

**STATEMENT OF
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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

International Science and Technology Cooperation

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International diplomacy can be crafted through a variety of mediums. Science and technology as a vehicle of diplomacy has been explored by our nation, but I believe it is currently underutilized. This hearing will help us understand both the established foundation of science diplomacy and how we might build upon it.

While I share the concern about the fiscal year 2008 omnibus and its impact on the ITER agreement, this is only one symptom of a greater problem: the perceived worth that scientific collaboration has to our foreign affairs. While it is hard to gauge the return on investment in international science and technology cooperation, it is much easier to realize the cost of not investing in these types of endeavors. Furthermore, the U.S. will not remain globally competitive in science and technology unless we are able to work with international partners on large facilities that simply cannot be financed by individual nations. In many fields, U.S. researchers would be crippled by lack of participation in these activities.

I am very pleased that Dr. Fedoroff is testifying today and I believe that the Science and Technology Advisor position at the Department of State has helped build the profile of science and technology diplomacy. Thank you for your attendance, and I look forward to testimony from our panel today.