

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515**

**STATEMENT OF  
THE HONORABLE ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA  
CHAIRMAN**

**before the  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND THE  
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT**

**“Climate Change Finance: Providing Assistance for Vulnerable Countries”**

**July 27, 2010**

Today's hearing on climate change finance is the third in a series focused on the impact of global warming on the most vulnerable nations.

Last December in Copenhagen, President Obama, along with other developed country leaders, pledged to raise \$30 billion between 2010 and 2012 for fast-start adaptation and mitigation efforts for countries most in need. Developed countries also committed to provide \$100 billion annually by 2020 to developing nations, conditioned on all major economies agreeing to “meaningful mitigation actions and... full transparency as to their implementation.”

While the Accord did not delineate precisely where the funds would come from or how they would be disbursed, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said funding would be derived from public, private, bilateral, multilateral and alternative sources.

The commitments made by the developed world to developing nations were essential to achieving the Copenhagen Accord during the much-anticipated 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties. Negotiations nearly faltered until developed nations agreed to contribute resources to counter the effects of climate change in developing countries.

As the Copenhagen Accord itself states, “Enhanced action and international cooperation on adaptation is urgently required to ensure the implementation of the Convention by enabling and supporting the implementation of adaptation actions aimed at reducing vulnerability and building resilience in developing countries, especially in

those that are particularly vulnerable, especially least developed countries, small island developing States and Africa. We agree that developed countries shall provide adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources, technology and capacity-building to support the implementation of adaptation action in developing countries.”

The Accord was an important step forward in achieving a legally binding global agreement to limit greenhouse gas emissions, a step which is essential for avoiding the worst consequences of climate change. And while the pledges made by developing countries are substantial, they are both necessary and very much in our own interest. Ironically, the poorest countries, those that have contributed the least to global greenhouse gas emissions, will suffer 75 to 80 percent of the cost of climate change-induced damages, according to the World Development Report 2010.

Moreover, as Anthony Zinni, retired Marine Corps General and former Commander of U.S. Central Command, succinctly stated, “We will pay for this one way or another. We will pay to reduce greenhouse gas emissions today, and we’ll have to take an economic hit of some kind. Or we will pay the price later in military terms. And that will involve human lives. There will be a human toll.”

His views were confirmed by the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review which states that, “While climate change alone does not cause conflict, it may act as an accelerant of instability or conflict, placing a burden to respond on civilian institutions and militaries around the world... extreme weather events may lead to increased demands for defense support to civil authorities for humanitarian assistance or disaster response both within the United States and overseas.”

Last week, I introduced House Resolution 1552 supporting finance for developing countries consistent with the Copenhagen Accord’s goals and calling for enactment of comprehensive energy and climate change legislation that includes provisions for international finance.

Meanwhile, my good friend, Representative Russ Carnahan from Missouri, is working on introducing The Global Climate Fund Act. That bill will lay out a pathway for distribution of funding for mitigation and adaptation, one based on the Copenhagen Accord and modeled after the successful Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, which received essential U.S. financial support under the George W. Bush Administration. In addition, Congressman Pete Stark introduced H.R. 5873, the Investing in Our Future Act, which would direct revenues from a small tax on all currency transactions involving U.S. persons to fund domestic childcare programs and global health and climate change mitigation initiatives.

These legislative efforts will help us meet the pledges of the Copenhagen Accord, provide essential assistance to the countries most vulnerable to climate change, and help avoid the mass migration, diminished food production, and competition over resources that could lead to conflict and instability requiring costly international response.

Examples of the impact of developed countries' emissions on poorer countries can be found around the world, including the South Pacific, where my own home lies. As Ambassador Marlene Moses of Nauru has said, "The Pacific [Small Island Developing States] bear almost no responsibility for the onset of climate change, yet we are suffering the consequences today. It is undermining our food security, water security, and territorial integrity. Climate change is a man made disaster, and redress for the damage being done to our islands is long overdue."

We convene today's hearing as the Senate takes up energy legislation, albeit vastly diminished in scope from the Waxman-Markey bill passed last year by House. Among many other issues, Waxman Markey included provisions for international finance. The Senate legislation does not consider such funding, let alone a cap on greenhouse gas emissions. Indeed, as rolled out yesterday, the bill is simply focused on raising the liability caps on spills for oil companies and encouraging modest energy efficiency improvements.

The Senate's small bill is discouraging for those of us committed to addressing climate change. But we will never give up the fight. And I hope that today's hearing will contribute in some small way toward that effort.

Today's hearing was organized by Melanie Mickelson-Graham, a Presidential Management Fellow on rotation to the Subcommittee from the Department of Energy. Melanie specializes in energy and climate change in Asia. She has lived in and traveled to China and is fluent in Mandarin. She previously worked for the Cohen Group, the US Department of Defense, and the US Senate. She graduated with distinction from the Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at The Johns Hopkins University, and received a bachelor's degree in economics with Honors from my alma mater, Brigham Young University. She is also the proud mom of an active 1-year old boy who is learning Chinese. We appreciate the work she has done for the Subcommittee and look forward to the testimonies from government officials and experts in the fields of climate change and finance who will share their thoughts on the Copenhagen Accord, and on meeting its promises to raise and disburse funds for climate finance efficiently, effectively and transparently.

Given that we have 8 witnesses testifying before us today, we would ask that you limit your oral testimony to 5 minutes, and submit your complete statements for the record. I will also ask all Members to limit their opening statements and questions to 5 minutes each.