansion of the Security Council in a way that will not diminish its effectiveness nor its efficiency. She has initiated a U.S. policy process to explore reform measures.

TRACK 3: TACKLING SHARED THREATS

MGI calls for enhanced international cooperation and revitalized international institution to manage key global threats—from climate change and nuclear proliferation to global poverty and terrorism. Due to the global agenda—the 2009 conference of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 2010 review conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the economic crisis, MGI prioritizes climate change, proliferation, and economic instability. President Obama has similarly focused on these critical issues in his opening days in office.

CLIMATE CHANGE

To move forward a new climate change agreement under the UNFCCC, MGI calls for G16 negotiations to generate consensus on the two necessary tracks of a future agreement: 1) emissions targets for 2020/2050 and 2) investments in technology and mitigation.

The Major Economies Forum will facilitate a candid dialogue among key developed and developing countries, help generate the political leadership necessary to achieve a successful outcome at the UN climate change negotiations that will convene this December in Copenhagen, and advance the exploration of concrete initiatives and joint ventures that increase the supply of clean energy while cutting greenhouse gas emissions. —President's statement March 28, 2009

- ☑ *Major Economics Forum on Energy and Climate:* President Obama called for an international forum of 17 major economies to speed up work towards a new agreement to curb greenhouse gases to replace the Kyoto Protocol when it expires in 2012. The group's first meeting will be hosted in Washington at the end of April.
- ☑ *Carbon as a Health Risk:* The Environmental Protection Agency has ruled that carbon dioxide is a health risk, a ruling that could lead to regulation of emissions around the nation and may encourage Congress to pass far-reaching legislation on greenhouse gases.
- ☑ *Obama-Biden New Energy for America Plan:* Goal is to create five million new jobs by strategically investing \$150 billion over the next ten years to catalyze private efforts to build a clean energy future. The plan also supports an economy-wide cap-and-trade system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050.

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

MGI focuses on revitalizing the core bargain of the non-proliferation regime among nuclear weapons states, and particularly between the U.S. and Russia. MGI calls for all states to reduce their arsenals, endorse the Additional Protocol and work to develop an international fuel bank under the IAEA.

- ☑ *U.S./Russia Arms Reductions:* President Obama and President Medvedev announced they will negotiate a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty this year before the expiration of the START Treaty in December 2009. The agreement will take major steps to reduce and limit strategic offensive arms in accordance with U.S. and Russian obligations under Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
- ☑ *U.S. Ratification of the CTBT:* To achieve a global ban on nuclear testing, the Obama administration has pledged to immediately and aggressively pursue U.S. ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and to revive negotiations on a verifiable Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty.
- ☑ *International Fuel Bank:* President Obama has also committed to building a new framework for civil nuclear cooperation, including establishing an international fuel bank, so that countries can access peaceful power without increasing the risks of proliferation.

GLOBAL TRADE AND ECONOMIC INSECURITY

In order to break the deadlock on the Doha Round of World Trade Organization talks, MGI proposes that the G16 pre-negotiate about an open and inclusive trade regime that benefits poor countries and build momentum toward a conclusion of the trade round.

- ☑ *Commitment to Conclude WTO Round:* President Obama and G20 leaders committed to promote global trade and investment and to reject protectionism to restore global

growth. The G20 Communiqué includes a provision to “reach an ambitious and balanced conclusion to the Doha Development Round, which is urgently needed.”

THREATS TO BIOLOGICAL SECURITY

MGI calls for states to build local public health capacities to achieve full implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and, in the longer-term, to develop an intergovernmental panel on biotechnology to forge scientific consensus on the dangers and benefits of biotechnology

- I** *Incomplete:* The recent swine flu outbreak has underscored the importance of creating global measures, institutionalized cooperation, and contingency planning to address the threat of pandemics. It has also highlighted the importance of the World Health Organization as a regulatory body.

REGIONAL CONFLICT AND CIVIL STRIFE

To meet demand over the coming decades, MGI calls for increased international investment in conflict management with a goal of 50,000 international peacekeeping reserves and two billion in funding for peacebuilding

- U.S. Funds for Peacekeeping:* The FY09 Supplemental includes \$0.8 billion to sustain current UN peacekeeping operations, fund an expanded mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and support new missions in Chad and the Central African Republic.
- U.S. Strategy:* The U.S. has initiated a strategy review to determine where additional U.S. investments are required for UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

GLOBAL TERRORISM

MGI recommends a shift from a Global War on Terrorism to a comprehensive strategy to defeat Al Qaeda and its affiliates, using a variety of diplomatic, intelligence, development, and defense tools. In the long-term, MGI calls for a UN High Commissioner for Counter Terrorism Capacity Building to focus international efforts on CT norms and capacity.

- Comprehensive Strategy Targeting Al Qaeda and Affiliates:* As demonstrated in the new Afghanistan/Pakistan strategy, the U.S. is focusing efforts on containing and defeating Al Qaeda and its supporters through an approach that will not rely on military and defense capabilities alone, but will also include economic, diplomatic, and development sticks and carrots. The Administration has also stopped using the term GWOT and instead focused on individual terrorist and jihadist movements.
- I** *Incomplete:* No discussion has taken place regarding a UN High Commissioner for Counter Terrorism or other international forum for international cooperation on CT.

TRACK 4: INTERNATIONALIZING CRISIS RESPONSE IN THE BROADER MIDDLE EAST

MGI argues that the U.S. must seek regional and international partners to address crises and transnational threats in the broader Middle East and focus on political settlements, not just military prescriptions, to resolve regional conflicts. The administration has made a concerted effort to chart a new course in the region. With the rapid appointment of three high-level envoys-- George Mitchell (Special Envoy for the Middle East), Richard Holbrooke (Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan), and Dennis Ross (Special Envoy to Southwest Asia and the Gulf)—the administration has made an early drive to generate civilian-led strategies to actively engage regional political leadership, address conflict and aid recovery.

MIDDLE EAST PEACE

MGI emphasized that the new administration must focus attention on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process early on and make a concerted effort to engage key regional and international actors to move toward a final settlement

- ☑ *Early and High-Level Attention on ME Peace:* On his first day in office, Obama telephoned Prime Minister Olmert of Israel, President Mubarak of Egypt, King Abdallah of Jordan and President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority, giving a clear signal that he would give early attention to the conflict. Palestinian, Egyptian and Israeli leaders have all been invited for talks in Washington in early June in a new push for Middle East peace.
- ☑ *Regional Engagement:* Both Secretary Clinton and George Mitchell have traveled to the Middle East and focused on engaging critical regional and international partners in working toward a final settlement. This initiative included Clinton sending two U.S. envoys to travel Damascus for talks – where there has been no ambassador since 2005. President Obama has also reached out to the Arab League and Gulf States, thanking them for their role in promoting an Arab peace plan.

AFGHANISTAN

To succeed in stabilizing Afghanistan, MGI calls for a regional strategy that includes Pakistan and involvement of regional and international players to provide adequate forces and civilian support capacity for a stable peace.

- ☑ *Additional Troops:* As his first act as Commander-in-Chief, President Obama sent 17,000 additional troops to Afghanistan to help secure the south and east of the country.
- ☑ *Afghanistan/Pakistan Strategy:* President Obama announced a

Together with the United Nations, we will forge a new Contact Group for Afghanistan and Pakistan that brings together all who should have a stake in the security of the region -- our NATO allies and other partners, but also the Central Asian states, the Gulf nations and Iran; Russia, India and China. None of these nations benefit from a base for al Qaeda terrorists, and a region that descends into chaos. All have a stake in the promise of lasting peace and security and development. –Remarks by President Obama on new Afghanistan/Pakistan strategy, March 27, 2009

new Afghanistan and Pakistan strategy following a policy review process led by the White House. The plan redefines the goal of the war—to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda and its safe havens. The U.S. will treat Afghanistan and Pakistan as two countries but one challenge and establish a regional contact group, including Russia, China, India and Iran. The U.S. will also allocate additional resources, including a major aid package for Pakistan, 17,000 additional combat troops, approximately 4,000 more U.S. troops to train the Afghan National Security Forces, and significantly step up civilian investments.

- ☑ *International Conference on Afghanistan:* Secretary Clinton called for an International Conference on Afghanistan that took place on March 31, 2009 to discuss international strategy and investment to foster a sustainable peace in Afghanistan and the region.

IRAQ

In order to prevent a failed state and a regional crisis, MGI calls for focusing U.S. and international efforts on forging a political settlement and civilian surge to support statebuilding in Iraq.

- ☑ *Target Date for Withdrawal:* Following a policy review, Obama announced the withdrawal of the majority of U.S. troops in Iraq by the end of the August 2010, but up to 50,000 to 142,000 troops may stay into 2011 to “advise Iraqi forces” and “protect U.S. interests.”

As we responsibly remove our combat brigades, we will pursue the second part of our strategy: sustained diplomacy on behalf of a more peaceful and prosperous Iraq ... the future of Iraq is inseparable from the future of the broader Middle East, so we must work with our friends and partners to establish a new framework that advances Iraq’s security and the region’s. —Remarks by President Obama at Camp Lejeune February 27, 2009

- ☑ *Iraqi Ownership and Regional Engagement:* Obama has pledged that the United States will pursue principled and sustained engagement with all of the nations in the region for stability,

include Iran and Syria. The Obama administration strategy highlighted that the long-term solution in Iraq must be political and that the most important decisions about the nation’s future must now be made by Iraqis.

- I *Incomplete:* In contrast to its strategy on Afghanistan, the U.S. has not carried out an in-depth interagency review process and revised strategy process for Iraq - nor has it made plans for a civilian surge to support political settlement and development there. In contrast to the rapid assignment of special envoys for the Middle East, Iran, and Afghanistan/Pakistan – the new Ambassador to Iraq, Christopher Hill, faced a drawn out Senate confirmation process.

IRAN

MGI calls for the United States to participate in sustained regional and international diplomacy on Iran's nuclear program to develop a shared set of incentives around nuclear energy and to establish enforcement measures to deter Iranian nuclear weapon ambitions.

- ☑ *U.S. Participation in International Talks:* The Obama administration announced that it will start fully participating in group talks with Iran about its nuclear program, including active participation in the negotiation group the P5 + 1 (Russia, china, France, Germany, the UK, and the U.S.). At the same time, the US has also made it clear that it will continue its alliance with Israel and the southern Gulf states and strongly oppose Iranian proliferation and support of extremist movement. The President announced he would continue sanctions and efforts to block arms and technology sales to Iran. (President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's speech at the UN anti-racism conference in Geneva and the jailing of journalist Roxana Saberi have recently added more layers to America's complex attempts to engage Tehran.)
- ☑ *Outreach to the Iranian People on U.S. Engagement:* President Obama delivered a videotaped Nowruz message on March 19th calling for better relations with Iran.

REGIONAL MECHANISM FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

MGI highlights the potential value of a regional security arrangement for the Middle East that could provide a mechanism to guarantee borders and promote stability

- I *Incomplete:* While a mid to longer-term strategy to support a ME regional mechanism has not emerged, the Obama administration has made regional engagement a theme of its policy toward regional crises.

APPENDIX 1: RELATED OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SPEECHES AND STATEMENTS

Track 1 – Restoring Credible U.S. Leadership

April 20: Remarks by President Obama to CIA Employees at CIA Headquarters
http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-to-CIA-employees-at-CIA-Headquarters/

April 17: Remarks by the President at the Opening of the Summit of the Americas
http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-at-the-Summit-of-the-Americas-Opening-Ceremony/

April 6: Remarks by the President in Turkey
http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-The-President-and-PM-of-Turkey-After-Meeting/

April 1: Joint Press Conference with President Obama and PM Gordon Brown
http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Joint-Press-Availability-With-President-Barack-Obama-and-Prime-Minister-Gordon-Brown/

April 1: Joint Statement by President Dmitriy Medvedev of the Russian Federation and President Barack Obama of the United States of America
http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Joint-Statement-by-President-Dmitriy-Medvedev-of-the-Russian-Federation-and-President-Barack-Obama-of-the-United-States-of-America/

Feb 24: Remarks of President Barack Obama - Address to Joint Session of Congress
http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-of-President-Barack-Obama-Address-to-Joint-Session-of-Congress/

Feb 8: Remarks By National Security Adviser Jones At 45th Munich Conference On Security Policy
http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/RemarksByNationalSecurityAdviserJonesAt45thMunichConferenceOnSecurityPolicy/

Feb 7: Remarks by Vice President Biden at 45th Munich Conference on Security Policy
http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/RemarksbyVicePresidentBidenat45thMunichConferenceonSecurityPolicy/

Jan 21: President Obama's Inaugural Address
http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/President_Barack_Obamas_Inaugural_Address/

Jan 13: Hillary Clinton confirmation hearing for U.S. Secretary of State
<http://foreign.senate.gov/hearings/2009/hrg090113a.html>

Track 2 – Revitalizing International Institutions

April 4: News Conference in Strasbourgh during NATO Summit

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/News-Conference-By-President-Obama-4-04-2009/

April 2: London Summit Communique

<http://www.londonsummit.gov.uk/en/summit-aims/summit-communique/>

April 2: Remarks by the President at the close of the G20 Economic Summit

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2009/04/02/Obamas-remarks-about-G20-summit/UPI-21351238700930/

March 10: Remarks by the President and UNSG Ban Ki-Moon

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-of-President-Obama-and-United-Nations-Secretary-General-Ban-Ki-moon/

Jan 19: Remarks by Susan Rice at Confirmation hearing for U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2009/01/19/AR2009011900991_pf.html

Track 3 – Tackling Shared Threats

Obama's speech in Prague on nuclear weapons

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/04/05/obama-prague-speech-on-nu_n_183219.html

April 22: Remarks by the President on Clean Energy

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-in-Newton-IA/

March 28: President Obama Announces Launch of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/President-Obama-Announces-Launch-of-the-Major-Economies-Forum-on-Energy-and-Climate/

March 23: Remarks by the President on investments in clean energy and new technology

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-The-President-on-Investments-in-Clean-Energy-and-New-Technologies-3-23-09/

Track 4 – Internationalizing Crisis Response in the Broader Middle East

April 7: Remarks by the President to the Troops in Iraq

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-to-the-troops-Iraq-4/7/2009/

March 31: Secretary Clinton Remarks at The International Conference on Afghanistan

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/03/121037.htm>

March 27: Remarks by the President on a new strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-on-a-New-Strategy-for-Afghanistan-and-Pakistan/

March 20: Remarks by the President in Celebration of Nowruz

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Videotaped-Remarks-by-The-President-in-Celebration-of-Nowruz/

February 17: Statement by the President on Afghanistan

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Statement-by-the-President-on-Afghanistan/

Feb 27: Remarks by the President on Responsibly Ending the War in Iraq – Camp Lejeune

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-of-President-Barack-Obama-Responsibly-Ending-the-War-in-Iraq/

Jan 29: Statement by George Mitchell in Ramallah

<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/January/20090129162321eaifas0.7038233.html>