

## Unknown

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**From:** Patrick Disney [PDisney@niacouncil.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 23, 2008 11:57 AM  
**To:** 'Rachelle Lyndaker Schlabach'; 'new-iran-policy-coordinating-committee@googlegroups.com'  
**Subject:** RE: Revised outline

Thanks for the feedback Rachelle. That's interesting to hear about the interests section--the original reports said State has been considering this for over a year, so you'd think they could expedite the process a little.

As for improved broadcasting, I agree with your assessment, and had been planning to focus mostly on boosting VOA's credibility as being able to meet basic standards of journalistic integrity. Exactly as you said, it won't be without an agenda, but could be done much, much better.

-p

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**From:** Rachelle Lyndaker Schlabach [mailto:RSchlabach@mcc.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 23, 2008 2:26 PM  
**To:** PDisney@niacouncil.org  
**Subject:** Re: Revised outline

Hi Patrick,

Thanks so much for putting this together. The substance of the points look very good to me overall. A few more minor points: in a meeting at the State Department last week, one of the Iran desk officers implied that she thought it would literally be several *years* before an interest section would begin issuing visas (because it will take a long time to move through red tape, address security issues, etc.) - I wonder if we need to be less concerned about the details of it at this point and more focused on getting one to open.

Also, the "improved broadcasting" is a bit unclear to me--I'm not sure that USG-funded broadcasting ever comes without an agenda, although obviously it could be done better than it has been in the past.

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From: "Patrick Disney" <PDisney@niacouncil.org>  
 To: <new-iran-policy-coordinating-committee@googlegroups.com>  
 Date: 12/22/2008 03:45 PM  
 Subject: Revised outline

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As per a few suggestions, here is a revised outline of our draft. I would like this conversation to remain

12/17/2009

ongoing, so please provide your feedback by replying to the whole group. Thanks.

I'm pulling together some language and will forward that when it's complete. Until then, happy holidays everyone.

-patrick

## I. About Us

The Campaign for a New American Policy on Iran is a trans-partisan coalition of organizations united in the belief that U.S. diplomatic leadership is urgently required to resolve current disputes with Iran. While serious concerns regarding the Government of Iran's statements and behavior persist, we believe America must pursue new, far-sighted and direct engagement in order to resolve outstanding tensions without resorting to military confrontation.

## II. The Need for Change

Obama said: "This victory alone is not the change we seek - it is only the chance for us to make that change. And that cannot happen if we go back to the way things were." Announce an end to the *status quo* on Iran--the US has made a concerted decision to try constructive diplomacy.

- **Endorsement of Experts' Statement**
  - Abandon pursuit of regime change; replace inflammatory rhetoric with a long-term strategy; signal willingness to engage in tough but mutually respectful negotiations; include Iran in the regional security dialogue

## III. Next Steps

- **Open a *properly managed* interests section** -- Plan for a flood of visa applicants
  - Visa process should be over the phone/online to avoid long lines in the streets
  - Should ease visa restrictions in conjunction with opening interests section to assuage public frustrations
- Expand student visas/people-to-people exchanges
  - Reciprocate Iranian interests section's status in Washington
- **Appoint the right envoy for the job**
  - We applaud the decision to appoint a Special Envoy
  - Should be someone willing to give negotiations enough time to work (no artificial deadlines)
  - Possible suggestion: Amb. James Dobbins
- **Tell Congress: no new sanctions** -- Introducing new sanctions is counterproductive while pursuing negotiations
  - "Sanctions" includes divestment and other coercive measures
  - Review and assess the efficacy of sanctions already in place
- **End the "Democracy Fund" as we know it**
  - Work with Congress to eliminate the controversial fund
  - Support democracy in Iran through improved broadcasting--put on display real journalistic integrity and reportorial objectivity.
  - Expand people-to-people exchange--supporting democracy in Iran doesn't have to mean sending money.

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