

Appendix

Partnering with Congress

The following collection of recommendations from this report—arranged by committee—involve legislative initiatives that the next administration, in partnership with Congress, should begin within its first 100 days:

Appropriations:

Signal a meaningful shift in national security resourcing by increasing State Department funding. Specifically, the next administration should fund 1,000 new State Department full-time equivalent positions to grow the U.S. diplomatic presence overseas and begin rebuilding a more diverse workforce aligned to emerging threats. Five-hundred of these slots should be reserved to build a cadre of officials engaged on international climate issues. (see pages 5–30)

Generate a new workforce to tackle climate change by creating 500 new full-time employee slots at the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Agriculture to work on international climate. (see pages 96–119)

Increase USAID’s budget, with a significant focus on global health and climate change. Regional funding should be directed to hard-hit countries and regions, such as sub-Saharan Africa, Central America, Southeast Asia, and the Balkans. (see pages 5–30)

Phase out the use of the Overseas Contingency Operations account and propose targeted reductions to the Pentagon’s budget. The defense budget should prioritize investments in capabilities most likely to deter provocative action from China and Russia. (see pages 5–30)

Increase global health funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by supporting an additional \$250 million in emergency funding for the global health program to aid the COVID-19 response. (see pages 120–132)

Reestablish USAID’s PREDICT program, which helps to identify and combat viruses that can generate global pandemics. (see pages 120–132)

Commit to a multiyear U.S. foreign and security assistance package for Afghanistan to demonstrate a clear U.S. commitment to the Afghan people. (see pages 54–77)

Restore U.S. assistance to the Palestinian Authority by reversing the previous administration’s hold and ease or lift existing legislative restrictions on this assistance to create positive incentives for diplomatic progress. (see pages 54–77)

Fully resource the Global Fragility Act by supporting it with adequate appropriations. (see pages 54–77)

Fully fund the U.S. pledge to the Green Climate Fund at \$2 billion. (see pages 96–119)

Lead on Syrian and Iraqi humanitarian assistance, including through supplemental financial assistance for those fleeing conflict in the region. (see pages 96–119)

Transfer the Defense Department’s security assistance accounts, which mirror the State Department’s security assistance programs to ensure that security assistance policy aligns with the overall U.S. diplomatic strategy. (see pages 5–30)

Armed services:

Ensure that the administration implements National Defense Authorization Act provisions on election interference, including by creating a counter-malign influence center at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and a social media data center as well as by appointing a counter-foreign influence coordinator. (see pages 31–53)

Limit the use of the Insurrection Act by putting in place appropriate checks on presidential use of the military—including against peaceful protests—and by closing loopholes that allow its inappropriate invocation. (see pages 5–30)

Pass and fully fund the Pacific Deterrence Initiative to improve U.S. deterrence against China. (see pages 78–95)

Foreign relations and affairs:

Repeal and replace the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force to more tightly bind the use of force to regular affirmations of public consensus via congressional debate and votes. (see pages 54–77)

Pass a State Department authorization bill that reexamines and prioritizes the role of diplomacy in U.S. foreign policy. (see pages 54–77)

Establish new parameters and strategic objectives for arms sales that embed human rights in U.S. policy and prevent partners from using American weapons for purposes that violate our standards. (see pages 5–30)

Establish an annual floor for refugee resettlement in line with global need in order to prevent future administrations from gutting U.S. refugee admissions, as proposed in the Refugee Protection Act of 2019. (see pages 31–53)

Pass new anti-corruption legislation, such as the ILLICIT CASH Act, to close loopholes in existing U.S. laws and improve transparency on foreign financial influence, including through a ban on political spending by U.S. corporations with an appreciable amount of foreign ownership and/or control. (see pages 31–53 and 96–119)

Create a program that provides special immigrant visas (SIVs) for Syrians who assisted U.S. forces and expedite the processing of Iraqi SIV applicants. (see pages 96–119)

Rules and administration:

Pass legislation on election interference that strengthens deterrence mechanisms and provides funds to prevent future cases of interference. (see pages 31–53)