

# 2017 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Strategic Dialogue with Civil Society

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## 1. Department or Agency

Department of State

## 2. Fiscal Year

2017

## 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee on Strategic Dialogue with Civil Society

## 3b. GSA

## Committee No.

76839

## 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

## 5. Current Charter

07/21/2015 07/21/2017

## 6. Expected Renewal Date

07/21/2017

## 7. Expected Term Date

07/21/2017

## 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

Yes

## 8b. Specific Termination Authority

Expired Charter

## 8c. Actual Term Date

07/21/2017

## 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Terminate

## 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

## 10b. Legislation Pending?

Enacted

## 11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

## 12. Specific Establishment Authority

22 U.S.C. 2656

## 13. Effective Date

02/16/2011

## 14. Committee Type

Continuing

## 14c. Presidential?

No

## 15. Description of Committee

Other Committee

## 16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

## 17a. Open

0

## 17b. Closed

0

## 17c. Partially Closed

0

## Other Activities

0

## 17d. Total

0

## Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

Current FY      Next FY

<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$1,872.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$1,872.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.10	0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

The Committee served the United States government concerning engagement with, and protection of, civil society worldwide. Functions include, but were not limited to:(a) Providing information and advice on the effective integration of civil society into overall foreign policy; and (b) Providing information and advice on the Department of State's role in advancing, promoting, and protecting freedom of association and expression. The Committee did this through consults with other interested parties, agencies, and interagency committees and groups of the United States government, foreign governments, and with national and international private sector organizations and individuals as the Department

of State and the Committee decided were necessary or desirable. Through these interactions and with recommendations from the various working groups, the Committee drafted action to implement policy towards civil society engagement.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

The membership of the Committee consisted of leaders from civil society in the U.S. and abroad and partners in the philanthropic sector. They included: leaders of independent public policy advocacy organizations, non-profit organizations that defend human rights and promote democracy, humanitarian organizations, private foundations and funds, charitable trusts, societies, and associations. Balance was ensured by using a consultative selection process. Candidates were distributed across the categories listed above, while also ensuring geographic diversity of membership, and striving for gender balance in membership. Individuals were appointed as Representative members, not as Special Government Employees. Representatives were selected for membership for the purpose of obtaining the viewpoint of the group, organization, foundation, fund, trust, society, association, or corporation that they represent. Representatives were selected to represent diverse points of view, to provide geographic diversity, and to achieve gender balance, using the considerations and process described below. A) Potential candidates were identified by senior career and political officials of the Department of State and through a website open to individuals worldwide. (B) The selection of members was determined by the Secretary of State's Special Representative for Global Partnerships, in consultation with other

senior career and political officials of the Department of State and FACA legal advisers, and after appropriate due diligence. (C) Vacancies were filled as they occurred through the same process described in Part 6.A and 6.B above, while ensuring that balance of membership along the lines described in Part 5 above was maintained.(D) The Secretary of State invited the members to serve for a period of two years or less.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

In previous years, meetings have been held quarterly to discuss working group recommendations. These quarterly meetings have afforded the working groups an opportunity to outline their recommendations for US foreign policy. Committee meetings provide a forum where all of the recommendations can be discussed and policy action recommendations can be drafted for the Secretary's consideration. The final Committee did not hold an official first meeting after the Committee members were appointed by the Secretary.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

The Committee provided advice and assistance in the formulation of U.S. policies, proposals, and strategies for engagement with, and protection of, civil society worldwide. It provided a formal mechanism for dialogue with civil society for the State Department. Recommendations from Committee meetings are sent in a formal action memo to the Secretary for consideration. The objective of the Committee was to bring to the United States government a source of expertise, knowledge, and insight not available within the

Department or elsewhere in the government on these issues.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

NA

**21. Remarks**

The Committee was selected and working groups were established and approved in 2016. The Committee however never had its first official meeting due to shifting priorities at the end of the Administration. The charter for the Committee expired in July 2017 and will not be renewed. Costs for this FY are based on 0.1% duty time for two employees for the one FY as no work was done on the Committee. Other costs highlight the \$4000 stated in the charter renewal. No additional costs were expended for the Committee. The subcommittees included: Global Philanthropy, Global Cities, Climate and Environment, Religion and Foreign Policy, and Global Education.

**Designated Federal Officer**

James Thompson DFO

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Member Designation</b>
Barber, Benjamin	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	Author	Representative Member
Chow, Barbara	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	Education Director, Hewlett Foundation	Representative Member
DeCoursey, Marc	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	Vice President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation	Representative Member
Debass, Thomas	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	S/GP Acting Special Representative	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Finer, Jonathan	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	Chief of Staff	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Guest, Mike	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	Council for Global Equality Executive	Representative Member
Ibrahim, Hadeel	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	Director, Mo Ibrahim Foundation	Representative Member
Jacobson, Lisa	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	Business Council for Sustainable Energy New York	Representative Member
Kanter, Martha	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	University, Former Under Secretary of Education	Representative Member
Lindborg, Nancy	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	President, U.S. Institute of Peace	Representative Member
Magid, Mohamed	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	Muslim Society of Dulles	Representative Member
Marshall, Katherine	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	Georgetown University	Representative Member
Merkley, Ryan	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	CEO, Creative Commons	Representative Member
Messinger, Ruth	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	President, American Jewish World Service	Representative Member
Neilson, Trevor	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	President, Global Philanthropy Forum	Representative Member
Spruill, Vikki	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	President of the Council on Foundations	Representative Member
Steer, Andrew	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	World Resources Institute	Representative Member
Suh, Rhea	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	Natural Resources Defense Council	Representative Member
Wales, Jane	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	CEO of the Global Philanthropy Forum	Representative Member
Wirth, Tim	02/11/2016	02/10/2018	Vice Chair of UN Foundation	Representative Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 20**

### **Narrative Description**

The Committee provided advice and assistance in the formulation of U.S. policies, proposals, and strategies for engagement with, and protection of, civil society worldwide. The objective of the Committee was to bring to the United States government a source of expertise, knowledge, and insight not available within the Department or elsewhere in the government on these issues. The Committee Charter expired in July 2017 and was not renewed. The

Committee is terminated.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if  
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Outcome Comments**

The Committee was led by both senior U.S. government officials and leaders from civil society who were to meet quarterly to review the Working Groups' progress and recommend policy action to effectively integrate civil society into overall foreign policy. The Committee was established to act as a direct point of contact in the government to liaise with civil society and improve overall outreach worldwide.

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Cost Savings Comments**

Not Applicable

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

20

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

Since inception, the Committee has proposed approximately 20 recommendations to the Secretary concerning engagement with and protection of civil society worldwide. No recommendations have been developed for 2016. The committee did not meet in 2016 and the charter has expired in 2017. The FACA has been terminated.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

60%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

Based on the recommendations from the Committee, the State Department has implemented the following recommendations: Facilitate U.S. diplomatic engagement with religious communities through expanded training and guidance for State Department officials; Build awareness for women's rights in countries undergoing political transition and work closely with MENA region civil society groups and governments to make sure women's rights are enshrined in their new constitutions and protected in practice; Institutionalize a platform for dialogue with representatives from labor and business groups at G-20 Summits; Develop new opportunities for south-south cooperation on labor issues; and Establish mission-based civil society working groups within the Dialogue to address issues of local and regional importance. Most recently, the State Department has worked in collaboration with the Treasury Department and IRS to revise tax regulations on equivalency determinations, which will reduce the administrative costs of foundation grantmaking to foreign civil society groups.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

100%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

Recommendations fully implemented are continuously being acted upon, while the rest are in development with stakeholders in the Department.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to**



**implement recommendations or advice offered?**Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐**Agency Feedback Comments**

The Department of State provides feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations through the individual offices and bureaus who are represented on the committee who are tasked with implementation of the recommendations. Also, mission-based working groups are provided feedback to address their individual concerns in engagement with civil society.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Action Comments**

Through the work of the previous committees, the Department of State elevated dialogue with civil society to a higher level than ever before. Resources were brought forth to disseminate the information received in Committee meetings into training course for foreign and civil service officers throughout the Department. Also, the State Department has formally expanded its diplomatic engagement with civil society through mission-based working groups in over 30 posts around the world.

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

Not Applicable

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Online Committee Web Site



Online GSA FACA Web Site



Publications



Other



### **Access Comments**

All information for the Committee is found on the State Department website for the Secretary's Office of Global Partnerships. The Committee charter term has expired and the Committee is terminated.