

AMERICAN ENGAGEMENT CAUCUS

Mission A caucus to bring together Members to sustain and advocate for U.S. engagement to tackle global challenges like terrorism and nuclear weapons; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease.

Co-Chairs Congressman Russ Carnahan (D-MO): Jeremy Haldeman, Legislative Director, 5-2671
Congressman Anh “Joseph” Cao (R-LA): Dang Nguyen, Projects Director, 5-6636

Potential Issues for Discussion

Multilateral Relations

- Given the rise of emerging nations, how will the U.S. engage multilaterally to address new transnational challenges? How can the UN be updated to serve as a platform for global problem solving?

Peacekeeping

- What have been the benefits and challenges of United Nations/NATO led peacekeeping missions vs. unilateral action?

Climate Change

- What is the status and what are the steps necessary to establish a new global agreement to succeed the Kyoto Protocol when it expires in 2012?

Counterterrorism

- Should there be an international agency for counterterrorism along the lines of the UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency?

Non-Proliferation

- What steps must be taken to maintain adherence to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty?

Natural Resources

- What partnerships between the developing world and developed nations can be made to reduce the number of people suffering from hunger or minimize conflict related to water shortages?

Millennium Development Goals

- What progress has been made in reaching the MDG's? What action is necessary by global leaders to help countries lagging behind to reach the MDG's?

Human/Drug Trafficking

- What partnerships amongst countries and international organizations exist to combat trafficking?

Other Caucuses - While there are related caucuses that address specific global issues, no caucus currently addresses how countries can better partner with each other to tackle issues as complex as those described above.

- Congressional Global Health Caucus - Rep. Betty McCollum; Rep. Vic Snyder
- Congressional Human Rights Caucus - Rep. McGovern; Rep. Wolf; Sen. Harkin; Sen. Brownback
- Congressional Malaria Caucus - Rep. Donald M. Payne; Rep. John Boozman
- World Bank Caucus - Rep. Betty McCollum; Rep. Kevin Brady

America's Interest in Engagement

Ours is an age of interdependence. America's security, economic, environmental, and moral interests are inextricably linked with those of the international community. That is why in 2008 the United States must find creative new approaches for working with the world to create a safer, more peaceful, prosperous, and just world.

Historically, America has been the most respected nation because of our commitment to working with all countries on behalf of freedom, peace, and other common objectives. Steadfast American engagement helped end two world wars and succeeded in bringing the Cold War to an end as well.

Enlightened global engagement allows the United States to advance its interests without going it alone or acting as the world's policeman. Working with other countries also helps ensure that we achieve our goals without paying all the bills or taking all the risks for global security.

Political leaders have an opportunity, from day one, to present a new face to the world, strengthen America's reputation, and foster international cooperation to solve the world's most pressing problems, such as preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, stamping out terrorism, confronting climate change, and revitalizing the global economy.

A global partnerships caucus could discuss the following principles for international engagement in an interdependent world:

- **Smart Power:** To achieve its security objectives and national interests, America must project smart power—a blend of military strength and creative diplomacy. America always reserves the right to act in service of its national interests, but prefers and prioritizes international cooperation to address common concerns and shared objectives.
- **Don't Go It Alone:** We live in a world where the solutions to world problems require international cooperation, whether they are economic problems, environmental problems, or problems of peace and war. In today's interconnected world, America can't go it alone. International cooperation is a better way of solving some of the world's key problems.
- **America's reputation matters:** America's reputation and standing in the world matter. To restore America's reputation in the world, we must commit to working cooperatively with the international community. To achieve this, we must understand and consider the concerns and perspectives of other nations, not just dictate ours.
- **Cooperation for Security:** Given all the threats in the world today from terrorist groups and unstable foreign regimes with nuclear capabilities, working with other countries around the world is essential to our security. America needs to balance our military might with diplomacy in order to successfully address global security challenges like nuclear proliferation and terrorism.
- **A strong relationship between the United States and the United Nations is key to rebuilding alliances and keeping us safe:** U.S. standing in the world is in large ways shaped by and representative of our engagement with the United Nations. It is in America's economic, environmental, and security interest to cooperate with the UN to solve global challenges. It is essential, therefore, that the United States honor its financial commitments to the UN on time, in full, and without conditions.
- **Global partnerships are essential to effectively fighting the war on terror:** Given all the threats in the world today from terrorist groups and unstable foreign regimes with nuclear capabilities, cooperating with countries around the world is more crucial than ever. Other nations can help shoulder the burden of counterterrorism efforts, especially in regions where the U.S. may lack access and leverage. More effort will

be needed to exchange information on terrorists with other countries and raise security standards for travel and border crossings.

- **America's economic and environmental interests are irrefutably connected:** We need to build mechanisms and institutions that are needed to ensure that the world's major economies reduce their climate-damaging emissions. Addressing climate change through new, clean energy strategies will reduce our dependence on oil; revitalize the American heartland through clean energy production; and give developing countries a chance to meet their own energy needs and alleviate poverty.

Our security, our economic future, and safeguarding the world's environment all depend on international cooperation. Working cooperatively with other nations and through the UN ensures that we do not have to carry all of the burden or take all of the risks for global security and progress.