

**OPENING STATEMENT, AS PREPARED
CHAIRWOMAN YVETTE D. CLARKE (D-NY)
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS, CYBERSECURITY, AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY**

**“THE FY 2010 BUDGET FOR THE DIRECTORATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY,
THE OFFICE OF HEALTH AFFAIRS, AND THE DOMESTIC NUCLEAR DETECTION OFFICE”**

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2009

2:00 P.M. IN 311 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

We are here today to discuss the President’s Fiscal Year 2010 budget request for the Science and Technology Directorate, the Office of Health Affairs, and the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, three critical components to the homeland security mission. We have watched all three of these offices grow over the years. Some have come far in the maturation process; others have some work left to do. Along the way, this Committee has offered praise and criticism of the performance of these offices, as well as recommendations for improvement. It is our duty and obligation to do so. But never forget that in spite of our occasional disagreements, we are all on the same team working towards the same goals.

We find ourselves at a critical time in the Department’s history; this is particularly true for each of the offices you represent. This year, each of your offices faces one significant question that strikes at the heart of its mission area. For S&T, will new leadership keep the IPT process and division of R&D funding established by the previous Under Secretary? For DNDO, are the benefits gained from deploying ASP worth the money? For Health Affairs, should the Office expand beyond its traditional role as a policy shop and become involved in operational activities?

Each is a difficult question to answer. Fortunately, you will not have to answer it alone. In the weeks ahead, new leadership teams will be in place. We hope that they will reach out to this Committee to resolve these and other questions. Today, I ask that your testimony and responses to the Members questions provide the Committee with some early answers about the direction that each of your offices will take.

For its own part, the Committee will soon be considering authorization language that pertains to some of the issues that we will discuss today. I also anticipate holding additional hearings on some of these matters. These efforts are designed to fulfill the Department’s mission of protecting the American people, and I look forward to working with each of you in achieving that goal. Thanks to you and to the thousands of men and women serving at the Department for the work they do.