

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 17, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We write to express serious concern that the State Department is impeding the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of the Inspector General (USAID OIG) from undertaking its statutorily mandated work to protect taxpayers' funds from waste, fraud and abuse pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act and the Inspector General Act.<sup>1</sup>

Congress in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961<sup>2</sup> and subsequent legislation<sup>3</sup> has consistently reiterated its intention that USAID OIG conduct foreign assistance oversight because these programs are implemented by multiple federal entities and require specialized oversight because programs are implemented overseas, often in conflict zones, with high fraud, diversion, and corruption risks. Nonetheless, we understand that you directed the USAID OIG to stop conducting its statutorily required oversight over foreign assistance programs via a July 1, 2025, "All Diplomatic and Consular Posts" (ALDAC) cable.

The effort to restrict the work of USAID OIG is a violation of federal law. The Inspector General Act of 1978 states: "Neither the head of the establishment nor the officer next in rank below shall prevent or prohibit the Inspector General from initiating, carrying out, or completing any audit or investigation, or from issuing any subpoena during the course of any audit or investigation."<sup>4</sup> The law further states that the definition of USAID includes "any successor agency primarily responsible for administering Part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961" — giving USAID OIG clear responsibility for oversight of the programs and funding in question even if they are transferred to another agency.<sup>5</sup> Given the monumental changes to foreign assistance funding and operations, a lack of adequate oversight is especially troubling.

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<sup>1</sup> The Inspector General Act of 1978 (IG Act) establishes each OIG as an independent oversight entity with authority to conduct audits, inspections, and investigations, proved access to agency records, prevent and detect fraud, waste and abuse and coordinate with other OIGs where jurisdictions overlap. The Foreign Assistance Act established the statutory framework for U.S. foreign aid and created the United States Agency for International Development. Specifically, Part 1 lays out the policy, definitions, and authorization for U.S. development assistance.)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Congress. *Foreign Assistance Act of 1961*, Public Law. No. 87-195. September 4, 1961.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Congress. *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026*, Public Law 119-75. February 3, 2026.

<sup>4</sup> 5 U.S. Code § 403(a)

<sup>5</sup> 5 U.S. Code § 409(a)

The USAID OIG staff are essential to root out waste, fraud, and abuse across foreign assistance programs—efforts this Administration claims to support—and has a decades long track record of doing so. This crucial work must be done by seasoned and well-trained law enforcement professionals<sup>6</sup> capable of aggressively investigating claims of corruption, misuse of government funds, and impropriety in foreign aid programs across different countries,<sup>7</sup> which is why the USAID OIG employs staff who are stationed in key locations around the world such as South Africa, Israel, and Ukraine.

As the Congressional committees responsible for oversight of foreign assistance, we have a clear interest and responsibility to ensure that the USAID OIG is conducting oversight of current<sup>8</sup> foreign assistance operations. We urge you to act promptly to ensure that the entities which you lead end all obstruction and return to full compliance with USAID OIG's oversight mandate.

Sincerely,



GREGORY W. MEEKS  
Ranking Member  
House Foreign Affairs Committee



JEANNE SHAHEEN  
Ranking Member  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

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<sup>6</sup> See Testimony of Adam D. Kaplan before HFAC Subcommittee on Oversight and Intelligence Hearing: *Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in Foreign Assistance: Lessons Learned and Charting a Path Forward*, March 17, 2026

<sup>7</sup> Mathew Jenkins, "Corruption in humanitarian assistance in conflict settings," April 26, 2024. Anti-Corruption Resource Center. [https://knowledgehub.transparencycdn.org/helpdesk/Corruption-in-humanitarian-assistance-in-conflict-settings\\_2024\\_Final.pdf](https://knowledgehub.transparencycdn.org/helpdesk/Corruption-in-humanitarian-assistance-in-conflict-settings_2024_Final.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> USAID OIG Oversight Plan for FY 2026-2027