

The hard work of building democracy

In US president **Barack Obama's** State of the Union Address, he reasserted the efficacy of American diplomacy

Opportunity is who we are. And the defining project of our generation is to restore that promise.

We know where to start: the best measure of opportunity is access to a good job. With the economy picking up speed, companies say they intend to hire more people this year. And over half of big manufacturers say they are thinking of insourcing jobs from abroad ...

Let's do more to help the entrepreneurs and small business owners who create most new jobs in America. Over the past five years, my administration has made more loans to small business owners than any other. And when 98 per cent of our exporters are small businesses, new trade partnerships with Europe and the Asia-Pacific will help them create more jobs. We need to work together on tools like bipartisan trade promotion authority to protect our workers, protect our environment and open new markets to new goods stamped 'Made in the USA'. China and Europe are not standing on the sidelines. Neither should we ...

One of the biggest factors in bringing more jobs back is our commitment to American energy. The all-of-the-above energy strategy I announced a few years ago is working, and today, America is closer to energy independence than we have been in decades.

One of the reasons why is natural gas – if extracted safely, it is the bridge fuel that can power our economy with less of the carbon pollution that causes climate change. Businesses plan to invest almost \$100 billion in new factories that use natural gas. I will cut red tape to help states get those factories built, and this Congress can help by putting people to work building fuelling stations that shift more cars and trucks from foreign oil to American natural gas. My administration will keep working with the industry to sustain production and job growth while strengthening protection of our air, our water and our communities. And while we are at it, I will use my authority to protect more of our pristine federal lands for future generations.

It is not just oil and natural gas production that is booming; we are becoming a global leader in solar, too. Every four minutes, another American home or business goes solar, every panel pounded into place by a worker whose job cannot be outsourced. Let's continue that progress with a smarter tax policy that stops giving \$4 billion a year to fossil fuel industries that do not need it, so that we can invest more in fuels of the future that do.

A cleaner, safer planet

And even as we have increased energy production, we have partnered with businesses, builders and local communities to reduce the energy we consume. When we rescued our automakers, for example, we worked with them to set higher fuel efficiency standards for our cars. In the coming months, I will build on that success by setting new standards for our trucks, so we can keep driving down oil imports and what we pay at the pump.

Taken together, our energy policy is creating jobs and leading to a cleaner, safer planet. Over the past eight years, the United States has reduced our total carbon pollution more than any other nation

on Earth. But we have to act with more urgency, because a changing climate is already harming western communities struggling with drought, and coastal cities dealing with floods. That is why I directed my administration to work with states, utilities and others to set new standards on the amount of carbon pollution our power plants are allowed to dump into the air. The shift to a cleaner energy economy will not happen overnight, and it will require tough choices along the way. But the debate is settled. Climate change is a fact. And when our children's children look us in the eye and ask if we did all we could to leave them a safer, more stable world, with new sources of energy, I want us to be able to say yes, we did ...

Tonight, because of the extraordinary troops and civilians who risk and lay down their lives to keep us free, the United States is more secure. When I took office, nearly 180,000 Americans were serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, all our troops are out of Iraq. More than 60,000 of our troops have already come home from Afghanistan. With Afghan forces now in the lead for their own security, our troops have moved to a support role. Together with our allies, we will complete our mission there by the end of this year, and America's longest war will finally be over.

After 2014, we will support a unified Afghanistan as it takes responsibility for its own future. If the Afghan Government signs a security agreement that we have negotiated, a small force of Americans could remain in Afghanistan with NATO allies to carry out two narrow missions: training and assisting Afghan forces, and counterterrorism operations to pursue any remnants of al-Qaeda. While our relationship with Afghanistan will change, one thing will not: our resolve that terrorists do not launch attacks against our country.

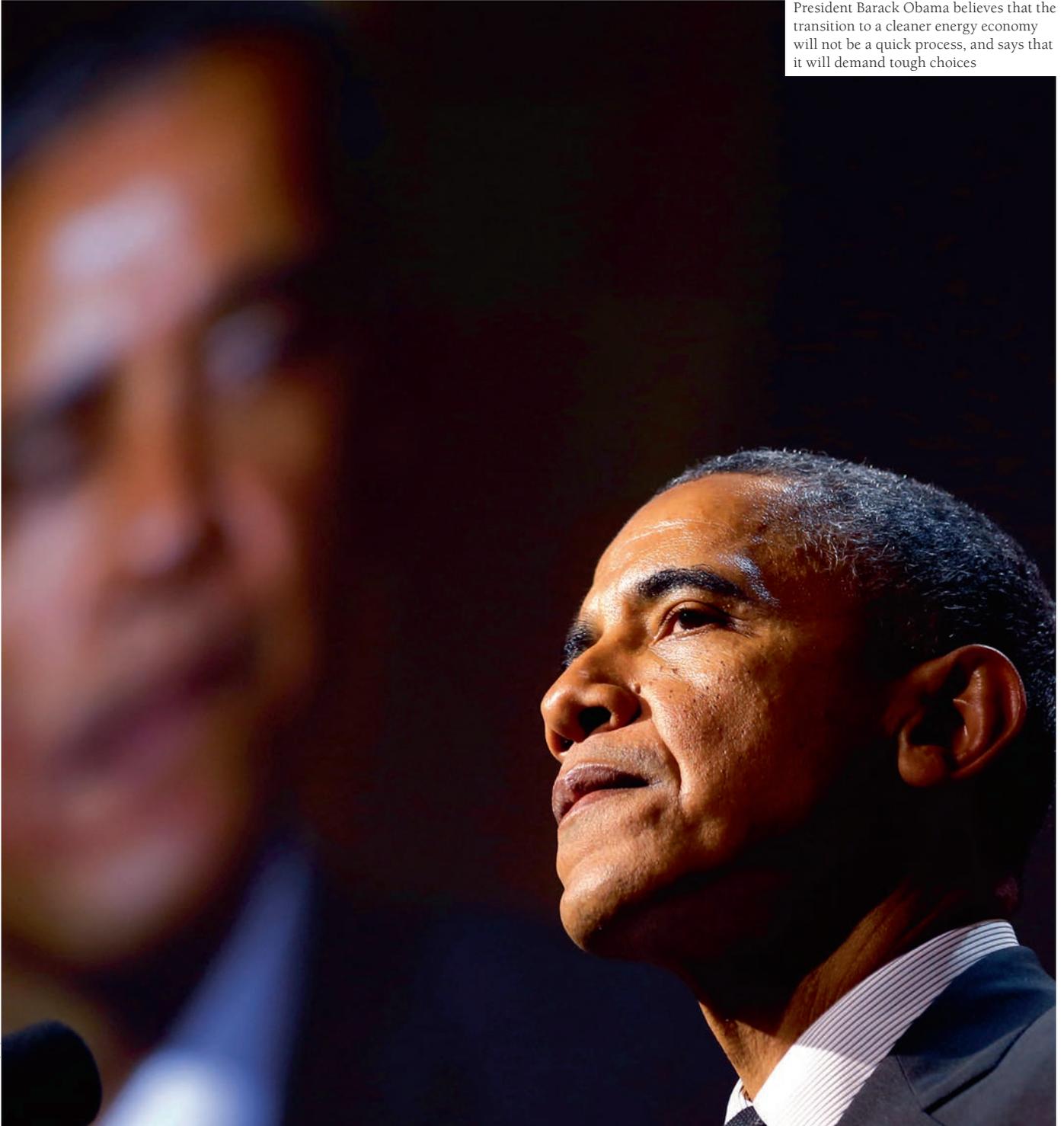
The fact is, that danger remains. While we have put al-Qaeda's core leadership on a path to defeat, the threat has evolved, as al-Qaeda affiliates and other extremists take root in different parts of the world. In Yemen, Somalia, Iraq and Mali, we have to keep working with partners to disrupt and disable these networks. In Syria, we will support the opposition that rejects the agenda of terrorist networks. Here at home, we will keep strengthening our defences, and combat new threats like cyberattacks. And as we reform our defence budget, we have to keep faith with our men and women in uniform, and invest in the capabilities they need to succeed in future missions ...

A world of complex threats

In a world of complex threats, our security and leadership depends on all elements of our power – including strong and principled diplomacy. American diplomacy has rallied more than 50 countries to prevent nuclear materials from falling into the wrong hands, and allowed us to reduce our own reliance on Cold War stockpiles. American diplomacy, backed by the threat of force, is why Syria's chemical weapons are being eliminated, and we will continue to work with the international community to usher in the future the Syrian people deserve – a future free of dictatorship, terror and fear. As we speak, American diplomacy is supporting Israelis and Palestinians as they engage in difficult but necessary talks to end the conflict there; to achieve dignity and an independent state for Palestinians, and lasting peace and security for the State of Israel, a Jewish state that knows America will always be at its side.

And it is American diplomacy, backed by pressure, that has halted the progress of Iran's nuclear program – and rolled parts of that programme back – for the very first time in a decade ... Iran has begun to eliminate its stockpile of higher levels of enriched uranium.

President Barack Obama believes that the transition to a cleaner energy economy will not be a quick process, and says that it will demand tough choices



KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS

It is not installing advanced centrifuges. Unprecedented inspections help the world verify, every day, that Iran is not building a bomb. And with our allies and partners, we are engaged in negotiations to see if we can peacefully achieve a goal we all share: preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon ...

Our alliance with Europe remains the strongest the world has ever known. From Tunisia to Burma, we are supporting those who are willing to do the hard work of building democracy. In Ukraine, we stand for the principle that all people have the right to express themselves freely and peacefully, and have a say in their country's future. Across Africa, we are bringing together businesses and governments to double access to electricity and help end extreme

poverty. In the Americas, we are building new ties of commerce, but we are also expanding cultural and educational exchanges among young people. And we will continue to focus on the Asia-Pacific, where we support our allies, shape a future of greater security and prosperity, and extend a hand to those devastated by disaster – as we did in the Philippines, when our marines and civilians rushed to aid those battered by a typhoon, and were greeted with words like “We will never forget your kindness” and “God bless America!” ■

Excerpts from the 2014 State of the Union Address delivered by US president Barack Obama on 28 January

Kuwait Fund For Arab Economic Development

Partners in development, helping people help themselves

Shortly after its independence in December 1961, the State of Kuwait established Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development to assist other Arab countries in their development. In July 1974, The Fund expanded its scope of operations to include all developing countries.

Over the past 52 years, the Fund had pursued its activities with the primary objective of assisting developing nations in their efforts to achieve their development goals and improve the standard of living of their people and

societies. The Fund continued its main activity of providing concessional loans for financing development projects accorded high priority by the recipient countries. Projects supported by the Fund are based on well-prepared feasibility studies, and the results of appraisals carried out by the Fund's professional staff.

Supporting activities

The Fund also provides technical assistance required to finance the preparation of feasibility studies for projects and to improve administrative and

technical capabilities of the beneficiary countries. In addition, the Fund contributes to the financial resources of development institutions to support their activities in developing countries and cooperates with several national, regional and international development institutions in coordinating efforts and participating in the financing of projects. Furthermore, the Fund administers grants extended by the State of Kuwait to developing countries and institutions.

Operations of the Fund cover development projects in various

Figure 1: Regional distribution of total loan commitments

Up to 31 December 2013

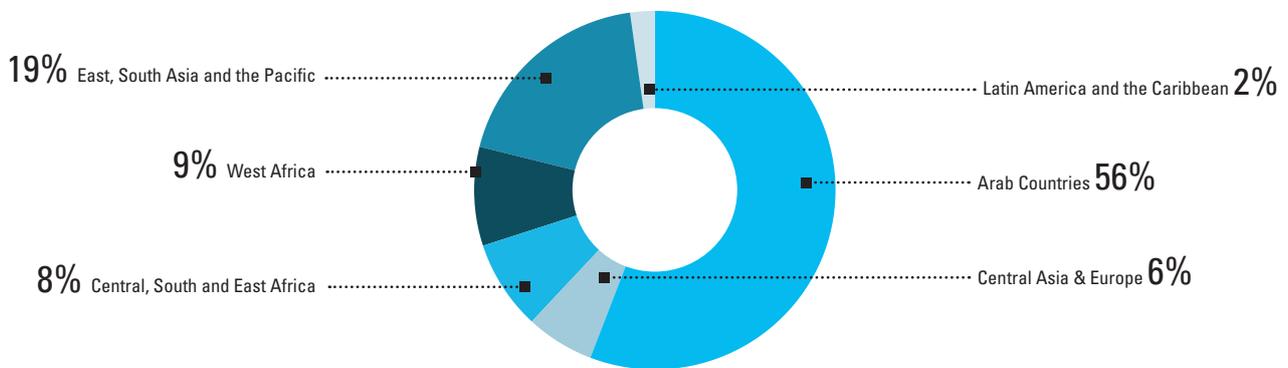
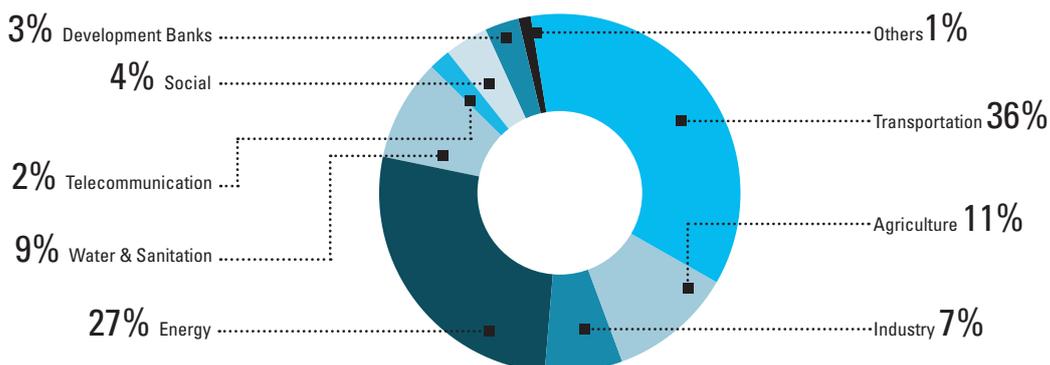


Figure 2: Sectoral distribution of total loan commitments

Up to 31 December 2013





economic sectors including agriculture, communication, energy, industry, transport, water and sanitation, as well as education and health. In addition, the Fund supports small and medium private-sector projects financed by the national development banks and social development funds of the recipient countries, with the aim to create new jobs opportunities and improve living standards.

On December 31 2013, 104 countries received concessional loans and technical assistance from the Fund. It maintains

close cooperation with its partners in development with respect to their priorities and with full support to their ownership of the development operations. It also provides its partners in development with advice, as needed, on all matters relating to preparing and implementing projects.

Distributing loans

Up to 31 December 2013, the Fund has provided concessional loans with a total value of approximately US\$17.2 billion distributed over regions and sectors as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Basic Information on Kuwait Fund Up to 28 February 2014

PROFILE	(US\$) Million
Capital	6,600
Loans Commitment	17,456
Total Disbursements of Loans	13,890
Total Repayment of Loans	8,206
Amount of Kuwait Fund Grants	335
Amount of Technical Assistance	42
Amount of Kuwait Government Grants	3,310
Number of Loans	858
Number of Beneficiary Countries (Loans)	103
Number of Kuwait Fund Grants	197
Number of Technical Assistance	48
Number of Kuwait Government Grants	75
Number of Beneficiary Countries and Institutions (K F Grants)	95
Number of Beneficiary Countries and Institutions (Tech Assistance)	36
Number of Beneficiary Countries and Institutions (Kuwait Govt Grants)	43

About the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development

Since its independence in 1961, the State of Kuwait has participated in economic development efforts, motivated by its firm belief in the principles of cooperation and humanity. Therefore, Kuwait proceeded to establish the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the first institution in the Middle East to take an active role in international development efforts. The Kuwait Fund extends loans to finance development projects in developing countries, provides assistance with feasibility studies, offers training for nationals of the recipient countries, and subscribes to the capital of international and regional development institutions. Today, Kuwait Fund forms a solid bridge of friendship and solidarity between the State of Kuwait and developing nations.

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Kuwait Fund For Development

