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## 152<sup>nd</sup> GREAT LAKES POLICY FORUM

*Thursday, March 11, 2010*

### **“A Report From the Field: A Conversation with Howard Wolpe”**

#### **Speaker**

**Howard Wolpe**

US Special Advisor for the Great Lakes Region

#### **Moderator:**

**Sandra Melone**

Executive Vice President, Search for Common Ground

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The Great Lakes Policy Forum aims to keep the Great Lakes on the agenda of policy makers and provides a platform where Government, NGOs, academics, and the Diaspora come together to search cooperatively for solutions to the region's conflicts. Journalists may participate, but discussion is not for attribution.

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**Howard Wolpe**, a former seven-term member of Congress, is currently the Obama Administration's special advisory for Africa's Great Lakes region, a position similar to one he previously held under the Clinton administration. Before his appointment he was director of both the Africa Program and the Project on Leadership and Building State Capacity at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. A specialist in African politics, for ten of his fourteen years in the Congress Wolpe chaired the Subcommittee on Africa of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He also chaired the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee. His other roles in the Congress included the co-chairmanship of the bipartisan Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition and the Congressional Energy and Environmental Study Conference.

Prior to entering the Congress, Wolpe served in the Michigan House of Representatives and as a member of the Kalamazoo City Commission. Wolpe has taught at the Political Science Department of Western Michigan University and at the Institute of Public Policy Studies of the University of Michigan, and has served as a visiting fellow in the Foreign Policy Studies Program of the Brookings Institution, as a Woodrow Wilson Center public policy scholar, and as a consultant to the World Bank and to the Foreign Service Institute of the U.S. State Department. Wolpe received his BA degree from Reed College, and his PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Sandra Melone** is Executive Vice President at Search for Common Ground, having served the organization in numerous capacities since 1995. Before coming to SFCG, she worked in human rights advocacy with Amnesty International and in international education. Sandra has given numerous presentations and led workshops on conflict prevention, resolution and

transformation, mediation, negotiation, consensus-building, facilitation and cross-cultural communication. She has appeared on CNN, BBC, and Voice of America and has written articles on the media and conflict resolution; the role NGOs can play in the field of Track II diplomacy and reconciliation; and the complementarities of governmental, non-governmental, intergovernmental and private sector initiatives. She is a founding member of the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation (EPCPT) and of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO). She has served on the Board of the Fédération des Associations Internationales en Belgique (FAIB); and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP), where she currently serves as Board Vice Chair and head of the Membership Committee. She studied at the University of Chicago and Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich.

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