

# DAILY BULLETIN

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## IRAQI WOMEN RECEIVING DEMOCRACY TRAINING AHEAD OF ELECTIONS

State Department implementing \$10 billion in grants through democracy initiative

By Stephen Kaufman  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- With Iraqi national elections approaching, the State Department has begun implementing a \$10 million grant program in which several nonprofit organizations are training Iraqi women in the skills and practices of democratic life.

Through the Iraqi Women's Democracy Initiative, thousands of Iraqi women will be trained in political leadership, advocacy, entrepreneurship and organizational skills -- knowledge that could facilitate and encourage their participation in Iraq's January 2005 elections, according to Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky.

In her September 27 remarks at the Foreign Press Center in Washington, Dobriansky said the initiative, originally announced March 8 by Secretary of State Colin Powell, was specifically designed to fund projects "to help women become full and vibrant partners in Iraq's developing democracy."

"We will give them the tools to manage their own associations and to build coalitions with others, and we will provide the information and experience they need to run for office, lobby for fair treatment and lead Iraq's emerging institutions," Dobriansky said.

According to information provided by the State Department, six out of a planned 10 grants have been awarded in four key areas: political organization and training; leadership training and coalition building, democracy education and training; and entrepreneurship projects.

Dobriensky said the grant proposals were selected based upon which were “the most time relevant and time sensitive,” as well as upon criteria put forward by Iraqi women, including the Iraqi Minister of State for Women’s Affairs Narmin Othman and Iraq’s Ambassador to the United States Rend al-Rahim.

They and other Iraqi women “specifically indicated those areas and those kinds of proposals that would be the most meaningful in this very limited span of time before the January elections,” Dobriensky said.

Minister Othman also addressed the Foreign Press Center, as well as Iraq’s Deputy Minister of Culture Maysoon Al-Damluji, and Zainab Al-Suwaij, the founder and executive director of the American Islamic Congress.

Othman acknowledged that the limited time left before the elections presents some difficulties in attaining the goals of the initiative. But, she added, with hard work “we can have an impact” on the elections.

Dobriensky said many of the nonprofit organizations implementing the projects had already been working in Iraq, facilitating their ability to begin work immediately.

“There’s been a continuum,” she said. In a number of cases, the funds will not only sustain the momentum of what they have been doing, but will target their efforts more specifically towards women’s initiatives and “what the women of Iraq have specifically asked for.”

Speaking earlier at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, Dobriensky said one grant recipient, the Johns Hopkins School of Strategic and International Studies, is working with Iraqi nongovernmental organizations to collect and translate national constitutions, international covenants and other conventions on women’s rights into Arabic to serve as resource tools in an Iraqi women’s rights center they will build.

Another, the Kurdish Human Rights Watch will work with Iraqi women and other groups to help mobilize 6,000 households to engage in the electoral process, she said.

With the approaching elections, “there is an attempt ... to build upon a number of training initiatives,” such as voter education, organizational skills, and political leadership. Some of those programs have already been in place, she said, “but they need to be much more targeted and particularly to women’s needs.”

Michelle Bernard, a senior fellow at the Independent Women’s Forum (IWF), said that, with the grant money, her organization has already started to recruit 150 Iraqi women to participate in a Woman Leaders Program and Democracy Information Center.

“[W]e’d like to train 150 pro-democracy women on the fundamentals of democracy, women’s political activism in a democracy, and to exchange ideas ... basically to enable Iraqi women to participate in their country and help Iraq develop a democracy that best suits the needs of that country,” Bernard said. Those ideas, she said, would come from Muslim, western and eastern texts about democracy.

Bernard said IWF’s program would begin with a five-day training seminar on governance issues, intra- and inter-governmental affairs, democracy building, campaigning and the role of the media. She said IWF has also planned a five-day conference in December that will be held in Amman, Jordan, followed up by quarterly meetings that will take place throughout Iraq to continue the women’s training.

IWF was not necessarily recruiting Iraqi women who plan to run for public office, she said. “We’re just looking for people who want to participate at the community level, people who are interested in education, [or] people who might want to be policy makers in the equivalent of a think-tank here,” Bernard said.

Under Secretary Dobriensky said Iraqi women are now playing a significant role in their country’s transition towards democracy. She said six of Iraq’s 11 cabinet ministers are women, as well as one quarter of Iraq’s new interim national council, in which representatives have been appointed to seven of 11 council committees. One hundred women have also joined the Iraqi police and women are serving in the Iraqi military for the first time, she added.

## CONTROLLING INSURGENCY KEY TO IRAQI PROGRESS, POWELL SAYS

Also discusses Iran, Syria, Israeli settlements in interview

As the insurgency in Iraq is brought under control, particularly in the Sunni areas, reconstruction will become more effective and prospects for nationwide elections in January 2005 will brighten, Secretary of State Colin Powell said in a wide-ranging interview with the editorial board of the New York Times on September 24 in New York.

Powell did not downplay the seriousness of the violence occurring daily in Iraq, but he said that it tended to obscure positive signs of progress, such as steadily growing and increasingly effective military and police force; school attendance by 95 percent of Iraqi school-age children; a Transitional Administrative Law that protects minority rights and will serve as a precursor to a new constitution; successful municipal elections; and oil revenues that are being used to benefit the Iraqi people.

In addition, Powell said, "We have succeeded in putting in place an interim administration of dedicated men and women who get up every day and put their lives at risk, people such as Prime Minister Allawi."

The main source of the insurgency is in the Sunni triangle cities like Samarra, Fallujah, and Ramadi, Powell said, and if those areas are brought under better government control, the level of violence will drop significantly, to the point where it can be dealt with largely by Iraqi security forces.

Better security will make reconstruction more effective, according to Powell. "We have tripled the amount of money that has gone into reconstruction," he said. "As security is reasserted and communities are reclaimed, the money will flow more rapidly. [In] Najaf, for example, we're going to be doing a lot more with the government to rebuild the infrastructure."

On Iran, Powell said that the Bush administration has been pressing the international community for years about the threat of its nuclear development program, and, despite a lack of consensus, the United States has continued to urge that the issue be brought before the U.N. Security Council.

Powell said, "I think we have now reached a point where, if Iran does not satisfy the concerns we have and answer the questions that the international community has, there is a much higher likelihood than ever before that the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] will refer to the Security Council."

Asked about Israel's plans for a unilateral withdrawal from Gaza, Powell said that the United States did succeed in getting agreement on the removal of some West Bank settlements "in order to bring the whole process into the roadmap."

The United States has continued to insist that there must be a freeze in settlement activity, most recently in President Bush's U.N. address, according to Powell.

"We are engaged in the most elaborate discussion with the Israelis as to what 'freeze' means, and how to define settlements," he said.

Powell said that the United States had held positive talks with Syria about border security and terrorism with Iraq, adding that "we need actions, not just announcements."

Powell said that his week at the U.N. General Assembly demonstrated the importance of the United Nations to the United States, as well as the value of "interlocking relations" reflected in such organizations as the Broader Middle East forum, the Adriatic Charter, and the European Union.

"It's reassuring that we are participating in these fora, notwithstanding claims to the contrary from time to time," Powell said. "And people still look to us for leadership and for inspiration in what they are doing around the world and we're pleased to be able to give it to them."

The Israeli-Palestinian and Iraq conflicts are the chief factors in the current low public opinion polls for the United States abroad, according to Powell, who said that it was sometimes difficult to gain recognition for the U.S. leadership role in places like Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, and Congo, and with the HIV/AIDS initiative.

With progress in Iraq and the Middle East peace process, Powell said, "You would see quite a considerable rebound in these attitudes."

## TREASURY'S SNOW TO MEET WITH G8, MIDEAST MINISTERS ON FORUM

Secretary will prepare for Forum for the Future at IMF, World Bank meetings

The United States will continue preparations for the Forum for the Future at the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank starting October 1 in Washington, Treasury Secretary John Snow said after the September 24 meeting that established the forum.

Snow will meet with finance and economic ministers from the Group of Eight (G8) and the broader Middle East and North Africa region to discuss economic cooperation in preparation for the Forum for the Future.

The initiative creates a permanent forum for G8 and regional leaders to cooperate on economic, political and social reforms. Economic leaders in the region have identified key goals for economic progress: relying to a greater extent on markets, strengthening financial institutions, increasing trade, supporting small enterprise, and making international institutions more effective in addressing the region's needs.

"The region wants economic progress and we in the United States and the entire G8 want to facilitate that progress," said Snow.

G8 countries include Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States and Russia.

Following is the transcript of Secretary Snow's remarks:

Department of Treasury  
Office of Public Affairs  
September 24, 2004

Treasury Secretary John Snow  
Foreign Ministers Meeting on the G-8/Broader Middle  
East and North Africa Initiative

Good morning; it's good to be with you today. I want to thank Secretary Colin Powell for hosting this meeting, and for his leadership at both the national and international levels. I'm honored to call him a colleague and friend. We are meeting at a time of challenge and promise -- in the world and the region. I believe that the rewards for our work will be especially great.

This group has come together to respond to a call by President Bush and his colleagues in the G8 and the Broader Middle East and North Africa. The President is anxious that we all work together for social, political and economic progress in the region. The key to that progress is greater economic and political freedom.

My involvement with your colleagues in the finance ministries and central banks is a reflection of the importance of economic progress to the overall initiative. The region wants economic progress and we in the United States and the entire G8 want to facilitate that progress.

Appropriately, the agenda for economic progress has been developed by the economic leaders of the region. It includes working to establish a greater reliance on markets, strengthening financial institutions, increasing trade, developing proposals to finance the growth of small- and medium-sized enterprises, and making the international financial institutions more effective in dealing with the development challenges in the region.

Economic opportunity is not just about material gain -- it is about uplifting the spirit. Economic freedom generates motivation, initiative, opportunity, growth and jobs. And having a job means the same thing in any country, in any language: that you can provide for yourself and your loved ones. It is a cornerstone of individual liberty.

The promotion of economic freedom, opportunity and growth throughout the world will be a key topic at my meetings next weekend during the annual meetings in Washington of the IMF and World Bank. My G8 colleagues and I have met with our counterparts in the region to discuss strategies to advance these objectives. These meetings have provided a good foundation on which we can build. On October 1, next Friday, I will host a meeting of finance and other economic ministers from the G8 and Broader Middle East and North Africa region. Like today's meeting, we will help prepare for the Forum for the Future of this region, focusing on economic cooperation. I will report the results of today's meeting to finance ministers when we meet next week. We recognize the value of this dialogue and are anxious to continue our progress.

I look forward to the discussions and the good work that lies ahead. Thank you again for your dedication to economic freedom, and for having me here today.

## U.S., EUROPE TO EXPAND COOPERATION ON AVIATION ISSUES

FAA and EUROCONTROL sign pact on air traffic management, research

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the European Organization for the Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL) on September 24 signed an agreement to expand and promote cooperation on air traffic management and research.

FAA Administrator Marion Blakey said the FAA and EUROCONTROL “have a track record for success” and that their cooperative efforts are “paying real dividends.”

The mission of the FAA: <http://www.faa.gov> is to provide a safe, secure, and efficient global aerospace system. The primary objective of EUROCONTROL: <http://www.eurocontrol.be> which is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, is to develop a seamless, pan-European Air Traffic Management system.

Following is an FAA press release on their latest agreement:

Federal Aviation Administration  
Washington, DC 20591  
<http://www.faa.gov>

September 24, 2004

### FAA and EUROCONTROL Sign Agreement Promoting International Air Traffic Management Initiatives

Washington, DC -- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator Marion C. Blakey today signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with Victor M. Aguado, Director General of EUROCONTROL, to expand and promote cooperative air traffic management and research initiatives between the two organizations.

“This action today reinforces the strong working relationship we share with EUROCONTROL,” said FAA Administrator Blakey. “We have a track record for success, and our cooperation on aviation research and operational issues is paying real dividends.”

Over the years, the FAA and EUROCONTROL have cooperated in research of a wide range of aviation issues including automated radar terminal system architecture;

air traffic operational concepts; air traffic management decision support tools; and automatic dependent surveillance.

The FAA and EUROCONTROL plan future cooperative research initiatives regarding wake vortex, safety management; separation concepts; and communications. These activities support the International Leadership Goal of the FAA Flight Plan that seek to promote seamless operations around the globe in cooperation with bilateral, regional, and multilateral partners.

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**Please Note:** Most texts and transcripts mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage [www.usmission.ch](http://www.usmission.ch). Select “Washington File” from the drop-down menu under “News.”