

## ***Panel Executive Brief: Perspectives from Capitol Hill on Stabilization & Importance of SAR***

Support from Capitol Hill representatives is absolutely essential to the successful implementation of the SAR. Without wide-ranging support and buy-in from Congress, carrying out effective stabilization efforts will prove to be extremely challenging. Members of Congress need to not only build good relations with other countries to pursue stabilization plans, but they also need to persuade their constituents that these international efforts are worth the money and beneficial for the United States.

### ***Speakers***

Mark Iozzi - *Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee*

Michael V. Phelan - *Senior Professional Staff Member, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate*

Laura Strawmyer - *Policy and Advocacy Manager, Alliance for Peacebuilding*

Moderator: Dr. Patrick Quirk - *Senior Policy Advisor (State/CSO), SAR Lead*

### ***Key Issues/Problems discussed:***

- Congress is focused on the short-term even though the present government cuts diplomacy and development funding; members do not want projects pulled from underneath them.
- Lack of support among government officials for flexible funding.
- How will the political element of stabilization work? It must be separate from DoD.
- Questions still remain regarding the issue of funding.

### ***Key Recommendations:***

- Project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will show constituents proof on how important it is that tax money goes into stabilization efforts.
- DoD cannot carry out these initiatives single-handedly; interagency cooperation is a necessity
- Increased advocacy for flexible funding for these initiatives.

### ***Significance of SAR:***

The SAR does a great job at presenting a case for interagency collaboration and presenting the combined results from many similar reports. Furthermore, the document emphasizes the importance of measuring impact; it is sometimes difficult to explain that we need the microdata as much as the macro. Consistent monitoring and evaluation of the impact surrounding stabilization initiatives is vital to persuading constituents that these types of projects are worth funding.