

NOMINATIONS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:06 a.m., in Room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Brian Schatz presiding.

Present: Senators Coons, Murphy, Kaine, Booker, Schatz [presiding], Young, and Hagerty.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. BRIAN SCHATZ, U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII

Senator SCHATZ. All right. Now that Senator Booker is here we can all start.

[Laughter.]

Senator SCHATZ. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee will come to order.

We are here today to consider six key nominations on two separate panels. I am honored to serve as Chair for this hearing and I am pleased to be joined by my friend from Tennessee Senator Hagerty.

There are few responsibilities as important as confirming nominees to represent the United States on matters of foreign policy and national security.

That is especially true given the backlog of nominees that must be confirmed for our government to work at full strength and to pursue our interests and our values around the world.

Currently there are 36 nominees on the floor who are awaiting confirmation and another 20 pending in committee. I cannot overstate how important it is to get these vacancies filled as soon as possible.

Our first panel will consider the nominations of Mr. Jeffrey Prescott to be the United States representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, the Honorable Charlie Crist to be the United States Representative on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the Honorable Sean Patrick Maloney to be the U.S. representative to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Congratulations to all of you. You are all qualified for the positions for which you have been nominated and we thank you for your continuing service to the country, especially at this challenging time.

We also want to thank—sincerely thank the families who in many ways serve as well. When you have an opportunity to address the committee momentarily for your opening statements we would welcome for you to introduce your families.

First on the panel is Mr. Jeffrey Prescott who, if confirmed, will serve as the U.S. representative to the U.N.'s Agency for Food and Agriculture with the rank of Ambassador.

Mr. Prescott currently serves as the deputy to the U.S. Ambassador at the United Nations. He previously served as Special Assistant to the President and senior director for Iran, Iraq, Syria, and the Gulf States on the National Security Council during the Obama administration.

He also served then as Vice President Biden's deputy national security adviser and his senior advisor for China and Asia.

The U.S. representative to the United Nations Agency for Food and Agriculture is a critical position. The global hunger crisis is getting worse particularly in the aftermath of the pandemic with more than 700 million people around the world facing chronic hunger.

It is clear we have a lot of work to do to reach the second U.N. Sustainable Development Goal of ending global hunger by 2030 and we need this vacancy filled for the United States to remain a leader in the global fight against hunger.

Mr. Prescott is well qualified for this position and I have here a letter from members of his White House Fellows class supporting his nomination.

Without objection, I would like to enter this into the record.

[The information referred to is located at the end of this hearing transcript.]

Senator SCHATZ. Next we have the Honorable Charlie Crist, who has a wealth of public service experience including serving as Florida's 44th Governor, as the state's attorney general, and education commissioner.

He most recently served in the U.S. House of Representatives for Florida's 13th District from 2016 to 2022. If confirmed Mr. Crist will serve as the U.S. Representative on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) with the rank of Ambassador.

ICAO covers a wide range of issues necessary to facilitating safe air travel around the world including setting global standards for navigation, communication, airline safety, and mapping out airspace jurisdiction and establishing free range airspace over oceans and seas.

We also are pleased to have Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney, who has spent much of his life devoted to public service, most recently representing the 18th District of New York.

If confirmed he will serve as the U.S. Representative to the OECD with the rank of Ambassador. OECD is a unique forum where the Governments of 37 democracies with market-based economies collaborate to develop policy standards to promote sustainable economic growth.

OECD member countries account for three-fifths of the world's GDP, three-quarters of the world's trade, and over 90 percent of

the global official development assistance, and half of the world's energy consumption.

We must fill this vacancy so that we can more effectively advance our shared interests and values. The positions for which you have all been nominated are highly important, each requiring extensive skills and experience. Once again, I thank you for your willingness to serve and yield to the vice Chair, Senator Hagerty.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BILL HAGERTY,
U.S. SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE**

Senator HAGERTY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I want to thank all the nominees for appearing before this committee today.

It is an enormous honor to be nominated for this position and I think you will have the opportunity if you are confirmed to represent the most exceptional nation in the world. I hope you will always remember that. It is truly an honor.

I would like to start with the nominee to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture (UNFAO). UNFAO works to eradicate hunger, promote sustainable agriculture, and ensure food security worldwide.

U.S. agriculture has historically contributed significantly to our net balance of payments and we usually run an agricultural trade surplus. Yet, in 2023 USDA forecast a \$90 billion agricultural trade deficit and an even more significant trade deficit in 2024.

I look forward to hearing from the nominee how UNFAO is addressing the way tariffs and nontariff barriers might be hindering agricultural trade.

I would like to turn to the nominee to be U.S. Representative the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

This organization is responsible for developing policies and standards, undertaking compliance audits, performing studies and analyses and providing assistance and building aviation capacity with the cooperation of its members and stakeholders.

With the goal of improving overall aviation safety and development, I look forward to hearing from the nominee on his areas of concern and his perspective on the major U.S. interest that he hopes to advance in the ICAO.

Finally, I would like to turn to the nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The OECD was established in 1961 as an international organization comprised of countries committed to democracy and the market economy.

The OECD provides the primary global forum for negotiating agreements on tax policies. It is where the United States has opportunities to advocate for its priorities.

It is important that the United States continue to have strong representation at the OECD to help shape and direct policy issues that advance U.S. national interest.

To the nominees again, thank you for serving our nation and for answering the questions from our committee today. I look forward to hearing your testimony.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back to you.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you, Senator Hagerty.

And I will now turn to Senator Booker to introduce one of the panelists.

**STATEMENT OF HON. CORY A. BOOKER,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY**

Senator BOOKER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am honored to be here but a little bit begrudgingly because I have known Mr. Prescott for 30 years and for 30 years I have been terribly jealous of him.

We met each other at Yale Law School where he was clearly more intellectually gifted than me. We both wanted to make a difference in the world, but I quickly stumbled or descended into the world of politics while he rose to the higher calling of focusing on national security.

And, finally, if you look behind him—he has a beautiful family here. So I am a little bit here begrudgingly but I will try to give the truth and nothing but the truth.

At Yale there were a lot of really smart people but as Mark Twain said you never confuse your education with your schooling. This is a man whose education was rooted in the idea that it is to be used to make the world a better place.

He has been committed and has had a character of commitment to serving others, especially the world's most vulnerable. If you look at his career, do not judge a person by what they say but look at their continuous, unbroken track record of making a difference in the lives of other people.

Jeff began his public service journey actually as a nonpartisan White House Fellow and continued quickly. When people recognized his talent, skill, acumen, and heart he began to have senior roles in the White House, National Security Council, and Department of State.

Recently he has been working as deputy to our U.N. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield. Linda has called me multiple times. I think she is one step short of a TRO in telling me how great Jeff is and has been at her job.

She says quite clearly he walks the walk and he has been making a significant difference on behalf of the United States and the United States agenda as well as other nations in the world on a range of critical issues affecting national security and global security.

I will say that I am very pleased that he is now focusing on an issue that is dear to my heart and a major focus of my office, which is food security.

Jeff at the helm, alongside Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, have been leading in the formulation of the U.S. response on every food security and humanitarian crisis over the last three years.

He has worked to isolate Russia in the U.N. Security Council following Putin's invasion of Ukraine, marshaled a global humanitarian response to the war and its consequences and worked with others to take every measure possible to maintain the flow of Ukrainian grain to the world.

He is really one of those behind the scenes actors who is a humble hero on the world stage. He fought to keep a key lifeline open

to the Syrian people and worked tirelessly to avert famine in Ethiopia.

Jeff has also organized summits to bring together world leaders to galvanize action to address the unprecedented magnitude of the global hunger crisis.

For as long as I have known this man I know his heart, I know his head, and I see every single day that his ambition is not for personal fame. It is not for some partisan agenda.

His ambition is about his moral compass, which is always pointed towards service, love of country. It is not just putting your hand on your heart; it is reaching out your hand to others and he has demonstrated that.

He has never been interested in pushing a party agenda or in some way delving into the divisiveness of this nation. He believes we share common values and he does not preach that, he demonstrates it.

Jeff's character and expertise make him the right person for this role at a critical time. As we all know, up to 10 percent of the world's population goes to bed hungry each night. We do not have time to waste. We need a man of his character and commitment in this position.

I am thrilled to see Jeff nominated. I am jealous that he continues to show such distinction in his career and challenge me. I have got work to do to keep up.

But I am grateful at this moment to be sitting next to a person that for 30 years I have admired, I have been grateful for, and now even more so I am thankful that he has a chance to serve our nation in this role.

I urge colleagues on both sides of the aisle to please support his nomination.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you very much, Senator Booker.

We will now begin with the testimony of the nominees beginning with Mr. Prescott and, please, if you can confine your remarks to five minutes.

Mr. Prescott, please proceed.

STATEMENT OF JEFFREY PRESCOTT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, NOMINATED TO BE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR

Mr. PRESCOTT. Well, thank you, Chairman Schatz, Ranking Member Hagerty, distinguished members of the committee, and thank you, Senator Booker, for that very generous introduction and for your friendship over many years.

I really am grateful for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am also grateful to President Biden for his trust, to Secretary Blinken and Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield for their partnership over many years, and I want to thank my colleagues across the U.S. mission to the U.N. and the State Department for their dedicated service day in and day out.

I owe my deepest debt of gratitude to my family. When I arrived in Washington in 2010 as a White House Fellow I expected to serve just a few short months. I have been honored to continue that serv-

ice over the last decade including now as deputy to Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield.

With this privilege comes sacrifice and I am grateful to my family for helping bear the burden. That includes my mother Barbara Blackburn and stepfather Ed Blackburn watching from their home in North Carolina.

But I would not be here before you today without those sitting behind me, my wife Susan Jakes and my daughters Amalia and Phoebe. Thank you. Thank you for your love and support on this day and every day as you inspire me and make possible my continued service to our country.

This is as complex and consequential a moment in the world as any we have faced. We are in a geopolitical competition to shape the future of the international order and we are grappling with intractable global challenges that cross borders.

Food security sits at the intersection of these two great strategic challenges. The world is facing an unprecedented global food security crisis.

Mr. Chairman, you just mentioned that there are more than 700 million people around the world suffering from hunger, a crisis fueled by compounding factors—by the pandemic, by drought and other climate shocks, and critically, by conflict.

Russia's brutal, unprovoked invasion of Ukraine has worsened an already profound challenge, driving increases in hunger and extreme poverty worldwide. Additional conflicts and crises across the Middle East, Africa, the Western Hemisphere, and Asia are further straining the global humanitarian system.

Over nearly three years I have advanced the Biden administration's use of every tool available to confront these crises, working with Secretary Blinken and Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield to bring food security to the forefront of the agenda of the United Nations.

We mobilized more than a hundred countries around a common roadmap and convened a global food security summit. More recently, I traveled with Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield to the Chad-Sudan border to galvanize action to provide life-saving relief and to hold accountable those responsible for the suffering. If confirmed I would seek to focus on three top priorities.

First, to ensure that we use taxpayer dollars as effectively and efficiently as possible in international institutions. The bipartisan support that makes America the most generous donor to the U.N. system depends on transparency and accountability and budget discipline.

If confirmed I will be your partner in fighting to maintain integrity, promote U.S. values and uphold good governance.

Second, even as America has stepped up, a testament to the leadership of this committee and your colleagues, our efforts alone are not sufficient.

If confirmed I will seek to leverage the private sector in responding to emergencies and building resilience, to engage nontraditional donors, and to establish new innovative sources of support.

I believe we should strengthen partnerships with American farmers in our work around the world. American farming is the gold standard to your point, Senator Hagerty, and I would be honored

to connect my early experience growing up in Kansas and working summers on a Texas farm to this role.

Our farmers not only have the power to share their yields with markets all over the world, especially where there is a level playing field, but also the capacity to share best practices around science and technology to teach people to better feed themselves.

Third, we have an imperative to advance American interests and values in the face of unrelenting efforts of our competitors. After all, great power competition does not end at the U.N.'s front door, certainly not from the perspective of our adversaries.

I have a deep expertise and clear-eyed understanding of the challenge posed by China and, if confirmed, I would vigorously engage in this intense competition.

Finally, I am humbled that if confirmed I would follow distinguished former U.S. Ambassadors in this role. That certainly includes Ambassador Cindy McCain, who held this position before assuming leadership of the World Food Programme last April.

I have benefited from close consultations with many other leaders in this field, including Ambassador McCain's predecessor at the World Food Programme, Governor David Beasley.

I understand the critical responsibility that this committee and Congress as a whole has on these issues and if confirmed would seek to partner closely with you and your staff.

There has never been a more important time for U.S. leadership on the global stage and I would be honored to serve the American people.

Thank you, and look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Prescott follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF JEFFREY PRESCOTT

Chairman Schatz, Ranking Member Hagerty, distinguished members of the committee: thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I am grateful to President Biden for his trust, and to Secretary Blinken and Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield for their partnership over many years. I want to thank my colleagues across the U.S. Mission and the State Department for their dedicated service, day in and day out, on behalf of the American people.

I owe my deepest debt of gratitude to my family. When I arrived in Washington in 2010 as a White House Fellow, I expected to serve just a few short months. I have been honored to continue that service over the last decade, including now as deputy to Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield. With this privilege comes sacrifice, and I am grateful to my family for helping bear the burden. That includes my mother, Barbara Blackburn, and stepfather, Ed Blackburn, watching from their home in North Carolina. But I would not be before you today without those sitting behind me: my wife, Susan Jakes, and my daughters, Amalia and Phoebe. Thank you for your love and support on this day, and every day, as you inspire me and make possible my continued service to our country.

This is as complex and consequential a moment in the world as any we have faced. We are in a geopolitical competition to shape the future of the international order. And we are grappling with intractable global challenges that cross borders.

Food security sits at the intersection of these two great strategic challenges. As the members of this committee know well, the world is facing an unprecedented global food security crisis, with approximately 735 million people around the world suffering from hunger. This is a crisis fueled by compounding factors: by the pandemic, by drought and other climate shocks, and, critically, by conflict.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has worsened an already profound challenge, driving increases in hunger and extreme poverty. Ukrainian farmers that should be cultivating some of world's most productive farmlands are instead defending their homeland as Russia destroys fields and ports. Additional conflicts and crises, across the Middle East, Africa, the Western Hemisphere, and Asia are further straining the global humanitarian system.

Over nearly three years, I have advanced the Biden administration's use of every tool available to confront these crises, working with Secretary Blinken and Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield to bring food security to the forefront of the agenda of the United Nations. We mobilized more than 100 countries around a common roadmap, convened a Global Food Security Summit, and rallied countries to end the use of food as a weapon of war. More recently, I traveled with Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield to the Chad-Sudan border to galvanize action to provide life-saving relief and to hold accountable those responsible for the suffering.

Building on my own record, if confirmed, I would seek to focus on three top priorities.

First, to ensure we use taxpayer dollars as effectively and efficiently as possible in international institutions. The bipartisan support that makes America the most generous donor to the U.N. system depends on transparency and accountability, and budget discipline. If confirmed, I will be your partner in fighting to maintain integrity, promote U.S. values, and uphold good governance.

Second, even as America has stepped up—a testament to this committee and your colleagues across the Congress—our efforts alone are not sufficient to match the scale. If confirmed, I will seek to expand opportunities to leverage the private sector in responding to emergencies and building resilience, to engage non-traditional donors to share the burden, and to establish new, innovative sources of support.

I believe we should strengthen partnerships with American farmers in our work on agriculture and hunger around the world. American farming is the gold standard, and I'd be honored to connect my early experiences growing up in Kansas and working summers on a Texas farm to this role. Our farmers not only have the power to share their yields with markets all over the world, but also the capacity to share best practices around science and technology to teach people to better feed themselves.

Third, we have an imperative to advance American interests and values in the face of unrelenting efforts of our competitors. After all, great power competition does not end at the U.N.'s front door, certainly not from the perspective of our adversaries. I have a deep expertise and a clear-eyed understanding of the challenge posed by China and know what it takes to compete. If confirmed, I would vigorously engage in this intense competition.

Finally, I am humbled that, if confirmed, I would follow distinguished former U.S. Ambassadors in this role. That certainly includes Ambassador Cindy McCain, who held this position before assuming leadership of the World Food Program last April. I have benefited from close consultations with many other leaders in this field, including Ambassador McCain's predecessor, Governor David Beasley.

I understand the critical responsibility that this committee, and Congress as a whole, has on these issues and, if confirmed, would seek to partner closely with you and your staff.

There has never been a more important time for U.S. leadership on global food security, agriculture, and humanitarian issues. If confirmed, I will be honored to represent the American people to maintain and expand our global leadership. I look forward to your questions.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you very much, Mr. Prescott.
Mr. Maloney, please proceed with your testimony.

STATEMENT OF HON. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY, OF NEW YORK, NOMINATED TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR

Mr. MALONEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair, Senators.

It is an honor to appear as the nominee to be the U.S. Representative to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. I am so grateful to the President and to Secretary Blinken for the confidence they have shown in me.

I also want to thank my family, my husband, Randy. We have been together for 31 years. We have had three children together, Reinel Jesus, Daley, and Essie. So I want to thank them for all

their love and support, and without it I could not be sitting before you today.

We do meet against the backdrop of two wars in Europe and the Middle East on a scale not seen in generations and we meet amid the rise of authoritarian movements around the world.

Now more than ever we need a values-based organization like the OECD to demonstrate the benefits that free market democratic economies can deliver to our citizens.

As President Biden has said, democracy is hard work. The work of democracy is never finished. It must be protected constantly and that is why the OECD is and remains so vital.

Its research and convening power provide policymakers the information necessary to guide our nations through challenging times and it amplifies our common values.

Authoritarian regimes are trying to tell a story that their single party systems, command economies, and repressive security apparatuses deliver the best outcomes for their people. But we know this story is a dangerous lie.

The OECD provides the objective research to expose that fiction and demonstrate the true strength and benefits of free societies.

As Secretary Blinken said, the more we and all democracies can show the world that we can deliver for our people, for each other, the more we can refute the lie that authoritarian countries love to tell.

Now, I come to this role and before this committee with what I hope is the right mix of knowledge and experience to advocate for the United States and our policies at the OECD.

I am an attorney by training and served as a partner at two global law firms. I worked at the White House on the senior staff as the President's staff secretary. I served as the chief operating officer of a startup software company focused on risk management in the energy derivatives markets.

I advised two New York Governors, focusing on improving the state's public higher education system. Most recently, I served five terms as a member of the House of Representatives where I championed legislative initiatives to rebuild our infrastructure, protect our veterans, strengthen our family farms, and as member of the Intelligence Committee I worked to strengthen our national security.

Throughout my tenure I worked closely with members of both parties to do what was right for the American people and this same approach will enable me to work with our partners at the OECD including our friends in labor and the business community to advance U.S. priorities.

Growing up in a large Irish Catholic family I saw firsthand the important role that families, small businesses, and our veterans play in creating good jobs and building a sense of community.

When I was a kid my dad, a disabled Navy vet, sold insurance out of a tiny office above the town library. My mom typed the letters when she was not caring for us six kids, trying to get us to school and to church on time.

Honoring their hard work and sacrifice has always been important to me in my public service. Families all over America need us

to engage with the world to protect the peace and prosperity they depend on.

Modern small town America needs a strong global economy, open reliable markets, good infrastructure, affordable food and energy prices, and an educated workforce. If confirmed by the committee the needs of American families will always be my priority at the OECD.

So in closing, I cannot help but reflect what my parents would say if they could see me now. They worked really hard. They worked so hard for my sister and my brothers to get us through college and give us the opportunities that they never had.

So, if confirmed, it will be a great honor to represent and serve the United States at an international organization that fosters freedom, economic opportunity, and prosperity for all.

Thank you, and I look forward to answering your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Maloney follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SEAN PATRICK MALONEY

Thank you, Chairman Schatz, Ranking Member Hagerty and members of the committee—it is an honor to appear as the nominee to be the U.S. Representative to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. I am grateful to President Biden and Secretary Blinken for their confidence in me.

I want to thank my family—Randy and our children Jesus, Daley, and Essie—for the love and support that enables me to sit before you today.

We meet today against the backdrop of wars in Europe and the Middle East on a scale not seen in generations, and amid the rise of authoritarian movements around the world. Now more than ever, we need a values-based organization like the OECD to demonstrate the benefits that free market, democratic economies deliver to our citizens.

As President Biden said, “Democracy is hard work. The work of democracy is never finished. It must be protected constantly.” That’s why the OECD is vital. Its research and convening power provide policy makers the information necessary to guide our nations through challenging times, and it amplifies our common values.

Authoritarian regimes are trying to tell a story that their single-party systems, command economies, and repressive security apparatuses deliver the best outcomes for their people. This story, however, is a dangerous lie. The OECD provides the objective research to expose that fiction and demonstrate the strength and benefits of a free society. As Secretary Blinken said, “The more we and all democracies can show the world that we can deliver—for our people, for each other—the more we can refute the lie that authoritarian countries love to tell.”

I come to this role and before this committee with what I believe is the right mix of knowledge and experience to advocate for the United States and our policies at the OECD.

I am an attorney by training and served as a partner at two global law firms. I worked on the White House senior staff as staff secretary. I served as chief operating officer of a start-up software company focused on risk management in the energy derivatives markets. I advised two New York Governors, focusing on improving the state’s public higher education system. Most recently, I served five terms as a member of the House of Representatives where I championed legislative initiatives to rebuild our infrastructure, protect veterans, and strengthen our family farms. As a member of the Intelligence Committee, I worked to strengthen our national security. Throughout my tenure, I worked closely with members of both parties to do what was right for the American people. This same approach will enable me to work with our partners at the OECD, including our friends in labor and the business community, to advance U.S. priorities.

Growing up in a large, Irish-Catholic family, I saw first-hand the important role that veterans and small businesses play in creating good jobs and building a sense of community. When I was a kid, my dad, a disabled Navy vet, sold insurance out of a tiny office above the town library. My mom typed the letters when she wasn’t caring for six of us kids or getting us to school or church. Honoring their hard work and sacrifice has always been important to my public service. Families all over America need us to engage with the world to protect the peace and prosperity they depend on. Modern small-town America needs a strong global economy, open/reli-

able markets, good infrastructure, affordable food and energy prices, and an educated workforce. If confirmed by the committee, the needs of American families will always be my primary concern at the OECD.

In closing, I can't help but reflect on what my parents would say if they could see me now. They worked so hard to care for my sister and my brothers, to get us through college and give us the opportunities they never had. If confirmed, it will be a great honor to represent and serve the United States at an international organization that fosters freedom, economic opportunity, and prosperity for all.

Thank you and I look forward to answering your questions.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you very much, Mr. Maloney.

Mr. Crist, please proceed with your testimony.

STATEMENT OF HON. CHARLIE CRIST, OF FLORIDA, NOMINATED TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR

Mr. CRIST. Thank you very much, Chairman Schatz and Vice Chair Hagerty, members of the committee. It is my great honor to be with you today as the President's nominee to become the U.S. representative on the Council of International Civil Aviation Organization.

I am grateful that my fiance Chelsea of Minneapolis, Minnesota is here with me today and I thank her for her continued love and support. Interestingly, my hometown of St. Petersburg, Florida, was the site of the very first commercial flight ever when Tony Jannus flew from St. Petersburg to Tampa on January 1st, 1914.

Mr. Chairman, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to appear before this committee and its esteemed membership. I am humbled by the moment and by the confidence shown in me by the President and Secretary of State Blinken in submitting this nomination.

I have a lifelong commitment to public service and would be honored to continue that commitment in this position. If confirmed, I would view my role as advocating for the safety and security of every American who decides to board an airplane.

Nearly 80 years ago 54 nations gathered in Chicago at the invitation of the United States to develop an agreement to promote the safe and peaceful development of civil aviation.

This was a fraught moment as the world was still at war, and the concept of harmonious global air travel was very much in doubt. Consider the fact that simply traveling to Chicago by air for many of the participating countries was an act of considerable courage in itself.

The resulting Chicago convention was and remains the landmark agreement guiding the continuous development of civil aviation as a pillar of the global economy, and while the International Civil Aviation Organization, or ICAO, may be unknown to many Americans its purpose and performance are crucial to U.S. national security and the well being of us all.

In the 80 years since the Chicago convention no nation has done more than the United States to shape global aviation by driving innovation and focusing intently on safety and security.

That leadership has featured a sustained investment in ICAO as a body intended to cultivate international cooperation and coordination.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, if confirmed it would be my objective to extend the legacy of U.S. leadership at ICAO both to continue improving aviation safety and security and sustainability to address urgent challenges including aviation's impact on the Earth's climate.

I would also reinforce long-standing U.S. focus on the culture of reform and accountability at the organization, working in concert with ICAO leadership, Secretary General Juan Carlos Salazar and Council President Salvatore as well as Sciacchitano who have both shown encouraging commitment to these essential principles.

It is important to note that ICAO is not immune to the risk posed to international organizations by authoritarian states such as Russia or that such states have already been hard at work to undermine the purpose and performance of these bodies.

ICAO can only succeed if it remains aligned with its intended role and in keeping with its long-standing values. That role, those values, are threatened when member states disregard their international commitments as in the case of Belarus Ryanair forced landing to arrest political dissidents or Russia's decision to dual register stolen leased aircraft following its further invasion of Ukraine.

If confirmed I look forward to working with this committee, the aviation industry, and the community of expert federal agencies and offices to maximize U.S. impact at ICAO.

Mr. Chairman, the United States' history of leadership at ICAO is something for which we can all be proud of. It would be a profound honor to serve in such an important role, and if I have that good fortune I will serve with a determined focus on the safety, security, and well being of the American people.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Crist follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR CHARLIE CRIST

Chairman Schatz, Ranking Member Hagerty, members of the committee: it is my great honor to be with you today as the President's nominee to become the U.S. Representative on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

I am grateful that my fiancé, Chelsea Grimes, of Minneapolis, Minnesota is here with me today. I thank her for her continued love and support. Interestingly, my hometown of St. Petersburg, Florida, was the site of the very first commercial flight; when Tony Jannus flew from St. Petersburg to Tampa, on January 1st, 1914.

Mr. Chairman, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to appear before this committee and its esteemed membership. I am humbled by the moment, and by the confidence shown in me by the President and Secretary of State Blinken in submitting this nomination.

I have a lifelong commitment to public service and would be honored to continue that commitment in this position. If confirmed, I would view my role as advocating for the safety and security of every American who decides to board an airplane.

Nearly 80 years ago, 54 nations gathered in Chicago at the invitation of the United States to develop an agreement to promote the safe and peaceful development of civil aviation. This was a fraught moment, as the world was still at war and the concept of harmonious global air travel was very much in doubt. Consider the fact that simply traveling to Chicago by air from many of the participating countries was an act of considerable courage.

The resulting Chicago Convention was and remains the landmark agreement guiding the continuous development of civil aviation as a pillar of the global economy. And while the International Civil Aviation Organization, or ICAO, may be unknown to many Americans, its purpose and performance are crucial to U.S. national security and the wellbeing of us all.

In the 80 years since the Chicago Convention, no nation has done more than the United States to shape global aviation by driving innovation and focusing intently on safety and security. That leadership has featured a sustained investment in ICAO as a body intended to cultivate international cooperation and coordination.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, if confirmed it would be my objective to extend the legacy of U.S. leadership at ICAO, both to continue improving aviation safety and security, and sustainability: to address urgent challenges including aviation's impact on the earth's climate.

I would also reinforce longstanding U.S. focus on a culture of reform and accountability at the organization, working in concert with ICAO leadership—Secretary General Juan Carlos Salazar and Council President Salvatore Sciacchitano—who have both shown encouraging commitment to these essential principles.

It is important to note that ICAO is not immune to the risks posed to international organizations by authoritarian states such as Russia, or that such states have already been hard at work to undermine the purpose and performance of these bodies.

ICAO can only succeed if it remains aligned with its intended role and in keeping with its longstanding values. That role, those values are threatened when member states disregard their international commitments, as in the case of the Belarus Ryanair forced landing to arrest political dissidents, or Russia's decision to dual register stolen leased aircraft following its further invasion of Ukraine.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with this committee, the aviation industry, and the community of expert federal agencies and offices to maximize the U.S. impact at ICAO.

Mr. Chairman, the United States history of leadership at ICAO is something about which we can all be proud. It would be a profound honor to serve in such an important role, and if I have that good fortune, I will serve with a determined focus on the safety, security, and wellbeing of the American people.

Thank you, and I welcome your questions.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you all for your testimony. Now we have a few questions that speak to the importance that this committee places on responsiveness by all officials in the executive branch and we expect and will be seeking from you. I would ask each of you to just answer yes or no.

If you are confirmed do you agree to appear before this committee and make officials from your office available to the committee and designated staff when invited?

[All nominees answered in the affirmative.]

Senator SCHATZ. Do you commit to keeping this committee fully and currently informed about activities under your purview?

[All nominees answered in the affirmative.]

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you. Do you commit to engaging in meaningful consultation while policies are being developed and not just providing notification after the fact?

[All nominees answered in the affirmative.]

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you. Do you commit to promptly responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the committee and its designated staff?

[All nominees answered in the affirmative.]

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you very much. We will now begin a five-minute round of questioning.

Mr. Prescott, the State Department and USAID funding makes up just over 1 percent of the total federal budget. Of that humanitarian and development assistance including support for the activities undertaken by organizations where you would be representing the United States make up just a fraction of that.

Some believe that is already too much. Can you explain why it is in United States' interest to support these efforts to respond to crises around the world?

Mr. PRESCOTT. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree that it is extremely important for us to maintain our tradition—our bipartisan tradition of leadership on responding to humanitarian emergencies around the world and stepping up to help meet the food security needs of people all over the world.

As I mentioned in my testimony, as you mentioned in your opening, we are at an unprecedented scale of the global hunger crisis at this moment and the U.S. support for international institutions including those, if confirmed, I would be representing the United States before on the world stage helps address both the urgent hunger crisis that we are facing right now but also making investments to ensure that we can help people feed themselves and help people support their own societies over the long term.

It is important that we invest in resilience and we invest for the long term in addition to the need to respond to the immediate. This is important to us because with hunger, with the breakdown of the social safety net in places around the world, we see the rise of conflict. We see the flow of migration. We see challenges across the board.

It is in our national security interests to make these investments. As you mentioned, it is a very small percentage of the investments that we make to our national security around the world and it is important that we strengthen them, going forward.

If I may just say one more thing, Mr. Chairman. I do think it is important that we connect with the work that we do bilaterally around the world through our agencies

—USAID, the State Department, other U.S. agencies—and the work of these international institutions and if confirmed I would like to make sure that those investments that we are making around the world are done in coordination and that we are maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of the U.S. taxpayer dollar that is going to help protect our security in these critical issues.

Thank you.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you, and I think you said it exactly right. Hunger equals instability equals risk to us, and there are moral reasons for us to stay engaged and to reduce the number of people who go to bed hungry every day. But even if that is not driving you it is certainly in our national security interest.

Mr. Maloney, the Biden administration announced plans to expand the U.S. Pacific Islands Infrastructure Initiative to provide more than \$28 million to support secure, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure in the Pacific.

How would you work through the OECD to support our strategic development goals in the Pacific?

Mr. MALONEY. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I know this is an issue of real concern to you. I think the OECD is such an excellent forum for—as a values-based organization, as a group of like-minded nations, to provide something exciting and positive for countries around the world to look to in the area of developing their infrastructure and, of course, one way to look at that would be as a counter to the Chinese efforts with One Belt One Road but really at its core it is about creating opportunities—better opportunities for international financing for the private sector to really get in the game in an area where there is so much need for infrastruc-

ture. And, of course, resiliency particularly in the Pacific Area will be so critical as we go forward.

So it is really a win-win if we get organized properly and the OECD is an excellent forum as a group of like-minded countries to—through initiatives like the Blue Dot Network and others to really corral and organize international financing around better infrastructure investments and hopefully ones that do not come with a lot of the downsides that perhaps other opportunities from other sources do.

I should point out that my work in the private sector as a partner at Kirkland & Ellis focused on deploying private capital to infrastructure. So it is an area I am very excited to work with the committee on as we go forward.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you. And just one final comment on that as I have interacted with Pacific Island leaders.

Two thoughts. One is that they understand that there is a competition between the United States and China but they do not want to be viewed as instruments in that competition.

They may have a view but they are they—and they may be small but they are sovereigns and I think that we have done a better job over the last couple of years of being physically present but also understanding that to the extent that Secretary Blinken says friends, allies, partners, it starts with friendship.

It starts with a personal relationship. It starts with physical presence in the region and not just viewing these places as a possible location for a base or an installation or a carrier.

And so to the extent that we can cultivate those relationships I think it inures to our strategy as it relates to China but that has to be a secondary benefit to a friendship that is real.

Senator HAGERTY?

Senator HAGERTY. Mr. Chairman, I might just stay on this topic that you have raised.

Mr. Maloney, we will start with you and share a personal story if I might because it goes right to the point that our Chairman raised.

In my previous position I served as U.S. Ambassador to Japan. One day I happened to be reading the Nikkei Asia and I saw that the South Korean shipbuilder that was managing Subic Bay was in bankruptcy. There were two bidders. Both of the names sounded suspicious to me. I had my team check on it.

It turned out they were both related to the CCP and the Chinese interests there were very real. It took some work. I picked up the phone. I called the Secretary of the Navy.

I asked him if he wanted to be the Secretary of the Navy that got Subic Bay back for America or did he want to be the Secretary of the Navy that let it go to China.

I reached out to DFC, the components of that at the time. I reached out to a private equity firm in the United States to get their help.

The private equity firm wound up running the process. We got the Chinese bidders moved aside and went to the Japanese. They helped us put the financing together through their Development Finance Corporation to buy the land around it.

Our DFC could never get the deal done, and it is something that is very close and personal to me. We need to be able to make these institutions work.

I signed, on behalf the United States, the partnership with JBIC—that is the Japanese version—OPIC and the Australian counterpart. That was the beginning of the Blue Dot Network. The Blue Dot Network is now residing or being incubated inside the OECD and the standards for certification are going to be built there.

I want to get your thoughts, Mr. Maloney, on how you will drive this and how we will make certain that our interests are maintained and moved forward.

Mr. MALONEY. Well, thank you, Senator, and thank you for your work on this. Obviously, with your experience in the private sector and in Asia you are in an excellent position to understand how critical it is.

Look, I believe that the Blue Dot Network is an excellent beginning but it is just the beginning, and as you know there is so much potential in this area, and the scale of our efforts need to match those of other countries around the world, especially the Chinese, and that I think is the challenge going forward.

It is a good start. It is the right track we are on. But I will certainly be eager to work with you to accelerate our efforts, to make them more effective, and to scale them properly so that these represent real opportunities to get projects done because, as you know, that is the bottom line.

People need what they need to grow their economies, serve their citizens, and as with 5G and other areas where we have to have something to offer, not just something to oppose, I think there is real opportunity here.

And as you know, there is so much capital sitting on the sidelines eager to match its long-term liabilities to these, perhaps, lower returns but stable, effective returns that infrastructure can bring.

But you need to rationalize it, you need to reduce the political risk, you need to make the deal flow better, and I believe those are real opportunities and enjoy bipartisan support.

So it is a real opportunity to do something positive.

Senator HAGERTY. I would encourage you, particularly given your experience at Kirkland & Ellis where I have in my private sector career spent a lot of money with your firm.

[Laughter.]

Senator HAGERTY. But you have access to talent that I think can be very, very helpful here. I would encourage you to build a network. I would be happy to help you with that, to advise in this. But there is a real urgency here. We need to make this work, we need to broaden it, and we need the toolkit that we do not have alone.

We have got to have partners in the private equity arena whom you know, I am sure. We have got to have partners that can provide every aspect of the capital stack to make us competitive in this arena because our competition does not have the sort of limitations we have.

And so I would encourage you to take utmost speed and urgency as you take a very hard look at this and I hope you will prioritize it at the top of your list if confirmed.

Mr. MALONEY. Thank you, Senator.

Senator HAGERTY. Thank you.

Mr. Prescott, I will turn to you for a moment to talk about the trade deficits that have emerged in agriculture. I was really surprised. In fact, I never thought in my lifetime I would find us become a net importer of food.

Are there tariff or nontariff barriers that are making this situation worse? What are your thoughts on addressing it?

Mr. PRESCOTT. Thank you, Senator, for that question.

I agree with you completely that we need to take a very hard look at this. Part of what this role would require, if confirmed, is representing the best of America on the world stage.

That means the American farmer and that means American agriculture, and these institutions—these international institutions play a role in setting the rules of the road, setting standards, and in some cases setting the technical standards that our farmers need to abide by to get their goods to the market.

We have a stake in making sure that those rules are fair, that the highest levels of science and technology are incorporated into those rules.

We have got to fight for our interests in these institutions and if confirmed that is where I would put my focus and I think there will be real opportunities to work. I hope there will be real opportunities, if confirmed, to work with you, work with other members of this committee and the Congress to make that happen.

Senator HAGERTY. It is no surprise to you that the agricultural elements of trade negotiations are the toughest and having the scar tissue from being involved in the U.S.-Japan trade deal negotiations I can tell you it is tough but it is absolutely critical.

So thank you for focusing on this.

Mr. PRESCOTT. Thank you very much, and I hope, if confirmed, I have an opportunity to sit with you and get your advice and wisdom about how best to go about that in this role.

Senator HAGERTY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you very much.

Senator KAINE?

Senator KAINE. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and congratulations to the nominees. I particularly am happy to see my friend Governor Crist here.

We were Governors together and we have each had a number of different chapters in public life and we seem to braid back and forth together. It is good to see you here at the committee hearing.

Representative Maloney, I want to talk about two items with the OECD. First, if you look at the OECD list of nations—I guess 38 nations—it is a fascinating list. Big nations—you know, the United States, Mexico, Iceland, fewer than 400,000 people.

One of the things that is very notable, though, about the list is that there is one continent that does not have an OECD member and that is the continent of Africa.

The North and South America, yes. Europe, yes. Asia, yes. Australia, of course. I guess Antarctica does not have a membership. So there is there is two continents.

But the fact that Africa does not have a member I think is something that sends a message about the OECD, and if an Iceland with 400,000 or a Luxembourg with 600,000 can be an OECD member along with large countries then I would just hope that you might consider with your colleagues, first, nations have to want to be a member and they have to meet standards.

But it would really send a different message about the OECD if there were members of the OECD from all continents. So I am just going to state that as something I might hope to see during the time I am in the Senate.

The second thing I want to ask you about now is that OECD has an anti-bribery convention and it went into effect in 1999, more than 20 years ago, legally established binding standards to criminalize bribery of foreign public officials and international business transactions.

The 38 members and the seven—seven other non-OECD countries have embraced the OECD convention. Despite the fact that the convention has been in place for a long time domestic enforcement has been pretty uneven.

The OECD Working Group on Bribery's annual report in 2022 indicates that 18 of the 44 members have yet to conclude a single foreign bribery case even 20 years after its initiation.

Many member states have yet to implement recommendations for critical anti-bribery reforms. What might be done through the OECD to strengthen compliance with the anti-bribery convention?

Mr. MALONEY. Well, thank you for your question, Senator, and thank you for pointing out that the OECD, like all of our multilateral organizations, needs to be inclusive of all the peoples of the world, of course, keeping with our values and standards that are the pride of that organization.

Look, on the anti-bribery convention as you know the United States led with our values in the 1970s on the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and if ever there was an example of where that far-sightedness has paid off it has been in setting that example of how what initially seemed like it might disadvantage our companies has in fact gone a long way to create exactly the kind of climate where American investment opportunities are maximized and that has to be the argument for countries that are perhaps lagging in some respects on their commitments to the convention.

Look, our argument is not do it for us. Our argument is do it for you—that your societies, your economies, will grow and be strengthened just as ours had by holding ourselves to higher standards and the OECD is a fantastic venue for that because you have got critical mass. As you know, it is two-thirds of the world's economy.

And so like many things in politics and in life it is about focus and emphasis and effort and I do think we just need to keep at that hard work. But the primary argument is that this is for your benefit as much as anything.

And I think that also should guide our efforts at accession as we move forward. We need to balance carefully our desire to grow any

organization with an adherence to those core principles, and I do think that is why the collection of data and research that the OECD excels in is so valuable because it really does create that kind of transparency and shine a light on where we are succeeding and where we have more work to do.

Senator KAINE. Great. I appreciate that.

Governor Crist, I was struck by some of the positives coming out of the dialogue between President Biden and President Xi yesterday—Premier Xi—and particularly in the reduction of fentanyl, the resumption of better communication in mil-to-mil communication, which is so important.

Communication and engagement guarantees nothing, but the absence of communication and engagement usually guarantees problems.

Talk a little bit about China's priorities in the ICAO and should you be confirmed how you will make sure that we try to work productively together on important issues dealing with civil aviation around the world.

Mr. CRIST. Thank you very much, Senator, and thank you for your kind words at the outset of this meeting. I appreciate it very much.

The relationship with China is complicated and I, like you, and I think most Americans are very encouraged by the now open dialogue directly between our President and President Xi.

That is a positive sign, and as you well stated having a dialogue that is ongoing, that is direct, is a great positive not just for China and the United States but for the world. So I am encouraged by that.

Now, China's history at ICAO has been more complicated. One of the recent leaders of ICAO was from China and there were challenges as it relates to accountability and transparency at the agency.

We have new leadership now, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, and he has done a wonderful job from all indications that I have seen.

I am encouraged by that and I think we need to continue to foster a relationship at ICAO among its 193 members and over 30 members on the council to have good open dialogue that is honest and clear and transparent.

I commit to that, sir, and to this committee, to make sure that we stay on that path that ICAO is now on and I am very encouraged by that recent path.

Senator KAINE. Great. Thank you, Governor. I yield back.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you very much, Senator Kaine.

Senator Booker?

Senator BOOKER. Thank you very much, Chairman and, again, I am grateful for this extraordinary panel.

I just want to ask real quick, Sean, and forgive me for using your first name—Mr. Maloney—Honorable Mr. Maloney, OECD countries account for 95 percent of development assistance and my concern is just seeing this trend of countries not stepping up in a time that the demand for development assistance is obviously significantly higher.

How can you use your role to help galvanize that aspect of the OECD countries?

Mr. MALONEY. Well, thank you, Senator, and you can use my first name anytime.

Senator BOOKER. I appreciate that.

Mr. MALONEY. You will have to tell me later how somebody gets an introduction from you because—

[Laughter.]

Mr. MALONEY [continued]. Because except for this I cannot imagine anything better.

Look, you are so right. I mean, I do think there is much to be commended in the response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, in the response of organizations like the OECD, the role they are playing in potential development assistance and reconstruction and the fact is is that more broadly these are the world's richest countries, after all.

These are the countries that have the most at stake in a stable, prosperous global economy and development assistance. Similar to Senator Kaine's question about anti-bribery efforts, ultimately this is in our interest to have better markets and better partners in the family of countries that are not yet in the OECD or that would through their development be at that level.

And so I do think the coordination, the research, the best practices, the standards, that the OECD excels at really have a key role to play here in just allowing decision makers like yourself to know what is going on and to make sure that everybody is doing their part, and, again, built around the concept that ultimately this is in our own self interest.

Senator BOOKER. Fantastic. And I will note for the record that you sincerely married up with the gentleman behind you. I just have that same concern. I mean, the scale of this crisis unbelievable. I have been to Burkina Faso with Senator Coons. The scale of this—the food insecurity—there is stunning. Millions in crisis.

But the challenge right now is we have a supplemental being discussed and debated here and other countries' commitments are going down as well. I just met with some European leaders talking about this.

It just seems that we are at a pivotal point in human history with the scale of the crisis, the diminishing amount of commitment of more developed nations.

Mr. PRESCOTT. Thank you, Senator, for that and thank you to you and to Senator Coons for your long-standing leadership on these issues. It is extremely important that we step up but we also have to get other countries to step up with us and that is just absolutely critical.

The short answer is on the supplemental if Congress does not provide these funds it is going to be very unlikely that we get other nations to step up with us. More around the world will go hungry, more will migrate, peace will be undermined, and the world will be less secure.

Food security is national security and these investments invest our interest as well as the interests of people around the world as well as our values, and I hope that we can see this body come together to ensure that the United States continues to play the global

role that we have played, the leadership role in humanitarian issues on food security issues and on agriculture issues.

And if confirmed I would want to use the diplomatic platform that this provides—this position provides to be a champion for those issues and work very closely with you in doing so.

Senator BOOKER. And, Jeff, I am going to put both of these out there and then be done because I am afraid of the Chairman. Schatz runs a rough committee.

So really quick, first is that link between national security is really important for us to continue to state. I hear it from a lot of leaders involved in this, how failing to invest in food security now can cause political instability, lead to more fertile ground for terrorism and more. If you could address that link.

And then, secondly, I have been stunned at how immediate food security is necessary but the strategy for that does not get enough funding from the United States and other countries in developing resiliency and the capacity to prevent future food insecurity, which proportionately in terms of the payoff of that kind of investment seems extraordinarily low to me when I drill down on the numbers.

Mr. PRESCOTT. Senator, thank you for both of those points. I agree with you on the second point. We need to increase our investments in resilience, in long-term development—actually, the connection between development dollars and humanitarian dollars.

We need to find a way to make sure that we are not just responding to the crisis but we are investing in early warning systems and other efforts to prevent future crises from happening. We have to step up.

I think one of the advantages, if confirmed, I would bring to this job is a background and experience on hard national security issues and can help make that link that you pointed out, which I completely agree with, as clear as possible and help leverage our diplomacy to advance it around the world.

Senator BOOKER. Thank you. Chairman Schatz, I am sorry very much for going over, sir.

Senator SCHATZ. Senator Coons?

Senator COONS. Thank you, Chairman Schatz, Ranking Member Hagerty, and thank you to the three nominees before us, to your families, for your long service, Governor, Congressman, Mr. Prescott.

If confirmed, Mr. Prescott, Congressman Maloney, you will succeed close friends of mine who have held these two offices, Ambassador Cindy McCain and Ambassador Jack Markell, and I just want to touch on three broad issues, if I can.

First, the urgency of the supplemental request from the President, which has been touched on by all the others. The role of China in the U.N. system and the ways in which, whether it is the ICAO or the FAO, we have seen the impact when Chinese nationals lead organizations that have a global impact and then what happens if we fail to meet this moment.

So I will work backwards. The President's supplemental urges us to provide nearly \$9 billion in humanitarian relief.

Mr. Prescott, a lot of time is being spent on the civilian tragedy in Gaza and the challenges in Ukraine but there are dozens of

other countries to which the World Food Programme and FAO provide critical relief.

What would be the impact on the United States' standing in the world and our security if we fail to deliver on this humanitarian need?

Mr. PRESCOTT. Well, thank you, Senator, and, again, thank you for your long leadership on these issues.

We need to have those voices on the world stage. We need to make sure that not only that we are stepping up but that we are getting other countries to step up with us, and as I mentioned in my opening testimony, we need to find ways to bring other players into this picture as well.

That includes the private sector. That includes new mechanisms, and I think there are some good ideas that have been kicked around on this and I think we ought to take a hard look at them and really work together on that and if confirmed I would pledge to do that.

But as I just mentioned in response to Senator Booker, food security really is national security. When people go hungry we see conflicts increase, and so our—the urgency of stepping up not just to respond to the crisis in Ukraine, although, frankly, the crisis in Ukraine is having a spillover effect and other food security crises all over the world. That is why the Black Sea grain flow is so important and that is why we need to focus on it.

But we also need to make sure that we are paying attention to these other crises because when we do not they become bigger and they come back to haunt us at home.

Senator COONS. As you pointed out earlier, Mr. Prescott, hungry people do not just create conflict, they also migrate. They pick up and they move in ways that have security and stability consequences across whole regions and hemispheres.

You mentioned there are some good ideas. I think one of them is a bipartisan bill that Senator Graham and I have introduced to create a foundation for international food security which would attract private sector investment to partner with public sector investment. I hope you will work with me on that.

Congressman Maloney, direct budget support helps sustain the Ukrainian people. When Russia attacks infrastructure the first responders who come out and put out the fires and help restart the electric grid are folks who are being supported not just by the United States but by dozens of our partners.

The OECD is, largely, made up of those partners in that important work. What would it mean if we were to abandon Ukraine in their hour of need as they face a cold winter and ongoing Russian assaults not just on the military and the front lines but on the very fabric—the very infrastructure of the Ukrainian people?

Mr. MALONEY. Well, thank you, Senator, and thank you also for mentioning my predecessor, Governor—Ambassador Jack Markell. He and his wife Carla have been extremely generous to Randy and me and he is such an extraordinary public servant. No wonder he comes from Delaware.

Thank you for the question on Ukraine. The OECD obviously needs to stay in its lane to some degree. But when you think about the forum as a collection of countries value based, market econo-

mies, democracies, that is the key group of countries globally that will see the naked aggression Russia has demonstrated in Ukraine and the barbarity of that invasion the way we do and, more importantly, has the capacity to do something about it.

I think one of the great, perhaps, underdeveloped aspects of the OECD is its extraordinary value in a world where values come to define who you can work with.

It is not just the size of the economies. It is not just the size of the militaries. It is where can we get things done. The fact that it is a consensus organization and yet can be so effective really only underscores that and the effect of walking away from Ukraine is absolutely devastating.

I mean, I was there in Munich on that weekend before the invasion with Ambassador McCain and others, yourself, and listened to President Zelensky that day, and to think about the heroism they have demonstrated and the way the West has responded the President gets great credit for this, as you know.

But now is the moment. Now is the moment when we need to hang tough and to stand with our friends and, as you know, the United States is the absolute indispensable country in this and we must continue the effort.

Senator COONS. Thank you, Congressman.

One of the areas you will have the opportunity if confirmed to work in is development finance. I share the concerns of Senator Hagerty that the DFC, something I helped craft, has a huge amount of potential that it has not yet fully achieved.

I think the work against corruption, to promote transparency, to invest in more robust private markets and free enterprise that the OECD plays a central role in would be advanced by our being engaged in modern development finance.

So to the extent you have feedback for us on how we can strengthen the DFC it has impacts across all three of these areas but particularly one that may overlap with you.

Mr. Chairman, would you indulge me for a last question or should I—thank you.

Governor Crist, if I might, you referenced how the ICAO previously was under the leadership of a Chinese national and now is not. We just rejoined UNESCO. We were just voted in, I think, yesterday to the executive committee of UNESCO.

We have recently rejoined the Human Rights Council. There are all these organizations that most Americans do not know about and do not know what they do but that contribute to things like civil aviation safety and that helped with market access for American air carriers.

What is the consequence—and just a sentence of all three of you, if we could—what is the consequence for China's role in the world and America's role in the world if we step back from funding, participating in, and sustaining these critical multilateral organizations?

Mr. CRIST. Well, thank you, Senator. I appreciate the question.

We have to continue to participate. If we are absent our values are absent. If we are not present the kind of things that we cherish and hold dear—freedom, democracy—are not at the table to the degree that they should be, and we have been a leader at that and

I think we need to continue to be and if we do not it is at our own demise.

Mr. MALONEY. I would certainly agree with that. The Governor said it very well, sir. It is sometimes difficult to defend every aspect of multilateral organizations and we should have a robust conversation and debate about that. But it is equally hard to defend ceding that ground, creating that vacuum, to an adversary or a strategic competitor in the international space.

And so I think when we are engaged we are stronger, especially vis-a-vis the People's Republic of China—the PRC.

Senator COONS. Mr. Prescott, bring us home. Wrap it up.

Mr. PRESCOTT. I could not say it better myself. If we are not at the table we are on the menu. We have to step up and lead in these organizations.

They are flawed and we need to make sure that we are working to reform them as well. But it is important that we engage in this vigorous competition and that means showing up and putting in the work.

Thank you, sir.

Senator COONS. Thank you all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member. I look forward to supporting all of your nominations.

Senator SCHATZ. Senator Hagerty?

Senator HAGERTY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Governor Crist, I want to come to you on a topic that is of personal interest to me. It is something that the ICAO does not manage on a day to day basis but they do studies on it.

This has to do with slot allocations at international airports. I am sure you are aware, having been the Governor, the importance of airlift to foreign direct investment.

Making us competitive on the global stage requires U.S. access to slots around the world, and given what happened in the pandemic, the impact that had on aviation, in many areas aviation is swinging back very strong.

But I would not be surprised that that is an unequal result right now. In fact, the situation is probably quite different today versus where it was in 2019.

I just want to encourage you to take a very hard look at how slot allocations are working on an international basis, thinking about America's interest there, and as the ICAO studies this think about ways that we can advance America's interest in the whole process.

Mr. CRIST. Thank you. Thank you, Senator.

I appreciate that very much and you could not be more right. The slot allocations and the access to international travel, cargo, et cetera, are critically important to the U.S. economy and economies all over the world.

And so I commit to working with you, if confirmed, to be able to pursue this and advance that very important interest across the globe and an American interest in particular.

Senator HAGERTY. And what I have seen, I regret to say, is that there are other nations that do not play by the same set of rules that we do that would like to involve themselves in slot allegations maybe to disproportionately advantage themselves.

And so understanding the situation and making certain that we have got metrics and parameters that ensure that slots are allocated properly and fairly is absolutely important.

Mr. CRIST. Yes, sir. Absolutely. Thank you.

Senator SCHATZ. If there are no more questions for the witnesses, the record will remain open until the close of business tomorrow, Friday, November 17th, for questions for the record.

I urge our nominees—I know it is Thanksgiving but if you want to get confirmed quickly to try to complete those answers as rapidly and as thoroughly as possible so that we can clear you for committee action. Each of you have critical positions that need confirmation.

That concludes the first panel of today's hearing. We will excuse our nominees and allow our next panelists to get settled, and we will recess for two or three minutes.

[Recess.]

Senator SCHATZ. We will now consider another set of important nominations.

We have Mr. Cardell Kenneth Richardson, Sr., to be the Inspector General for the Department of State, we have Ms. Nicole Champagne to be the Ambassador to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and Ms. Joann Lockard to be the Ambassador to Burkina Faso.

Congratulations and thank you to each one of you. You are all extremely qualified for the positions for which you have been nominated and will promote U.S. foreign policy and national security interests in your respective roles, if confirmed. We thank you for your service.

Public service asks a lot of family members too so we would encourage you to introduce your family members when you have an opportunity to address the committee.

The first on the panel is Mr. Richardson, who currently serves as the Inspector General of the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency where he provides independent oversight and objective assessments of agency programs and operations.

He is a retired United States Air Force colonel, having served 26 years in active duty. Mr. Richardson has been honored twice with the Presidential Rank Award for his service.

Next we have Ms. Nicole Champagne, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service who currently serves as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, Egypt.

She previously served as charge ad interim to the U.S. mission in the Vienna office of the United Nations and at the International Atomic Energy Agency among, other postings.

Ms. Champagne is nominated to represent our nation at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons where she would support global efforts to permanently eliminate weapons under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Finally, we also have Ms. Joann Lockard, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service most recently serving as the DCM in the U.S. Embassy in Cote d'Ivoire.

Ms. Lockard's assignments also have included serving as the public affairs officer at the U.S. embassies in Uganda and Burkina

Faso. If confirmed, Ms. Lockard will return to Burkina Faso as Ambassador.

Burkina Faso has experienced a coup and a military takeover in just the last year. More than 2 million people are internally displaced as of this past July and an estimated 4.7 million people need humanitarian assistance. It is a volatile situation, to put it mildly, and that makes this role especially challenging.

But Ms. Lockard's deep knowledge of and experience in the region will be vital for the U.S. efforts to support regional stability through the promotion of democratic values, respect for human rights, and sustainable economic development.

The positions that each of you have been nominated for are essential to promoting American values of democracy and equality around the world. Each role requires specific skills and expertise that you bring.

Once again, I thank you for your continued willingness to serve and now yield to the vice Chair, Senator Hagerty.

Senator HAGERTY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And, again, I want to thank the nominees for appearing before this committee today, your willingness to serve this great nation. These are very important positions that you are up for.

First of all, I want to say this, that if you are confirmed you are going to have the opportunity to serve the most exceptional nation in the world and I hope you will always remember that and take it to heart. I am sure you will.

And for your families that support you I very much appreciate the contributions that you make to the success of your loved one.

I would like to start with the nominee to be Inspector General of the Department of State. You will play a critical role in audits, evaluations, inspections, and investigations at the department, and the State Department's Office of Inspector General plays a critical role in investigations.

In July of this year I led a group of 17 Senators to ask the State Department's Office of the Inspector General to investigate whether State Department officials have complied with all appropriate laws and regulations with respect to the suspension of Special Envoy for Iran Robert Malley's security clearance.

On June 29th, 2023, news reports revealed that the State Department had suspended Special Envoy Robert Malley's security clearance earlier this year due to serious allegations of mishandling information.

In early July of 2023 news reports revealed that the FBI is also investigating Special Envoy Robert Malley for allegedly mishandling classified information, and just a few days ago one news reporter wrote, quote, "Two government officials tell me that Malley was picked up on an intercept revealing something he was not supposed to reveal in a private conversation with a foreign official," close quote.

And I should also add that in August of 2023 we learned that Malley's security clearance had actually been suspended back in April of '23, three months before the suspension was actually reported in public.

And how did we learn about it? The Tehran Times, which is a propaganda arm of the Iranian regime, somehow got hold of the

sensitive but unclassified memo. That memo is the one that informs Robert Malley that his clearance was being suspended. They published it.

As you should know, State Department regulations known as the Foreign Affairs Manual describe in detail how diplomats are supposed to carefully handle sensitive but unclassified information.

That is why it is especially shocking that sensitive but unclassified material related to Robert Malley's case was either so poorly handled or perhaps it was stolen.

Our group of Senators have also asked the State Department's inspector general to look into how the Tehran Times got its hand on the sensitive memo.

Mr. Chairman, I want to enter this memo for the record, if I might, and also our letter.

[The information referred to is located at the end of this transcript.]

Senator HAGERTY. In September of 2023 news outlets reported that individuals who had worked closely with Special Envoy Robert Malley were intimately involved in the so-called Iran experts initiative, which is a foreign influence and collusion network run by the Iranian regime.

In fact, one of these individuals recently worked for Robert Malley at the State Department before moving to work at the Department of Defense for the assistant secretary who oversees Special Operations.

I would refer these ongoing—I refer to these ongoing investigations to highlight the need and significance of filling the position of Inspector General for the State Department so we can get at these deeply concerning issues.

I would now like to turn to the nominee to the U.S. Representative of the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. The OPCW is international organization that is charged with overseeing the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The nominee, if confirmed, will represent the United States at this organization and advocate for U.S. national security interest with respect to preventing the development, production, and stockpiling of chemical weapons by foreign countries and other actors.

Last but certainly not least I would like to focus on the nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso is facing seemingly intractable political and security crises. Burkina Faso, like Niger, was until recently an emergent democracy and U.S. security partner.

Now it has joined the growing ranks of countries in the region experiencing coups and turning toward Russia. Growing violence and instability has dramatically accelerated the humanitarian emergency in Burkina Faso, leading to one of the most—leading to one of the worst internal displacement crises in Africa.

The Biden administration will have to continue working closely with the international community to support efforts to restore security, the rule of law, and economic and social stability.

To all three nominees, again, thank you for your willingness to serve our nation and I turn the gavel back to you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you, Vice Chair.

I will now turn to our nominees. Mr. Richardson, please proceed.

STATEMENT OF CARDELL KENNETH RICHARDSON, SR., OF VIRGINIA, NOMINATED TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, VICE STEVE A. LINICK

Mr. RICHARDSON. Chairman Schatz, Ranking Member Hagerty, members of the committee, thank you for the invitation to appear before you today as you consider my nomination to be the Inspector General for the Department of State. I am honored to have been nominated by President Biden to serve in this key role in government oversight.

I would like to introduce my family members who are here supporting me today: my wife Jackie, my daughter Chandace Richardson-Arledge, and my son, who is my namesake and shares the same birthday, Cardell II, and my brothers Canardo and Carlton Richardson. I also recognize many family members, colleagues, and friends who have helped me during this nomination process and throughout my career.

I have dedicated my entire professional life to public service. I have over four decades of serving in diverse and complex positions of leadership and responsibility.

My parents inculcated in my siblings and me an unshakeable foundation of faith and a strong work ethic. They encouraged me to live an open-book life, help those in need, and always do your best. These values have shaped my life.

Upon graduating from Howard University School of Architecture and Engineering I was commissioned as a U.S. Air Force officer and internalized the Air Force core values which are integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do, which naturally resonated as they reflect the same values I learned growing up.

I served our great nation in a multitude of assignments throughout the continental United States and around the world. In 2003, after 26 years of dedicated service to the defense of our great nation I retired from the Air Force in the rank of colonel with an honorable discharge.

Upon retirement from the Air Force, I turned down a lucrative offer to join a large engineering firm because I am committed to continuing my public service and so I instead accepted the opportunity to serve as a Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service civilian with the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, renamed the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA).

During my 20-year tenure at NGIA I have served administrations of both political parties. I have established a reputation of a strong leader with impeccable integrity and I am renowned for surmounting undifferentiated challenges.

As a result, I was twice recognized with the Presidential Rank Award for strong leadership and extraordinary accomplishments. For these reasons I was selected to be the Inspector General for the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, a position in which I have served successfully for the last six years.

In this role I am responsible to Congress and American taxpayers. I lead an office of auditors, inspectors, investigators, attorneys, and staff whose mission is to detect and deter fraud, waste, and abuse and misconduct, and to promote the economy and efficiency in agency operations.

I routinely report to Congress and agency director with independent assessments and oversight of NGA's programs and operations and processes.

If confirmed, I will focus on four main areas to continue to add significant OIG value.

First, I pledge to bring strong leadership, energy, vision, and independence to the department's Office of Inspector General, recognizing that there has not been a confirmed Inspector General at the Department of State in more than three years.

If confirmed my highest priority will be the mission of oversight and the dedicated professionals that carry out this important oversight mission.

I will continue to build a highly professional environment that attracts and retains the most talented employees to meet and exceed current and future oversight demands.

Second, if confirmed I commit to work closely with this committee and other committees of jurisdiction as well as develop and sustain an effective and appropriate working relationship with the State Department management.

I will provide timely comprehensive information relating to programs and operations of the department and other agencies under the department's oversight mandate to ensure that the activities of these entities are as effective, efficient, and as economical as possible.

I will also continue to ensure the integrity of the U.S. foreign relations efforts by holding accountable those who corrupt or defraud taxpayer-funded programs.

Third, I will ensure that the Office of Inspector General remains an independent, objective organization that provides robust oversight, transparency, and accountability to the programs and operations of the department and the agencies under the department's oversight mandate.

And finally, if confirmed as Department Inspector General I will commit to being a strong partner for overseas contingency operation efforts including Ukraine and U.S. foreign relations programs in the Levant area and elsewhere around the globe.

I am honored to be considered for this important position, and I look forward to answering your questions. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Richardson follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF CARDELL KENNETH RICHARDSON, SR.

Chairman Schatz, Ranking Member Hagerty, and members of this committee, thank you for the invitation to appear before you today as you consider my nomination to be Inspector General for the Department of State. I am honored to have been nominated by President Biden to serve in this key role in government oversight.

I would like to introduce my family members who are here supporting me today: my wife, Jackie; my daughter, Chandace Richardson-Arledge; my son, who is my namesake and shares the same birthday, Cardell, 2nd; my brothers, Canardo and Carlton Richardson; and my sister-in-law, Joanne Finney.

I also recognize the many family members, colleagues and friends who have helped me during this nomination process and throughout my career.

I have dedicated my entire professional life to public service. I have over four decades of serving in diverse, and complex positions of leadership and responsibility.

My parents inculcated in my siblings and me: an unshakeable foundation of faith, and a strong work ethic. They encouraged me to live an open-book life; help those in need, and always do my best. These values have shaped my life.

Upon graduating from Howard University School of Architecture and Engineering, I was commissioned as a U.S. Air Force officer, and internalized the Air Force core values, which are: Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do; which naturally resonated, as they reflect the same values I learned growing up.

I have served our great nation in multiple assignments, throughout the continental United States, and around the world. In 2003, after twenty-six years of dedicated service to the defense of our great nation, I retired from Air Force in the rank of Colonel, with an honorable discharge.

Upon retirement from the Air Force, I turned down a lucrative offer to join a large engineering firm because I was committed to continuing my public service. I instead, accepted the opportunity to serve, as a Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service civilian, with the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, renamed the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA).

During my 20-year tenure at NGA, I served administrations of both political parties. I established a reputation of a strong leader, with impeccable integrity and I am renowned for surmounting undifferentiated challenges. As a result, I was twice recognized with the Presidential Rank Award for strong leadership and extraordinary accomplishments,

For these reasons, I was selected to be Inspector General for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, a position, in which I've served successfully, for the last six years.

In this role, I am responsible to Congress and American taxpayers. I lead an office of auditors, inspectors, investigators, attorneys, and staff whose mission is to detect and deter fraud, waste, abuse, and misconduct; and to promote economy and efficiency in Agency operations. I routinely report to Congress and the Agency Director with independent assessments and oversight of NGA's programs, operations and processes.

If confirmed, I will focus on four main areas to continue to add significant OIG value:

- First, I pledge to bring strong leadership, energy, vision, and independence to the Department's Office of Inspector General. Recognizing that there has not been a confirmed Inspector General at the Department of State in more than three years; if confirmed, my highest priority will be the mission of oversight, and the dedicated professionals that carryout this important oversight mission. I will continue to build a highly professional environment that attracts and retains the most talented employees to meet and exceed current and future oversight demands.
- Second, if confirmed, I commit to work closely with this committee and other committees of jurisdiction, as well as develop and sustain an effective and appropriate working relationship with State Department management. I will provide timely, comprehensive information relating to the programs and operations of the Department and the other agencies under the Department's oversight mandate: specifically, the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) and the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC); to ensure that the activities of these entities are as effective, efficient, and economical as possible. I will also continue to ensure the integrity of U.S. foreign relations efforts by holding accountable those who corrupt or defraud taxpayer-funded programs.
- Third, I will ensure that the Office of Inspector General remains an independent, objective organization that provides robust oversight, transparency, and accountability to the programs and operations of the Department and the agencies under the Department's oversight mandate.
- Finally, if confirmed as the State Department Inspector General, I commit to being a strong partner for Overseas Contingency Operation efforts, including Ukraine and U.S. foreign relations programs in the Levant Region and elsewhere around the globe.

I am honored to be considered for this important position, and I look forward to answering your questions. Thank you.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you very much.

Ms. Champagne, please proceed with your testimony.

STATEMENT OF NICOLE SHAMPAINE, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, NOMINATED TO BE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE

Ms. SHAMPAINE. Chairman Schatz, Ranking Member Hagerty, and distinguished members of the committee, it is an honor to come before you today as President Biden's nominee to be the next U.S. Permanent Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

I am grateful for the confidence the President and Secretary Blinken have placed in me. If confirmed, I pledge to work closely with this committee and members of Congress to advance U.S. interests at the OPCW.

Joining me here today are my husband Martin, my mother Françoise, my nephew William, my sister-in-law Leslie, and my other relatives Richard and Nancy.

My mother and my father Marshall, who is looking down on us from above, instilled in me and my brother Alain the importance of using one's life to make the world a better place.

They showed us through their example the difference each of us can make in service to others and it is this commitment to service—in my case service to our country—that inspires me daily.

I am also profoundly grateful to my husband Martin, who is my constant source of love, support, and strength. It has been a privilege to serve the American people as a Foreign Service officer and I have sought throughout my career to protect and advance the interests of the United States whether at the U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna working on counterterrorism at the National Security Council or on other assignments domestic and overseas.

If confirmed I look forward to continuing my service as the U.S. representative to the OPCW. The mission of the OPCW is to end the development, production, stockpiling, transfer, and use of chemical weapons. This is essential to the security of the American people.

Back in 1995 then Senator Biden stated, quote, "The single greatest threat facing the United States today is the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We need to use every means at our disposal to reduce the chances of a chemical attack in our country. The Chemical Weapons Convention is an irreplaceable tool to achieve that goal," end quote.

His statement was true in 1995 and remains so today. When the Chemical Weapons Convention entered into force in 1997 the main function of the OPCW was to verify the destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles and confirm the chemical industry was not involved in the proliferation of chemical weapons or their precursors.

When the United States concluded the destruction of all U.S. chemical weapons stockpiles this year the international community celebrated the completion of the destruction of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles worldwide.

Frustratingly, however, now in the 21st century the international norm against using chemical weapons is being challenged. The Assad regime has used chemical weapons repeatedly against the Syrian people since it acceded to the convention in 2013, and Russia use Novichok nerve agents in assassination attempts at least twice in recent years.

In this environment the work of the OPCW is more essential than ever. Thanks to the OPCW's dedicated staff the Assad regime's repeated use of chemical weapons has been independently confirmed by the international community.

Additionally, in light of Russia's past behavior the United States has serious concerns that Russia may use chemical agents in Ukraine. That is why the United States along with our allies and partners is working with Ukraine at the OPCW to ensure the OPCW is prepared to render assistance if so asked.

If confirmed I will actively seek to advance U.S. interests at the OPCW. This includes continuing to support international efforts to hold both Syria and Russia to account for their use of chemical weapons, and I would work to counter Russia's ongoing chemical weapons-related disinformation campaigns that distract from its invasion of Ukraine, seek to discredit the OPCW's impartial and objective work, and attempt to shield the Assad regime from accountability for its chemical weapons use.

If confirmed I will work to ensure the OPCW remains an effective force for addressing the ongoing threat posed by the use of chemical weapons.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Shampaine follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF NICOLE SHAMPAINÉ

Chairman Schatz, Ranking Member Hagerty, and distinguished members of the committee: it is an honor to come before you today as President Biden's nominee to be the next U.S. Permanent Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). I am grateful for the confidence the President and Secretary Blinken have placed in me. If confirmed, I pledge to work closely with this Committee and Members of Congress to advance U.S. interests at the OPCW.

Joining me here are my husband Martin, my mother Françoise, and my nephew William. My mother and my father, Marshall, who is looking down on us from above, instilled in me and in my brother Alain the importance of using one's life to make the world a better place. They showed us, through their example, the difference each of us can make in service to others, whether in our community or more broadly. And it is this commitment to service, in my case service to our country, that inspires me daily. I am also profoundly grateful to my husband Martin who is my constant source of love, support, and strength.

It has been a privilege to serve the American people as a Foreign Service Officer. Throughout my career, I have sought to protect and advance the interests of the United States, whether at the U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna, working on counterterrorism at the National Security Council, or in other assignments both domestic and overseas. If confirmed, I look forward to continuing my service as U.S. Permanent Representative to the OPCW.

The mission of the OPCW is to end the development, production, stockpiling, transfer, and use of chemical weapons. This is essential to the security of the American people. Back in 1995, then-Senator Biden stated, "The single greatest threat facing the United States today is the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We need to use every means at our disposal to reduce the chances of a chemical attack in our country. The Chemical Weapons Convention is an irreplaceable tool to achieve that goal." His statement was true in 1995 and remains so today.

When the Chemical Weapons Convention entered into force in 1997, the main function of the OPCW was to verify the destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles and confirm the chemical industry was not involved in the proliferation

of chemical weapons or their precursors. When the United States concluded the destruction of all U.S. chemical weapons stockpiles this year, the international community celebrated the completion of the destruction of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles worldwide.

Frustratingly, however, now in the 21st Century, the international norm against using chemical weapons is being challenged. The Assad regime has used chemical weapons repeatedly against the Syrian people since it acceded to the Convention in 2013. And Russia used Novichok nerve agents in assassination attempts at least twice in recent years.

In this environment, the work of the OPCW is more essential than ever. Thanks to the OPCW's dedicated staff, the Assad regime's repeated use of chemical weapons has been independently confirmed by the international community. Additionally, in light of Russia's past behavior, the United States has serious concerns that Russia may use chemical agents in Ukraine. That's why the United States, along with our Allies and partners, is working with Ukraine at the OPCW to ensure the OPCW is prepared to render assistance, if Ukraine so asks.

If confirmed, I will actively seek to advance U.S. interests at the OPCW. This includes continuing to support international efforts to hold both Syria and Russia to account for their use of chemical weapons. And I would work to counter Russia's ongoing chemical weapons-related disinformation campaigns that distract from its invasion of Ukraine, seek to discredit the OPCW's impartial and objective work, and attempt to shield the Assad regime from accountability for its chemical weapons use.

The Chemical Weapons Convention remains an irreplaceable tool that aids in our efforts to eliminate chemical weapons use. If confirmed, I will work to ensure the OPCW remains an effective force for addressing the ongoing threat posed by the use of chemical weapons.

Thank you and I look forward to answering your questions.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you very much.

Ms. Lockard, please proceed.

STATEMENT OF JOANN M. LOCKARD, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO BURKINA FASO

Ms. LOCKARD. Chairman Schatz, Ranking Member Hagerty, and distinguished members of the committee, it is my great honor to appear before you today as President Biden's nominee to be the next U.S. Ambassador to Burkina Faso.

I deeply appreciate the confidence and trust the President and Secretary of State have shown in nominating me for this position. If confirmed I will work closely with you and all members of Congress to advance our nation's interests in Burkina Faso.

I am here today because of the support of my family and friends. I am joined by my mother Lois Clark, my husband Aaron, and two of my three children, Caitlin and Sam.

My father was a 23-year Air Force veteran and my mother a 36-year civil servant. They instilled in me a great love for our country and inspired me to serve the United States in global affairs.

Together with my husband Aaron and my three children, Caitlin, Alexandra, and Sam, I have dedicated the last 25 years to doing just that. Across Latin America, Africa, and Europe together we have served the American people, building bridges across oceans and cultures. I am tremendously grateful for my family's support.

One assignment left an indelible mark upon us. In 2006, as we touched down in Ouagadougou for the first time, Caitlin, then four, crawled up on her knees to peer out of the window and exclaimed "Mommy, Papi, thank you for bringing me to Africa."

Our fellow passengers erupted in applause for her enthusiasm. It set the tone for our coming adventure and launched a decade and a half of love and respect for the welcoming embrace of Burkina Faso and the Burkinabe people.

Unfortunately, as you have noted, subsequent years have brought Burkina Faso daunting and unrelenting challenges, and I would like to take this opportunity today to express my deepest condolences to the Burkinabe people for the losses they have suffered at the hands of terrorists in recent years.

At the heart of U.S. foreign policy in West Africa, Burkina Faso now faces an unprecedented security, political, and humanitarian crisis. The country finds itself at the epicenter of violence in an increasingly fragile region.

Leaders of the January 2022 coup d'état and subsequent September military takeover cited this insecurity as their motivation. Yet, the situation continues to deteriorate.

Continued U.S. engagement is more vital than ever to help Burkina Faso confront the spread of terrorism and respond to the needs of its citizens both while respecting human rights and protecting civilians.

Our ability to provide military assistance to Burkina Faso is restricted by Section 7008. Given the urgent security situation, if confirmed it will be my highest priority to support Burkina Faso's return to a democratically-elected civilian-led government as soon as possible.

Such progress will allow us to increase cooperation and assist Burkina Faso in its struggle against violent extremism while simultaneously reinforcing the voice of the Burkinabe people in their own governance and promoting peace, stability, and security while countering threats to U.S. citizens and interests.

The conflict in Burkina Faso has displaced more than 2 million people and resulted in limited food access for more than 15 percent of the population.

In addition to facing a grave security crisis Burkina Faso confronts high population growth, limited natural resources, and a vulnerability to climate change, all of which contribute to bleak economic prospects in one of the poorest countries of the world.

If confirmed I will work with colleagues across the United States Government to increase health security for the Burkinabe people, promote economic and social development, and strengthen Burkina Faso's resilience to climate shocks.

Reports of human rights violations, increases in political intimidation tactics, undue restrictions on freedom of expression, and a clamp down on journalists and civil society are deeply concerning.

I am encouraged, however, by recent efforts towards change such as trials for accused terrorists and positive steps forward to prevent trafficking in persons. If confirmed I will encourage Burkina Faso, known as the land of the upright people, to uphold the rule of law and to continue to build on these initial steps.

Finally, I take very seriously my commitment to protect U.S. citizens overseas including our mission personnel.

This includes ensuring that our Embassy in Ouagadougou is properly staffed to undertake these challenging tasks, and if confirmed I will do everything in my power to protect Americans and

American interests in Burkina Faso and ensure the security of our mission.

At this crucial time in history when Burkina Faso is severing historic ties and seeking new partnerships it is more critical than ever that the United States remain engaged.

I believe that the Burkinabe people are looking for a partner who can instill hope and stand by their side to tackle the difficult challenges ahead and I believe that the United States can and should be that partner.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Lockard follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF JOANN LOCKARD

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and distinguished members of the committee, it is my great honor to appear before you today as President Biden's nominee to be the next U.S. Ambassador to Burkina Faso. I deeply appreciate the confidence and trust the President and Secretary of State have shown in nominating me for this position. If confirmed, I will work closely with you and all members of Congress to advance our nation's interests in Burkina Faso.

I am here because of the support of my family and friends. My father, a 23-year Air Force veteran, and my mother, who retired after a 36-year civil service career, instilled in me a great love for our country and inspired me to serve the United States in global affairs. Together, with my husband, Aaron, and my three children, Caitlin, Alexandra, and Sam, I have dedicated the last twenty-five years to doing just that. Across Latin America, Africa, and Europe, together, we have served the American people, building bridges across oceans and cultures. I am tremendously grateful for my family's support. Repeatedly, they have sacrificed, leaving friends and family to travel to places they didn't know or where they couldn't speak the language.

One assignment left an indelible mark on us. In 2006, as we touched down in Ouagadougou for the first time, Caitlin, then four, crawled up on her knees to peer out the window and exclaimed, "Mommy and Papi, thank you for bringing me to Africa!" Our fellow passengers erupted in applause for her enthusiasm. It set the tone for our coming adventure and launched a decade and a half of love and respect for the welcoming embrace of Burkina Faso and the Burkinabe people.

Unfortunately, subsequent years have brought Burkina Faso daunting and unremitting challenges. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest condolences to the Burkinabe people for the losses suffered at the hands of terrorists in recent years.

At the heart of U.S. foreign policy in West Africa, Burkina Faso now faces an unprecedented security, political, and humanitarian crisis. The country finds itself the epicenter of violence in an increasingly fragile region. Leaders of the January 2022 coup d'état and subsequent September military takeover cited this insecurity as their motivation, yet the situation continues to deteriorate. Continued U.S. engagement is more vital than ever to help Burkina Faso confront the spread of terrorism and respond to the needs of its citizens—both while respecting human rights and protecting civilians. Our ability to provide military assistance to Burkina Faso is restricted by section 7008, the military coup provision. Given the urgent security situation, if confirmed, it will be my highest priority to support Burkina Faso's return to a democratically elected, civilian-led government as soon as possible. Such progress will allow us to increase cooperation and assist Burkina Faso in its struggle against violent extremism, reinforcing the voice of the Burkinabe people in their own governance, and promoting peace, stability, and security while countering threats to U.S. citizens and interests.

The conflict in Burkina Faso has displaced more than two million people and resulted in limited food access for more than 15 percent of the population. In addition to facing a grave security crisis, Burkina Faso confronts high population growth, limited natural resources, and vulnerability to climate change, all of which contribute to bleak economic prospects in one of the poorest countries in the world. If confirmed, I will work with colleagues across the U.S. Government to increase health security for the Burkinabe, promote economic and social development, and strengthen Burkina Faso's resilience to climate shocks.

Reports of human rights violations, increases in political intimidation tactics, undue restrictions on freedom of expression, and a clampdown on journalists and civil society activities are deeply concerning signs of democratic backsliding in Burkina Faso. I am encouraged, however, by recent efforts that show some movement toward change, such as trials for accused terrorists in June of this year, which we hope will continue, and positive steps forward to prevent trafficking in persons. If confirmed, I will encourage Burkina Faso, known as the Land of the Upright People, to uphold the rule of law, and continue to build on these initial steps.

Finally, I take very seriously my commitment to protect U.S. citizens overseas, including mission personnel. This includes ensuring that our Embassy in Ouagadougou is properly staffed to undertake these challenging tasks. If confirmed, I will do everything in my power to protect Americans and American interests in Burkina Faso and ensure the security of our mission. At this crucial time in history, when Burkina Faso is severing historic ties and seeking new partnerships, it's more critical than ever that the United States remain engaged. I believe that the Burkinabe people are looking for a partner who can instill hope and stand by their side to tackle the difficult challenges ahead. I believe that the United States can and should be that partner.

Mr. Chairman, ranking member, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to your questions.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you all for your testimony.

We will now continue with a few questions that speak to the importance of the committee and our prioritization of responsiveness by all officials in the executive branch and we expect and will be seeking from you. Just please answer yes or no.

If you are confirmed do you agree to appear before this committee and make officials from your office available to the committee and designated staff when invited?

[All witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

Senator SCHATZ. Do you commit to keeping this committee fully and currently informed about activities under your purview?

[All witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

Senator SCHATZ. Do you commit to engaging in meaningful consultation while policies are being developed and not just providing notification after the fact?

[All witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

Senator SCHATZ. Do you commit to promptly responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the committee and its designated staff?

[All witnesses answered in the affirmative.]

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you.

Mr. Richardson, as you know DOD has appointed a lead IG for the oversight of Ukraine. Maintaining strong oversight of U.S. aid to Ukraine is critical.

Just walk me through how the State Department IG and the DOD IG collaborate in an instance where they have sort of joint oversight jurisdiction.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Yes. So, Senator, thank you for your question. First of all, because of the assistance that we have given to—we are providing Ukraine, obviously, it requires a tremendous amount of oversight.

As you mentioned, the DOD IG has been designated as the lead IG for Operation Atlantic Resolve, which includes Ukraine assistance, and in that process three entities

—the Department of Defense, Department of State, and USAID—have collaborated, gotten together and put together a joint strategic oversight plan which I have been made familiar with and in that process they have articulated some very distinct pro-

grammatic projects that range from audits through inspections and evaluations to provide proactive oversight.

Also, as I understand it they also have individuals in country that are right there in Kyiv that can also provide oversight, and as I understand there is a pending trip beginning of the year that if confirmed I certainly will be a part of.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you very much.

Ms. Shampaine, you mentioned Russian disinformation about chemical weapons. Very briefly, what do you mean by that?

Ms. SHAMPAINÉ. Thank you for that question.

There are two areas that come to mind most immediately. First of all, Russia, together with Syria, has been engaged in a years-long campaign to try to persuade the international community that the Assad regime is not responsible for chemical weapons used in Syria.

Of course, that is completely false and the OPCW's technical staff has put together reports making very clear the Assad regime is indeed responsible for those attacks. So that is one area the Russians have been extremely active in trying to deceive the international community.

Another area regards Ukraine and that is where since the beginning of Russia's invasion of Ukraine Russia has been alleging that the United States, NATO, and Ukraine have been using chemical weapons.

Again, completely false. So those are the types of disinformation campaigns that if confirmed I would fight against at the OPCW.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you very much.

Ms. Lockard, how would you characterize the relationship between Wagner and the Burkina Faso Government, such as it is?

Ms. LOCKARD. Thank you very much, Senator, for that question.

The situation right now in Burkina Faso relating between the transition authorities and the Russian Government and other organizations is concerning, and if confirmed I will work throughout my tenure as Ambassador to demonstrate to the transitional government and the Burkinabe people most importantly that the United States is the partner that shares their values.

We care that the country is returning to a democratic trajectory and respecting human rights. We want to restore stability and security and build economic prosperity for the Burkinabe people. Russia does not.

Senator SCHATZ. But what is Wagner doing now?

Ms. LOCKARD. Senator, thank you very much.

Unfortunately, I do not have access to that information currently but I commit to you that if confirmed I will work with you to ensure that the committee is fully informed.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you.

Senator Hagerty?

Senator HAGERTY. I think the Chairman and I are both interested in what the military government there is doing with Wagner. I think we would both appreciate an update on that when you have the opportunity.

Mr. Richardson, I would like to come back to you if I could. As I noted in my opening statement, one issue that is of particular concern to me is whether the State Department complied with all

appropriate laws and regulations with respect to the suspension of Special Envoy Rob Malley's security clearance.

I would appreciate your taking the time to meet—I appreciate you took the time to meet in my office yesterday and your unequivocal assurance that you will follow the facts wherever they may lead you.

My question for you is will you commit to this committee that if confirmed you will ensure that the Office of the Inspector General's ongoing investigation into the State Department's actions related to Malley's security clearance proceeds independently, expeditiously, and with appropriate transparency?

Mr. RICHARDSON. I can give you unequivocal assurance it will.

Senator HAGERTY. Thank you. Will you further commit that if confirmed you will keep this committee informed on your office's interim and final findings including in a classified setting if that is necessary?

Mr. RICHARDSON. I absolutely will. I think keeping Congress informed is critical to exactly why I am being considered for this position.

Senator HAGERTY. And I appreciate your commitment to the Chairman earlier in that regard.

I would like to turn now to the situation in Ukraine. Since February of last year the United States has committed over \$113 billion in supplemental appropriations to help Ukraine defend itself against Putin's war on Ukraine.

You think about this funding level, it is getting close to the \$146 billion that we spent in Afghanistan over the course of 20 years.

In Afghanistan rampant corruption and weak governance actually undermined our war effort. The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction identified \$19 billion in fraud, about a third of the \$63 billion that he reviewed.

John Sopko, the head of the Afghan Reconstruction Special IG unit said, and I quote him, "When you spend so much money so quickly with so little oversight you are going to have massive fraud, waste, and abuse."

I would note that our Ukraine funding is flowing much more rapidly than it did in Afghanistan. So my question to you is do you believe the existing inspector general system is well positioned to handle the Ukraine challenge?

Mr. RICHARDSON. I think it is, sir, and I will tell you why. Because most of the resources that are going to Ukraine are either under control of one of the three entities that we talked about—that is Defense, State, and USAID.

Also, I think the way you get to any corruption is to find fraud indicators and you do that through these programmatic reviews, audits, inspections, evaluations and the like, and, first, you want to make sure they are doing the things that they should be doing and they have internal controls and if they do not then you go where the trail leads you.

My point really is I think having these three inspectors general—inspectors general for these three organizations already have apparatus in place that make them uniquely prepared to uncover any fraud, waste, or abuse or gross mismanagement wherever it exists.

Senator HAGERTY. I appreciate the collaboration that you discussed with the Chairman as well and I hope that will manifest itself.

I want to say this, though, Mr. Richardson. I am, and I think I am like many Americans—I am concerned that corruption in aid diversion remain a real threat in Ukraine.

In 2023 Ukraine was ranked 118 out of 130 on the Transparency International's corruption index. President Zelensky has purged several top officials for corruption. And though the Biden administration has publicly claimed that there have been no evidence of misuse of taxpayer dollars, Politico reported just last month that Biden administration officials are privately far more worried about corruption in Ukraine than they publicly admit and they have identified numerous long-term anti-corruption goals.

According to the confidential strategy document that was obtained by Politico, and I quote, "Perceptions of high-level corruption could undermine Ukraine public's and foreign leaders' confidence in the wartime government." That ended the quote. I could not agree more.

Mr. Richardson, if you are confirmed what additional specific steps could you take to address the American taxpayers' concerns about fraud in this arena?

Mr. RICHARDSON. So I absolutely agree. To answer your question, the additional steps we take is to, one, make sure I am working with the stakeholders that are in country.

I am talking about entities like the National Anti-Corruption Bureau that are in Ukraine as well as the Special Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's office of which I know there has already been some discussion and working with.

There is a High Anti-Corruption Court also. So it is reasonable to assume that with this level of resources that there are a likelihood—some likelihood that there might be some corruption.

We ought to look for it and so I can commit to you that will be a top priority to do just that.

Senator HAGERTY. Well, I appreciate that.

As we look at where Russia's unprovoked war on Ukraine is leading us toward a stalemate I think it is absolutely imperative that the Biden administration provide us with a clear and persuasive theory of victory in the conflict and I think the American people are very clear in the fact that they do not support some type of open-ended commitment.

So as we consider additional supplemental assistance here for Ukraine we really expect and appreciate robust oversight of the funds.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you, Senator Hagerty.

Senator Booker?

Senator BOOKER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I just want to pause for a moment if I can. You have two—a great ranking member who is just an extraordinary Senator and a Chairman who are pretty extraordinary.

You got three Senators here. Two out of three is not bad. It depends on the quality. And it seems like this room has a smattering

if at all of staff and Senators. But you should think of that as no diminution of the gravity of this moment.

This is not just a rote routine Senate hearing. This is an extraordinary part of our democracy, and the administration puts up incredible candidates and the Senate has obligations defined by our Constitution to advise and consent and ultimately approve them.

I am just sitting here and getting more and more moved because I am thinking about my mom and dad, who met here and married here, and I was born in this city, the only one of the hundred Senators born in Washington, D.C.

And my mom is relentless—I am going to get a chance to see her this week—because she will always try to remind me so that I never lose the gravity of moments like this about what was going on around the time that I was born.

A woman could not get credit. They had to get their husband to sign on with it. My parents, a black family, would tell me time and time again how many companies in Washington, DC., would not hire black people.

And so from the time I was born I am now sitting here looking at a panel that just some 50 years ago this country could not have imagined that you would have two women up for extraordinarily important positions to lead and represent our nation and a black man who has had such a career of distinction.

The three of you are different. You are just different. Not your race and gender. You are different because of the commitment of your lives.

Sir, when you said you gave up a lucrative position in the private sector to stay in service I got chills. What is on this panel right now is just an extraordinary American story, a story of who we are as a nation which has overcome so much to get to this point in American history and it is extraordinary because the three of you have spent your entire careers as humble servants of this nation, not for the money, not for the attention and the fame that we get as Senators where our names are in the press all the time. Sometimes I wish not as much.

So I just want to pause and just let you all know that I am grateful for you. You are a towering testimony to what makes this nation special, and while many of us Americans luxuriate in the blessings of liberty in this nation there are people on the front lines doing the hard, important, unglamorous work of advancing the call and the cause of our country.

And so for the families that are assembled here this is not normal. This is not a routine thing in the United States Senate. This is a great American moment and these are three great Americans. So, I just say thank you.

I have a lot of concern about the Sahel. I am anguished to see what is happening there now. I have had a chance to visit Burkina Faso and see the greatness of the people.

The way you spoke in your testimony showed me that you respect these extraordinarily kind every day folks that right now are suffering this military junta and struggling at the same time with terrorism.

But I will never forget when our military—I was sitting in our Embassy in Ouagadougou and you had our military training these

young Burkinabe men to protect and defend their own nation and just to see the connection between our two countries who shared values and even more so they shared this aspiration that seemed to be fueled by American energy that they could be a nation that was free and democratic and secure.

And so we are going to deal with each other because I am the—by somebody's decision I am the Chairman of the Africa Subcommittee and I just look forward to working with you and the administration, who I talk to quite often about these issues, to find a way to stop this growing insecurity in the Sahel, specifically, that is creating so much political instability, such a rise in terrorism, so many political coups, all undergirded by painful levels of food insecurity and suffering when it comes to just basic humanitarian issues.

So thank you. I plan on voting for you on the floor. I know there are some follow-up questions about the influence of Russia and China, if you can add into that. But I will leave this committee today a very inspired American. So thank you all for your service.

Senator SCHATZ. If there are no more questions for the witnesses the record will remain open until the close of business tomorrow, Friday, November 17th, for questions for the record.

I urge our nominees to try to complete those as rapidly as possible so that we can clear you for committee action and move you to the floor. Each of you have critical positions that we need to confirm you for.

If there is no further business, I thank the ranking member, I thank Senator Booker and everyone else, and all of your families and all of the nominees.

This committee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:53 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

Additional Material Submitted for the Record

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO JEFFREY PRESCOTT BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

Mr. Prescott, the world faces a global hunger crisis of unprecedented proportions. In just two years, the number of people facing, or at risk of, acute food insecurity doubled from 135 million in 53 countries to 345 million in 79 countries this year. Fueled by conflict, climate shocks and COVID-19, the crisis is escalating as the war in Ukraine drives up the costs of food and fuel. Given all of this, it is critical that we are using all of our diplomatic tools, including a confirmed Ambassador, to address this crisis.

Question. If confirmed, what steps would you take to address the growing global scale of the current food security crisis?

Answer. I agree that we face an unprecedented global food security crisis, compounded by the factors you indicated, including the pandemic, drought and other climate shocks, and conflict. Russia's brutal, unprovoked invasion of Ukraine has further worsened an already profound challenge and additional conflicts across the world are further straining the global humanitarian system. While international organizations are critical to galvanizing international action to addressing global food insecurity, it is also clear that the scale of the crisis is outpacing assistance. There has never been a more important time for sustained U.S. leadership to help address global food insecurity, further agriculture trade, and meet acute lifesaving humanitarian need.

If confirmed, I would use every tool available to confront these crises, working with the Department, the interagency, and members and staff of the committee to

keep food security at the forefront of the international agenda. While America has stepped up—and there is an urgent need to sustain and expand our leadership—our efforts alone are not sufficient to match the scale of the need. The United States cannot solve these problems alone and, if confirmed, I will seek to expand opportunities for both traditional and non-traditional donors to share the burden, leverage the private sector in responding to emergencies and building resilience, and to establish new, innovative sources of support.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO JEFFREY PRESCOTT BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Long-established humanitarian principles suggest that food aid should be “agnostic,” meaning that it should be targeted toward those with the greatest need regardless of their affiliation. Unfortunately, there is also a long history of food aid being used by malign actors as a weapon against those it is meant to help.

Question. If confirmed, are you prepared to halt aid deliveries to areas where it is being manipulated by malign actors?

Answer. If confirmed, my priority will be to ensure that we use taxpayer dollars as effectively and efficiently as possible in international institutions. Waste, fraud, and abuse of U.S. food assistance—including manipulation by malign actors—is unacceptable. I will be your partner in fighting to maintain integrity, promote U.S. values, and uphold good governance in these institutions and in our food aid programs. If confirmed, I will coordinate closely with USAID, the Department of State, and the Department of Agriculture, our international organization partners, and relevant oversight bodies on ways to prevent, detect, respond to, and end abuses of food aid by governments or any other actors. If confirmed, I would support the Administration’s commitment to take every possible measure—up to and including, where appropriate, the suspension of assistance—to ensure that U.S. humanitarian assistance is used for its intended purpose, reaches the most vulnerable, and ultimately saves lives.

The World Food Program takes a blended approach in its food aid programs: it provides commodities in areas where food is scarce and market-based assistance (electronic transfers, vouchers, etc.) where food is available but inaccessible. When providing commodities, the agency often has to provide “blanket” feeding. When providing market-based assistance, there is room to target assistance more deliberately. There are benefits and risks associated with each of these approaches. If confirmed, it will be your job to find ways to maximize the benefits and minimize the risks associated with each of these approaches, so that the WFP can reach the right people with the right support in the right place at the right time.

Question. If confirmed, will you commit to advocating for the use of biometrics within the World Food Program and across other U.N. agencies, particularly when providing market-based assistance, in order to more effectively target assistance, verify beneficiaries, and eliminate duplication and waste?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I would advocate for improved oversight measures for food aid programs including use of biometrics and other technologies, where appropriate. Biometrics and other advanced technologies help mitigate risk in the provision of assistance and help maximize the impact of programs by ensuring that assistance is reaching those for whom it is intended.

Question. Beyond biometrics, are there other ways in which you would seek to enhance the WFP’s efficiency and effectiveness, so we can stretch U.S. food aid dollars farther and save more lives?

Answer. If confirmed, one of my top priorities would be to ensure that U.S. taxpayer dollars are used as effectively and efficiently as possible by the international organizations we support, and I would work with the Department of State, USAID, and the members and staff of this Committee, to advocate for policy and programmatic changes that would further improve these programs, including at the World Food Program (WFP). WFP provides assistance in many complex operating environments, so solutions can often vary by context. If confirmed, I would advocate for WFP to employ real-time feedback systems that allow it to adapt to changing contexts, as well as promote a culture of reform, improvement, and accountability. I would use my position to support WFP in its ongoing internal reform process,

working with them to meet the objectives outlined in their Reassurance Action Plan. In advocating for these reforms, I would seek to collaborate with the members and staff of this committee.

Even as the U.S. has stepped up to support humanitarian programs—a testament to the work of members and staff of this Committee—our efforts alone are not sufficient to match the scale of current or anticipated global needs. Certain reforms—such as using joint procurements and cooperative administrative arrangements with other U.N. agencies to create economies of scale—can help stretch resources further to meet these growing needs. However, reforming WFP and other U.N. institutions, alone, will not overcome the large and growing gap between need and contributions. Food security is national security, and U.S. leadership on global food security, agriculture, and humanitarian issues will be critical to leverage support from international donors, host country governments and other partners, and to establishing new, innovative sources of support.

Question. The United States works both bilaterally and through multilateral institutions—including the United Nations food and agriculture agencies in Rome—to ameliorate humanitarian conditions, promote food security, and catalyze agriculture-led economic growth in developing countries. In your view, what is the appropriate balance between U.S. bilateral and multilateral assistance for food aid and food security?

Answer. There are important roles for both bilateral and multilateral food security assistance, and striking the appropriate balance is often context specific. The United States and its partners assess market conditions, feasibility, programmatic purpose, and cost effectiveness when determining which modalities and partners are most appropriate for delivering food assistance in any given context. If confirmed, I would work closely with the Interagency to critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of food aid interventions and to ensure that they are cost efficient as well as effective. In addition, I would like to continue to integrate and improve the use of objective criteria in the provision of all international aid, so that we can further support interventions that demonstrate success on the ground.

Initiatives like Feed the Future, which support food and nutrition security through bilateral assistance, are important tools for driving hunger, malnutrition, and poverty alleviation. The United States also supports transformative school meals programs in food-deficit countries through the USDA McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program, of which WFP is one of the largest implementers. For many schoolchildren in these food-insecure contexts, a school meal may be the only meal they receive in a day. However, the demand for food security programming far outstrips what the U.S. alone is able to support. Through multilateral institutions, the U.S. is able to maximize funding and better leverage U.S. taxpayer dollars.

Question. Are there instances when U.S. bilateral assistance might be more appropriate than assistance delivered through the U.N. agencies for food and agriculture?

Answer. The fact that the United States leverages both bilateral and multilateral approaches is part of what makes our nation the preeminent leader in addressing global food security. This is a testament to the leadership of the members and staff of this Committee, and if confirmed would seek to partner closely with you and your staff in sustaining and expanding this leadership.

Our bilateral and multilateral activities are designed to complement each other. The choice of approach takes into account important context-specific factors, including organizational comparative advantages, presence on the ground, political dynamics, and operational security.

Bilateral assistance can provide an advantage for food security programming due to the unique, context-specific needs of communities. However, the U.S. cannot solve hunger alone and engagement through U.N. agencies and other multilateral institutions provides a multiplier effect on U.S. taxpayer dollars.

Question. What role could or should the private sector play in promoting food security and catalyzing agriculture-led economic growth?

Answer. The private sector already plays a critical role in producing, processing, storing, transporting, and marketing food around the world, and the U.S. is actively engaging with companies to catalyze their support for global food security and resilience efforts. For example, to meet the food needs of a world with growing challenges, there is an important role for the private sector to help integrate small-scale farmers into broader supply chains, reduce food loss and waste across supply chains, develop resilient crop varieties, and scale up the use of irrigation and water conservation technologies and practices. Moreover, the private sector brings science-

and technology-based solutions to improve supply chains, which can benefit our partner countries and programs.

If confirmed, I would also seek to strengthen partnerships with American farmers in our work on agriculture and hunger around the world, so that farmers can share the very practices that made American agriculture the international gold standard directly with the farmers we support abroad.

Question. If confirmed, will you commit to advancing science-based approaches to promoting food insecurity at the Food and Agriculture Organization, including through the use of innovative agricultural technologies?

Answer. Yes. In the past year, we have seen signs of the FAO shifting towards embracing innovative agricultural technologies, including biotechnology. Our approach to further building resilient food systems at the scale needed to feed a growing population and create jobs across the entire food system means that we must put all tools on the table, including sustainable farming practices, agricultural inputs, investments in agriculture-related infrastructure, and seed production. If confirmed, I will continue to push the FAO at the highest levels to embrace science-based approaches.

Question. If confirmed, please describe how you will work with colleagues at USUN New York, the Bureau of International Organizations (IO), and other stakeholders on recruiting and retaining qualified Americans for placement and promotion with the U.N. system?

Answer. Increasing U.S. citizen employment in United Nations (U.N.) agencies is an important tool for advancing American interests and values. If confirmed, I will coordinate closely with the Bureau of International Organization Affairs (IO), which coordinates advocacy on behalf of U.S. citizen applicants, and with other IO Missions, which have longstanding relationships with U.N. leadership. I will also engage regularly with the executive heads of the Rome-Based Agencies (RBA) about upcoming vacancies. I will meet with U.S. citizens working in the RBAs to show my appreciation for their service and learn from their experiences navigating the RBA recruitment systems. Finally, I will make time to encourage and advise U.S. citizens pursuing U.N. careers, including through the U.S.-sponsored Junior Professional Officer (JPO) program and those targeting jobs in the RBAs.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO JEFFREY PRESCOTT BY SENATOR MARCO RUBIO

Question. In May 2022, Secretary Blinken said that the People’s Republic of China is the “only country with both the intent to reshape the international order and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to do it.” The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) clearly holds the reins of power in the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and has used this power to commit genocide in Xinjiang, flood our communities with fentanyl, and emit, by far the largest quantity of greenhouse gases in the world today. With their absolute control of Chinese society and industry, the CCP could stop all of these destructive actions tomorrow if they so choose. Is the CCP a threat to the United States?

Answer. I agree with the Director of National Intelligence’s testimony that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) “represents both the leading and most consequential threat to U.S. national security and leadership globally.” Under Xi Jinping, the CCP has become more repressive at home and more aggressive abroad, seeking to undercut U.S. influence and alliances. The United States has an imperative to advance our interests and values in the face of the unrelenting efforts of our competitors. After all, great power competition does not end at the U.N.’s front door, certainly not from the perspective of our adversaries. If confirmed, I would vigorously engage in this intense competition, work to advance U.S. national security interests, and push back against PRC efforts to expand its influence, including through robust and forthright diplomatic engagements, public diplomacy, and sustained advocacy for American interests and priorities in the U.N. agencies under my purview in this position.

Question. Does the CCP undertake any activities that are beneficial to U.S. interests? If so, please explain.

Answer. I agree with the widely held bipartisan view that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has become more repressive at home and more aggressive abroad. I concur with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence’s 2023 An-

nual Threat Assessment that the CCP is seeking to “undercut U.S. influence, drive wedges between Washington and its partners, and foster some norms that favor its authoritarian system.” Informed by this assessment and my clear-eyed view of the threats posed by the People’s Republic of China, if confirmed, I would engage in intense diplomacy to advance U.S. national security interests and shared values in the international institutions under my purview in this position.

Question. Do you believe that there are any areas within which the CCP that would constructively work with the United States in good faith, knowing that at any moment Chinese interlocutors with U.S. representatives could be disappeared at a moment’s notice? If so, please explain.

Answer. This is a complex and consequential moment, as we vigorously engage in a geopolitical competition to shape the future of the international order and grapple with intractable global challenges that cross borders. Food security sits at the intersection of these two great strategic challenges, and there has never been a more important time for U.S. leadership on global food security, agricultural trade, and humanitarian issues. We have an imperative to advance American interests and values in the face of unrelenting efforts of our competitors, including in international organizations. As we use every tool available to confront the drivers of global food insecurity, the United States must fight to maintain integrity, promote U.S. interests and values, and uphold good governance in U.N. institutions. If confirmed, I would work with the Department of State’s leadership, interagency counterparts, and members and staff of the Committee to advance U.S. objectives and counter harmful behavior by the PRC and other actors at the U.N. Agencies under my purview in this position.

Question. If confirmed, will you approve any joint activity with organizations or representatives from the PRC in the countries or areas in which you will work?

Answer. If confirmed, my priority will be advancing U.S. national security and countering efforts by our strategic and regional competitors to undermine our interests and values. The Administration has been clear that the People’s Republic of China (PRC) is the most consequential geopolitical challenge facing the United States, and that the United States is committed to working to strengthen our partners around the globe. If confirmed, I will work closely with Department of State and interagency colleagues and members and staff of this committee to address China’s efforts to expand its influence at the U.N. and would be your partner in fighting to maintain integrity, promote U.S. values, and uphold good governance in international institutions.

Question. As you may be aware, a group of federal employees penned an open letter to President Biden criticizing U.S. support for Israel in the aftermath of Hamas’ brutal terrorist attack on October 7, 2023. Efforts like these directly undermine the duty of our diplomats to advance the policies of the President of the United States. Yes or no, did you sign the open letter to the President expressing opposition to the President’s Israel policy?

Answer. No.

Question. Have you ever expressed support for an Israeli ceasefire in Gaza?

Answer. No, I have not. As Secretary Blinken has noted, there was a ceasefire on October 6—and Hamas violated it. The Administration does not support calls for Israel to stop defending itself from Hamas’ continuing terrorism and indiscriminate rocket attacks, which would be a result of any premature, permanent ceasefire. I believe that Israel has the right, and indeed the duty, to defend its people against the heinous attacks by Hamas on October 7. I also support efforts to secure the safe return of Americans and other held hostage by Hamas. Toward that end, the United States is working intensively with other parties to facilitate release of hostages and related humanitarian pauses. The United States continues to work with Israel, Egypt, the U.N., and other partners to facilitate a sustained flow of humanitarian assistance into Gaza.

Question. Do you agree that Hamas is an antisemitic entity and that a ceasefire would allow these groups to reconstitute and attack Israel, and Americans, in the future?

Answer. Yes, Hamas is a terrorist group that seeks to eliminate the State of Israel and whose founding charter calls for the killing of Jewish people. A ceasefire right now would give Hamas time to regroup, allow it to retain the capacity to conduct future attacks, and would fail to prevent Hamas from continuing terror attacks and firing indiscriminate rockets at Israel.

Question. Do you agree that calling for a ceasefire in Gaza means calling for Israel to stop its pursuit of Hamas, a designated foreign terrorist organization, that orchestrated the October 7 attacks and still refuses to release Israeli and American hostages?

Answer. Yes, I agree that a ceasefire would be premature at this time. The Administration, in coordination with Israel, supports humanitarian pauses to enable a sustained flow of aid and to allow the voluntary movement of civilians who are seeking to move to safer locations. Additionally, I support efforts to secure the safe return of Americans and others held hostage by Hamas, including through intensive diplomacy to facilitate release of hostages and related humanitarian pauses.

Question. Do you believe that Israel, in its operation against Hamas, which is known to use civilians as human shields, is taking all necessary steps to minimize civilian casualties?

Answer. Israel has the right and, indeed the obligation, to protect itself from terrorism, consistent with international law. It is clear that Hamas is not concerned with protecting civilians and has been deliberately and callously putting civilians in harm's way, a blatant violation of international law. The United States has also emphasized in constructive conversations with Israel that as it carries out military operations, it is vital that steps be taken to protect civilians from harm, to differentiate between civilians and Hamas terrorists, and do everything possible to avoid civilian casualties. Efforts to mitigate and respond to civilian harm are both a moral and a strategic imperative.

Question. If confirmed, would you define one of your employees or contractors signing an open letter criticizing you, or policies you undertake at the instruction of the President, as insubordination as defined by the Government Accountability Office?

Answer. The President has made clear that the Administration's policy is to value and respect the expertise of the nonpartisan, career employees of the Department of State, and to empower U.S. diplomats to do their jobs without being targeted or subjected to retaliation in violation of applicable policies and laws that allow for employees to express dissent as well as report wrongdoing or a violation of the law. Secretary Blinken has made clear that he welcomes active use of the Department of State's dissent channel, takes it seriously, and uses it to reflect on his own thinking in terms of policy making and what he proposes to the President. If confirmed, I would uphold the Administration's approach, and reflect considered views of employees in the Mission in making recommendations to the Department for policy making.

Question. If confirmed, how will you address discipline issues, such as insubordination, that do not take established dissent channels?

Answer. The Department maintains established procedures, including in the Foreign Affairs Manual, for addressing incidents or allegations that may serve as grounds for disciplinary action. If confirmed, I will scrupulously follow established procedures for handling such issues, consistent with the rights and responsibilities of Department employees.

Question. In your view, are the actions these federal employees took, by anonymously signing a letter to the President of the United States, covered as "whistleblowing?"

Answer. Whistleblowers perform an important service for the public and the Department when they report evidence of wrongdoing. All Department of State employees, contractors, subcontractors, grantees, subgrantees, and personal services contractors are protected from retaliation for making a protected disclosure. If confirmed, I would uphold relevant laws and policies pertaining to the protection of whistleblowers, including the provisions of 5 U.S.C. § 2302(b)(8).

Question. The U.S. is the top financial contributor to several U.N. food security programs. In FY 22, the U.S. contributed approximately \$5.7 billion to the U.N. for this global effort in more than 130 countries to address instability and humanitarian crises. Given the scope and anticipated increased need, there is concern that there is multiplicity of programs that do not coordinate at the U.N. In your view, would the U.S. be better served to provide bilateral aid to closer align with U.S. policy and ability to conduct direct oversight?

Answer. The world is facing an unprecedented global food security crisis, with approximately 735 million people around the world suffering from hunger. It is a complex crisis that no individual country or even group of countries can solve alone. We

must use every tool available and continue to bring food security to the forefront of the agenda of the United Nations.

If confirmed, I will strive to ensure that food security programming conducted by the Rome-based food agencies, including the World Food Program, U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, and International Fund for Agricultural Development are coordinated among themselves and with broader U.N. efforts, and are fully transparent and accountable. I will fight to maintain integrity, promote U.S. values, and uphold good governance at the Rome-based food agencies, which continue to deliver on critical emergency, development, and normative efforts to reduce global food insecurity. If confirmed, I would commit my unrelenting efforts to advance U.S. interests and values in the face of the unrelenting efforts of our competitors in the U.N. system.

Question. If confirmed, how will you effectively track U.S. funding to the U.N. that matches U.S. policy objectives?

Answer. If confirmed, one of my top priorities will be to ensure the effective and efficient use of American taxpayer dollars in a manner consistent with the strategic objectives and policy priorities of the United States. Transparency, accountability, and tracking are a critical part of ensuring efficient use of funds.

If confirmed, I will ensure that development and humanitarian policies, strategies, and programs involving the Rome-based U.N. agencies (RBAs) are developed in close partnership across the U.S. Government, including with U.S. missions abroad, and other partners, and that programs align with the objectives in the National Security Strategy and the Joint Department of State-USAID Strategic Plan.

And, if confirmed, as part of the Administration's focus on strategic competition, I will monitor RBA activities internally through their governing bodies—including reviewing internal and external audits—and externally through field visits and our U.S. interagency network on the ground.

Question. If confirmed, how will you ensure effective vetting procedures and monitoring mechanisms actually occur at the U.N. for your area of responsibility?

Answer. If confirmed, my first priority will be to ensure the effective and efficient use of U.S. taxpayer dollars. I will be your partner in fighting to maintain integrity, promote U.S. values, and uphold good governance and oversight. I will monitor the organizations' activities internally through their governing bodies and externally through field visits and our interagency network working on the ground.

I will also work with likeminded countries, to the greatest extent possible, to keep member states that flout an organization's founding principles from being elected to governing bodies and leadership positions. I would use the United States' leadership role in governing bodies to actively monitor human resources policies and actions to ensure applicants are screened for prior misconduct and that executive heads take appropriate disciplinary action when staff engage in misconduct and criminal acts. Finally, I would advocate for highly qualified U.S. citizens to serve at all levels in the organizations.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED TO
HON. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

Convention on Combatting Bribery

One of the OECD's most powerful tools is its Convention on Combatting Bribery, which sets a global gold standard for preventing corruption. While its impact is greatest in OECD member countries, the standards set forth in the Convention are recognized around the world. In fact, Senator Risch and I—as part of legislation that we are developing to strengthen U.S. competition with the PRC—have developed a provision that will require the State Department and Treasury Department to provide technical assistance to non-OECD member states to help them develop and adopt legal standards that match those in the Convention.

Question. Representative Maloney, can you talk to us about the Convention on Combatting Bribery, why it is so important, and what steps you will take, if confirmed, to strengthen its impact around the world?

Answer. The Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions (Anti-Bribery Convention) entered into force in 1999 and levels the global playing field for U.S. businesses by discouraging foreign business competitors from leveraging certain anti-competitive and unfair business practices such as bribery.

The Convention is one of the few international instruments focused on the “supply side” of bribery—the person or entity offering or giving a bribe—and is a vital tool for pressing OECD member states to enforce laws that criminalize bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions. If confirmed, I will continue U.S. leadership within the Working Group on Bribery (WGB), which is fundamental to ensure effective monitoring and enforcement of the Convention. If confirmed, I also will continue U.S. support for the WGB so it can continue to achieve its mandate: implementation of the Convention in all 45 member countries to ensure partners adopt and enforce legislation and regulations to combat foreign bribery, as well as cooperate with U.S. and other law enforcement entities in the investigation and prosecution of foreign bribery cases.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED TO
HON. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Americans at the OECD

Question. Please provide your views on how the United States can encourage more Americans to explore employment opportunities at the OECD. Will you commit to observing and analyzing the practices of other OECD members in supporting the employment of their own citizens at the OECD?

Answer. The Department of State collects information annually on the number of Americans employed at international organizations, including the OECD. If confirmed, I will commit to continue the practice of advocating strongly for American candidates applying for positions at the OECD and look at the practices of other members for additional opportunities to grow the number of American employees. If confirmed, one of my top priorities will be to engage with state and local government officials to share the OECD’s research, data, and best practices to better inform policies ranging from education to homelessness. Public discussion and application of OECD products is likely to raise the profile of the organization and draw the attention of young professionals and senior officials looking for opportunities in international organizations.

Question. Will you commit to investigate any challenges or barriers you might find that may be dis-incentivizing U.S. citizens who might seek employment with the organization?

Answer. Yes. I will seek out and work to mitigate any formal or informal barriers to U.S. citizen employment with the OECD. As you know, Americans working at international organizations remain subject to taxation at home, unlike their peers from other countries.

Question. Will you commit to report back to the committee with your findings and recommendations?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I commit to keeping the committee informed.

Supporting Debt Transparency and Fiscal Responsibility

Enhancing public debt transparency should be a priority. China continues to engage in irresponsible lending practices that hide the true extent of its public sector lending. The OECD Debt Transparency Initiative (DTI), launched in 2019, includes a voluntary set of principles designed to enhance transparency in private sector lending to the public sector, particularly to vulnerable low-income countries. The DTI obligates lenders to disclose information about their loans to governments, including the amount of the loan, the interest rate, the repayment schedule, and the purpose of the loan. In addition, lenders disclose information about any guarantees or collateral they have received in connection with the loan.

Question. Please provide your thoughts on how the United States can advocate at the OECD for better debt transparency, particularly with lenders who are neither OECD and nor Paris Club members.

Answer. The United States, through leadership roles in a range of OECD working groups and committees, including the Working Group on Bribery and the Public Governance Committee, is well positioned to advocate for improved debt transparency at the OECD. Debt transparency is fundamental for public accountability and economic growth, and, if confirmed, I look forward to robust engagement with the OECD to bolster ongoing efforts to advocate for improved debt transparency, specifically for loans from non-OECD and non-Paris Club member countries.

Through amplifying the OECD's Public Debt Transparency Initiative and other related efforts from the OECD Financial Markets Division to improve the scope, quality, and consistency of debt statistics and loan terms, U.S. leadership will ensure the OECD is a resource and advocate for transparent lending. The lack of transparency in debt practices, specifically non-disclosure clauses, complicates international efforts to promote sound debt management and prevent debt crises. If confirmed, as Ambassador I will press the OECD to encourage borrowers to adopt best practices for debt management, including public disclosure of debt and only contracting loans which do not include non-disclosure clauses.

Export and Other Subsidies

Government subsidies can distort markets, leading to inefficient allocation of resources and the creation of unfair trade advantages. Historically, the United States has led the world in establishing disciplines on government subsidies to keep international trade free and fair. Some are now advocating for reopening such disciplines to promote favored policy outcomes, for example, creating exceptions for "green subsidies" in the pursuit of carbon mitigation and reduction.

Question. What are your thoughts on reopening established rules on subsidies?

Answer. The United States is firmly committed to the rules-based international trading system. We seek fair competition, transparency, respect for the rule of law, and trade that promotes these shared values and helps meet the challenges of our time, including strained supply chains, equity for workers, and the climate crisis. Any change to the established rules on subsidies would need to align with these shared values.

Question. Do you see any potential dangers with this approach?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to ensure U.S. interests are protected. I would refer you to USTR for more details on the reform initiatives the U.S. is actively involved in.

Question. Do we risk an escalation over which we will quickly lose control?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to ensure that U.S. interests are protected.

Countering China

China appears to be growing increasingly hostile to the idea of the OECD and its work. Many OECD members see the organization as a vital network of friendly partners, protecting them from Chinese retaliation.

Question. How can the U.S. and its allies leverage the OECD and its best practices and principles to counter authoritarian, state capitalism messages and advocacy coming from China?

Answer. I am deeply concerned by the People's Republic of China (PRC) actions in international organizations that aim to reshape the international order to align with its authoritarian system. If confirmed, I will seek to ensure that any OECD engagement with the PRC supports member nation interests and upholds the norms, high standards, and practices that underpin the rules-based global economic order. Additionally, I will work to leverage the OECD's role in developing best practices for global trade, digital economy policy, anti-corruption, infrastructure, and other policy areas to counter alternative models pushed by authoritarian states that undermine global values, rules, and norms.

The Chinese continue to facilitate steel and aluminum overproduction. Many see worrying trends that China is 1) exporting its subsidized steel and aluminum investment to lower quality (and higher carbon content) production capacity to its neighbors so that it can focus on 2) subsidizing the production of higher quality steel (for aerospace and automotive, for example) at home and further crowd out any competitors in the OECD countries. The result is that Chinese overproduction of steel is expected to continue but will spread to include production in third countries.

Question. What steps do you intend to take to support the OECD's work in this area of curbing harmful Chinese steel overproduction and to ensure this problem remains an important topic on the G7 agenda?

Answer. Last year, the United States agreed to remove the 232 tariffs on the EU as a condition for negotiating a Global Arrangement. I understand that a Global Arrangement is envisioned to cover all steel and aluminum products subject to the Section 232 tariffs. We have a real opportunity to modernize our approach to trade,

notably in how we consider carbon intensity in emissions intensive goods and collectively address the effects of non-market excess capacity on our market-oriented steel and aluminum industries.

OECD Membership

Question. The OECD appears to be headed for a final, total membership of 50 member states. What are your thoughts regarding the accession process and the geographical balance of potential members?

Answer. The OECD's global influence derives not from the size or composition of its membership but from the quality and impact of its policy instruments and best practices. The accession process is a valuable tool to align aspiring members with the OECD's high standards and values, including a commitment to democratic governance and a market-oriented economic system. While it is important the OECD's membership reflects the world's geographic and cultural diversity, expansion for the sake of expansion is not the goal. The accession process is a way to reinforce the values aspirant countries share with current members, such as anti-corruption, open investment climates, and environmental commitments, to name a few. If confirmed, I will continue our work to ensure that the OECD can absorb and integrate new members without weakening its high standards or the effectiveness of its work. We must ensure that candidate countries are also prepared and committed to becoming members.

Because the OECD is a consensus decision-making body, it is vital that any new candidates for OECD membership support and be positioned to maintain the important shared principles of the organization and not be vulnerable to outside influence or pressures to undermine the OECD's important work.

Question. How will you ensure that any new members will remain fully committed, over the long-term, to long-standing established OECD principles and procedures?

Answer. The OECD is a group of like-minded countries committed to a market economy and pluralistic democracy. If confirmed, I commit to ensuring the integrity of the OECD's peer review process to ensure that members live up to their obligations as OECD members. I also commit to ensuring that potential new members demonstrate political commitment to core OECD values, including democratic principles, respect for rule of law, transparency, and human rights. Finally, I commit to encouraging the review of OECD engagement with non-members to ensure democratic principles remain key and that engagement is not merely done for the sake of engagement.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO HON. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY BY SENATOR MARCO RUBIO

Question. In May 2022, Secretary Blinken said that the People's Republic of China is the "only country with both the intent to reshape the international order and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to do it." The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) clearly holds the reins of power in the People's Republic of China and has used this power to commit genocide in Xinjiang, flood our communities with fentanyl, and emit, by far the largest quantity of greenhouse gases in the world today. With their absolute control of Chinese society and industry, the CCP could stop all of these destructive actions tomorrow if they so choose. Is the Chinese Communist Party a threat to the United States?

Answer. Earlier this year, the Director of National Intelligence testified that "the CCP represents both the leading and most consequential threat to U.S. national security and leadership globally." Under President Xi, the CCP has become more repressive at home and more aggressive abroad, seeking to undercut U.S. influence and alliances. If confirmed, I will advance U.S. national security interests and push back against PRC efforts to expand its problematic influence, through robust and forthright diplomatic engagements, public diplomacy, and commercial advocacy in the OECD as the United States' Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the organization.

Question. Does the Chinese Communist Party undertake any activities that are beneficial to U.S. interests?

Answer. As Secretary Blinken has said, the CCP has become more repressive at home and more aggressive abroad. According to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence's 2023 Annual Threat Assessment, the CCP is seeking to "undercut U.S. influence, drive wedges between Washington and its partners, and foster some norms that favor its authoritarian system."

Question. Do you believe that there are any areas within which the Chinese Communist Party would constructively work with the United States in good faith?

Answer. As the United States competes vigorously with the PRC, the United States manages this competition responsibly so that competition does not veer into conflict. The United States will work with the PRC to address transnational and global challenges, such as climate change, when it is in our interest to do so—as Secretary Blinken has said, not as a favor to us or anyone else, and never in exchange for walking away from our principles, but because it is what the world expects. If confirmed, I will work with the Department of State's new Office of China Coordination to advance U.S. objectives and counter harmful behavior by the PRC and other actors in the OECD.

Question. If confirmed, will you approve any joint activity with organizations or representatives from the People's Republic of China in the country in which you will work?

Answer. If confirmed, my priority will be advancing U.S. national security interests in the OECD and countering efforts by our strategic and regional competitors to undermine those interests. The Administration has been clear that the PRC is the most consequential geopolitical challenge facing the United States, and that the United States is committed to working to strengthen our partners in the region. If confirmed, I will work closely with Department of State, interagency colleagues, and Congress to address China's efforts to expand its influence in the OECD and with its member states.

Question. As you may be aware, a group of federal employees penned an open letter to President Biden criticizing U.S. support for Israel in the aftermath of Hamas' brutal terrorist attack on October 7, 2023. Efforts like these directly undermine the duty of our diplomats to advance the policies of the President of the United States. Yes or no, did you sign the open letter to the President expressing opposition to the President's Israel policy?

Answer. No, I did not sign the open letter to the President expressing opposition to the policy on Israel.

Question. Have you ever expressed support for an Israeli ceasefire in Gaza?

Answer. No, I have not expressed support for an Israeli ceasefire in Gaza.

Question. Do you agree that Hamas is an antisemitic entity and that a ceasefire would allow these groups to reconstitute and attack Israel, and Americans, in the future?

Answer. Yes, Hamas is a U.S. designated terrorist group that seeks to eliminate the State of Israel and whose founding charter calls for the killing of Jewish people. A ceasefire right now would give Hamas time to regroup and would fail to prevent Hamas from continuing terror attacks and firing rockets at Israel.

Question. Do you agree that calling for a ceasefire in Gaza means calling for Israel to stop its pursuit of Hamas, a designated foreign terrorist organization, that orchestrated the October 7 attacks and still refuses to release Israeli and American hostages?

Answer. A ceasefire in Gaza would allow Hamas time and space to regroup. The U.S. Government is working intensively with the Governments of Qatar, Egypt, and Israel to secure humanitarian pauses and the release of all hostages from Gaza. We are focused each day at the highest levels on freeing hostages and facilitating safe passage for wounded civilians and third country nationals, including Americans, out of Gaza.

Question. Do you believe that Israel, in its operation against Hamas, which is known to use civilians as human shields, is taking all necessary steps to minimize civilian casualties?

Answer. Hamas has deeply embedded itself within the civilian population, which creates an added challenge for the Israeli military in conducting its operations in Gaza. The U.S. Government has been clear on the necessity for Israel to act in full compliance with its obligations under international humanitarian law and has urged all possible steps to protect civilians. The United States supports Israel's right to protect itself from terrorism, consistent with international law.

Question. If confirmed, would you define one of your employees or contractors signing an open letter criticizing you, or policies you undertake at the instruction of the President, as insubordination as defined by the Government Accountability Office?

Answer. As a nominee for Ambassador, I believe valuing opinions, trust, and fostering a harassment-free workplace are all key to managing dissent.

While I would prefer to address employee concerns personally, making concerns known publicly is not insubordination, as defined by the Government Accountability Office.

Question. If confirmed, how will you address discipline issues, such as insubordination, that do not take established dissent channels?

Answer. If an employee did not express dissent through official channels, I would make sure that the employee knew of the many opportunities available to employees to express dissent and knew that Department leadership listens to varying views on policy issues.

If confirmed, I would then encourage the employee to use standardized dissent channels to express views and affect change. While we may not always agree, employees must know they are safe bringing their opinions to leadership.

Question. In your view, are the actions these federal employees took, by anonymously signing a letter to the President of the United States, covered as “whistle-blowing?”

Answer. Employees must feel safe to express dissenting views to leadership. While anonymously signing a letter to the President is a less than ideal mechanism to bring an alternative policy view before leadership, it is important that employees be able to safely express disagreement without fear of reprisal. Employees should feel that their opinions are protected and that they will not be subject to reprisal.

Question. In 1961, the OECD was created to be the economic counterpart to NATO and has 20 founding country members. Since its creation, OECD has expanded to 38 countries and aims to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all in spaces where the IMF, World Bank, or UN do not operate such as anti-bribery conventions, data privacy guidelines, and enforcement of laws protecting privacy. OECD carries out most of its work via committees. Do you believe U.S. interests are being fairly represented in these committees?

Answer. Yes, I believe U.S. interests are being fairly represented in the OECD’s committees. Subject matter experts from across U.S. Government departments and agencies represent the United States on the OECD’s various committees and working groups. These experts collaborate closely across the U.S. Government as they formulate their positions in committee and consider the views of other U.S. stakeholders, including the private sector, where appropriate. As you have noted, issues such as anti-bribery, data privacy, and enforcement of laws protecting privacy are important, and the OECD is an important forum of like-minded countries to discuss best policies and practices. In addition, the OECD operates by consensus, and a proposed policy measure or committee stance will not move forward in the OECD if the United States objects. If confirmed, my door will always be open to our inter-agency delegates, the U.S. Congress, and other American stakeholders to ensure U.S. interests are well represented in the organization.

Question. Should OECD invite China to join in its work?

Answer. China is not a member of the OECD. It is one of five designated “Key Partner” countries, along with Brazil, India, Indonesia, and South Africa, given the size and importance of their economies. OECD’s membership represents most of the world’s economy; the organization gathers and analyzes global, regional, and country-specific economic data, so it is important, for example, that economic data on China be considered along with the rest of the world in the research and analysis that the OECD conducts. China is, therefore, sometimes invited by OECD members to be present in select committees, working groups, and meetings. The United States and other likeminded countries do not support China’s inclusion as a member of the OECD. If confirmed, I will continue to support the Administration’s position.

Question. If confirmed, will you support China’s efforts to join OECD?

Answer. Throughout the OECD’s 62-year history, China has not been an OECD member. Accession to the OECD is only by invitation from all members after an aspiring country has been deemed to share common principles and values, and is subject to that country’s successful completion of a rigorous roadmap set by OECD members, with the aspirant committing to adhere to a set of democratic and eco-

conomic principles and achieving specified benchmarks. China does not meet OECD's membership invitation criteria.

Moreover, China has never expressed an interest in joining. Any future decision to invite China to pursue accession would need to be by consensus of the entire OECD membership—including the United States—and we are not in favor. If confirmed, I will continue to advance the U.S. Government's position on this and other issues at the OECD.

Question. The OECD is attempting to regulate brazen practices of some developing countries which have been identified as tax havens. In your view, should the U.S. support OECD efforts to address this problem?

Answer. Tax policy is an area where the OECD plays a pivotal convening role for the 145 countries engaged in the multi-year Inclusive Framework for negotiating new tax architecture to prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.

This progress towards rules to create a fair, stable, and predictable international tax regime, including a global minimum tax, directly respond to concerns from U.S. investors over the years. Achieving these objectives will create a fairer tax system for U.S. workers and U.S. companies, while generating tax revenues to cover critical national priorities.

If confirmed, I will work closely with the Treasury Department—the U.S. Government lead on tax policy—and our partners at the OECD to protect U.S. interests, both at home and abroad.

Question. If so, how aggressively and in what manner?

Answer. The United States has been a leader in OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework negotiations for the last decade, spanning various Administrations. The United States has consistently sought ambitious timelines and actively pursued consensus positions that benefit U.S. interests in an effort to achieve a new global tax architecture that is fit for the digital economy, as soon as possible to minimize uncertainty and support long-term planning for U.S. businesses and investors.

This effort includes Treasury's request for stakeholder comments on the Pillar 1 agreement that provides a fair, stable, level playing field, that allows U.S. companies to win on a global scale.

Question. Does this include setting a so-called "global" minimum corporate tax rate that is higher than the current corporate tax rate in the United States?

Answer. Overall, Pillar Two makes U.S. companies more competitive. Before Pillar Two, U.S. multinationals were the only taxpayers subject to a minimum tax on foreign earnings. Now, all multinationals are subject to a minimum tax, no matter where they are headquartered or operate.

When we level the global playing field by eliminating other jurisdictions' tax advantage, U.S. companies and workers can compete to win.

The global floor of 15 percent is lower than the current 21 percent corporate tax rate in the United States.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO HON. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY BY SENATOR TODD YOUNG

Question. As a threshold question, do you believe that protecting and defending American interests and our domestic tax revenues should be the most important goal for the Biden Administration in these negotiations, yes or no? Please explain your response.

Answer. Yes, we all agree that protecting and defending American interests—including those of U.S. workers and the U.S. economy—and our domestic revenues are the most important goals for the Biden Administration in the OECD/G20 global tax negotiations.

Overall, Pillar Two makes U.S. companies more competitive. Before Pillar Two, U.S. multinationals were the only taxpayers subject to a minimum tax on foreign earnings. Now, all multinationals are subject to a minimum tax, no matter where they are headquartered or operate.

When we level the global playing field by eliminating other jurisdictions' tax advantage, U.S. companies and workers can compete to win. If confirmed, I will work closely with the Treasury Department and our partners at the OECD to protect U.S. interests, both at home and abroad.

Question. Are you troubled by JCT's June 2023 findings referenced above? Why or why not?

Answer. While I would refer you to Treasury for specifics, it is my understanding that the JCT June 2023 analysis begins with the assumption that over 40 countries adopt Pillar Two and that the United States does nothing.

Under that assumption, the JCT finds that the U.S. revenue impact could vary by about \$400 billion—with the midpoint being an increase in U.S. tax receipts by \$25 billion. Then the JCT analyzes several scenarios; in each scenario, U.S. adoption of Pillar Two is better from a revenue perspective than the United States doing nothing. For instance, scenario 5 shows that U.S. adoption along with the 40+ countries in the baseline means a U.S. revenue increase of \$237 billion.

So, overall, the takeaway is if other major members of the global economy are moving ahead—and they are doing so—it is better from a revenue perspective for the United States to act than to remain on the sidelines.

Question. If confirmed as Ambassador, how would you utilize your position to ensure American domestic interests are protected?

Answer. I believe that it is essential to continue discussions at the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework to protect U.S. interests, level the playing field for U.S. companies, and prevent double taxation.

If confirmed, I will work closely with Treasury and other U.S. agencies to ensure that U.S. views continue to be reflected in the tax policy work of the OECD, and to provide appropriate policy articulation to the OECD and feedback to the U.S. Government.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO HON. CHARLIE CRIST BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

Emissions Reduction Efforts

ICAO has introduced the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme in International Aviation (CORSIA), intended to “harmonize” emissions reduction efforts across international aviation.

Question. How do you see this effort interacting with aviation industry-led initiatives to reduce emissions?

Answer. Over time, the aviation industry has made concerted voluntary efforts to reduce its “value chain emissions”—emissions from assets not owned or controlled by the company, but in its value chain. However, like any corporate sustainability initiative, the aviation sector’s voluntary actions are not always implemented consistently, and certainly not universally. CORSIA ensures that airlines are taking sustained climate actions that meet a high and common bar for effectiveness. If confirmed, I will continue to encourage airlines to go above and beyond CORSIA’s core requirements, which many U.S. airlines already do.

Question. Are there points of tension between CORSIA and any efforts industry may have already begun to reduce emissions?

Answer. Those types of tensions are generally not evident. Some airlines may choose to voluntarily purchase carbon credits or to invest in early-stage sustainable alternative fuels that, in either case, are not yet eligible under CORSIA. But most airlines recognize the importance of ensuring that compliance-eligible credits or fuels meet a high, common bar for quality, to preserve the integrity and reputation of CORSIA as a global climate measure.

Question. How can ICAO work constructively with industry on this issue?

Answer. The United States and other ICAO member states work directly with industry and civil society representatives in the ICAO technical bodies that develop and recommend guidance or standards for CORSIA’s implementation. It appears that arrangement is quite unique in the UN system. It has proven to be constructive in helping to ensure broad acceptance of ICAO’s decisions on CORSIA across a range of stakeholder groups, including industry, and if confirmed, I will continue this practice.

Passenger Safety

The most important responsibility of ICAO is ensuring passenger safety.

Question. What more needs to be done to make civil aviation safer for passengers?

Answer. As I said in my testimony, passenger safety would be my top priority, if confirmed. ICAO’s mission proactively focuses on enhancements in technology, regular reviews of standards and recommended practices (SARPs), conducting thorough safety audits, and promoting global cooperation to bolster passenger safety.

The United States is an active participant in all of these activities, and if confirmed I will make sure these continue to be a priority in our engagement with ICAO.

Question. Are ICAO's current passenger safety standards sufficient?

Answer. ICAO is responsive to the dynamic nature of the aviation industry and continually assesses the evolving landscape to ensure its global aviation standards remain effective and adaptable to emerging challenges. If confirmed, I will work with our U.S. interagency team to ensure that we continue to move forward ICAO's work in this area.

Airspace Security

Airspace security over high-traffic, active warzones—such as Ukraine and the Middle East—is of the utmost importance.

Question. What role do you see ICAO playing in developing alternative routes for flights in these regions?

Answer. Throughout the world, in various high-traffic or conflict areas, ICAO plays a pivotal role in developing alternative routes by facilitating international cooperation and coordination. This work involves ICAO bringing together member states, airlines, and relevant authorities to assess and establish safer options.

Question. How can ICAO best support airspace security efforts, and how can the Biden administration best support ICAO in this regard?

Answer. ICAO supports airspace security efforts by fostering international collaboration, communication, and leveraging advanced technologies for real-time threat assessments. The Biden administration can support ICAO in these efforts by promoting ICAO's initiatives and encouraging adherence to international aviation safety and security standards.

Taiwan Observer Status

Members of Congress, on a bipartisan basis, have repeatedly made the case for including Taiwan as an observer of ICAO. They are an important stakeholder in global aviation, and can substantially contribute to safe and secure international air navigation and transport. However, in the past, influence from the People's Republic of China—both internal and external to the organization—has made that impossible to achieve.

Question. How would you seek to address this issue, if confirmed?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to supporting Taiwan's meaningful participation in ICAO, in line with longstanding U.S. policy. I would continue to support Taiwan's membership in international organizations where statehood is not a requirement and encourage Taiwan's meaningful participation in organizations where membership is not possible.

Aviation security, safety, and environmental impacts are matters of global importance, and should involve all interested stakeholders, including Taiwan, which has a major aviation sector and can both benefit from and contribute to technical discussions on aviation safety and security based on its own aviation experiences.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED TO HON. CHARLIE CRIST BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Question. Prior to 2019, the State Department withheld about \$2 million in contributions pursuant to Sec. 7048(a) of the FY2019 Consolidated Appropriations Act, which mandates the withholding of 15 percent of contributions to international organizations that do not implement sufficient whistleblower protections. After the adoption and implementation of key ethics and oversight reforms, the U.S. restored full funding. However, this is no longer standard practice and concern remains regarding adherence to ethics and whistleblower protections. If confirmed, how will you direct the U.S. Mission to ICAO to push for transparency, adherence to ethics and oversight reforms, and the protection of whistleblowers?

Answer. The Administration is committed to improving transparency and accountability at ICAO, which includes eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse, as well as protecting whistleblowers from retaliation. If confirmed, I will continue and build on the United States' work to ensure that whistleblowers can report wrongdoing without fear of reprisal.

Following a high-level claim of retaliation in June 2019, the U.S. Mission increased its efforts to address deficiencies in ICAO's ethics framework, investigation

procedures, and Secretariat transparency. Concerted action on the part of the Mission and its stakeholders led to ICAO's adoption of a new whistleblower protection policy and new procedures for investigating complaints of staff misconduct.

In addition, in April 2021, ICAO became one of the few U.N. System organizations to adopt rules of procedure specifically for handling complaints of misconduct against its executive head.

If confirmed, I will continue this engagement to ensure that ICAO's transparency and accountability mechanisms meet U.N. System-wide best practices. I will also commit to working closely with the organization to ensure it is effectively implementing its whistleblower protection policy.

Question. How will you hold the body accountable for doing so given it has fallen way short in the past?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that ICAO is accountable and responsible for the U.S. taxpayer resources that they receive. This includes continuing the long-standing U.S. policy of promoting budget discipline, as well as continuing efforts to ensure that senior management is held to account for promoting ethical conduct throughout ICAO's ranks. I will also work to ensure that ICAO adheres to best management and oversight practices in the areas of protecting whistleblowers, addressing sexual exploitation and abuse, promoting zero tolerance for corruption, and ensuring financial and managerial transparency.

Question. Are you familiar with the whistleblower scandal at ICAO in recent years where the secretary general of ICAO, Fang Liu, was accused by a senior official-turned-whistleblower of "toxic and hostile" leadership marked by "cronyism" and "favoritism," and where no investigation place and the whistleblower was fired by ICAO?

Answer. Yes, I am familiar with the case. I share your determination to see that whistleblowers are supported and protected in appropriate ways. If confirmed, I will work through the Council to promote a culture at ICAO in which staff feel free to speak up and that processes are in place to protect against retaliation when they call attention to wrongdoing. I will work to ensure that cronyism and favoritism have no place at ICAO.

Aviation safety and security systems depend on the ability and willingness of crew and airport staff to report concerns that could lead to damage and/or loss of life. ICAO must lead by example through effective policies and practices for reporting and addressing misconduct and for preventing retaliation against whistleblowers.

Question. In brief, a breach of ICAO's servers by a Chinese state-sponsored hacker group which took place in 2019 and revealed in 2019. The hackers reportedly gained access to the agency's system through a compromised laptop belonging to the son of then-ICAO Council President Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu. The hackers compromised the laptop of an ICAO official was in Beijing. Leaked documents show that ICAO staff sought to cover up the incident, and Liu reportedly ignored internal recommendations to investigate further. Are you familiar with this case which has been widely reported on? What is your perspective and how would you direct your mission to prevent incidents like this from happening in the future?

Answer. I am familiar with the serious cyberattack at ICAO that was revealed in 2019, and the flawed response within the organization. If confirmed, I will support ICAO Secretary General Juan Carlos Salazar's efforts to modernize and reform the operations of the organization. Secretary General Salazar made several management changes in his first year, including taking steps to implement the ICAO Council's ethics reform package that the United States had spearheaded in 2020–2021. Salazar also initiated a "digital transformation" effort that would, among other things, enhance cyber security across the organization. If confirmed, I will press for continued implementation of those reforms to ensure enhanced transparency in the handling of these types of cases.

Question. On January 8, 2020, the Islamic Republic of Iran shot down Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752, a civilian aircraft departing a Tehran airport. 176 innocent passengers and crew members were killed, including 138 people with ties to Canada. More than a year after the downing, the Governments of Canada and Ukraine have rejected Iran's handling of, and investigation into, the PS752 downing, pushing for Iran's full adherence to international conventions. The G7 Summit Communique reaffirmed the G7's commitment to addressing this case. If confirmed, will you commit to publicly and meaningfully supporting our allies and partners in Canada and Ukraine to pursue full accountability, transparency, and justice in this case and future cases, including at ICAO?

Answer. With respect to the shooting down of Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752, I understand that United States participated in the investigation, including with an accredited representative on the investigation team. I understand that the ICAO Accident Investigation Panel formed a working group to explore some of the unique issues raised by this incident. If confirmed, I will work with our international partners to ensure the integrity of the accident investigation process and to hold those responsible for the shoot-down of Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752 accountable. If confirmed, I will also call on Iran to uphold its responsibilities to the victims and families of this tragic incident.

Question. Since 2013, Taiwan has been systematically excluded from participating at ICAO, including during key discussions to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the early days of the pandemic. Taiwan operates one of the busiest airports by passenger and cargo traffic in the world. Can you commit to championing Taiwan's bid to attain observer status at ICAO?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to promote Taiwan's meaningful participation at ICAO, in line with longstanding U.S. policy. I would also continue to support Taiwan's membership in international organizations where statehood is not a requirement and encourage Taiwan's meaningful participation in organizations where membership is not possible. Taiwan's involvement helps the international community address global challenges.

Taiwan, with its major aviation sector, can both benefit from and contribute to technical discussions on aviation safety and security based on its own aviation experiences. Aviation security, safety, and environmental impacts are matters of global importance, and should involve all interested stakeholders, including Taiwan.

Question. How will the U.S. Mission to ICAO, in conjunction with the State Department, specifically work to assist Taiwan in its bid?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to demonstrate to ICAO members that Taiwan has important contributions to make in many areas of ICAO's work, including the safety and security of civil aviation. I will press ICAO leadership to provide meaningful participation for Taiwan at all appropriate levels and events, and work to build support with likeminded partners. If confirmed, I will make this a priority at ICAO and work with the State Department and other agencies to identify opportunities and events to support Taiwan's participation so that the international community can benefit from its contributions on this important issue.

Question. On May 23, 2021, Ryanair flight FR4978 was forcibly diverted by the Government of Belarus and a passenger was arrested. ICAO has taken up an investigation of this event. Can you commit to ensuring that the fact-finding investigation into Ryanair Flight FR4978 is completed with transparency?

Answer. Belarus' forced diversion of Ryanair Flight 4978 and subsequent arrest of an opposition journalist and a colleague was a flagrant disregard for international norms of aviation security and safety and undermined the critical trust between pilots and air traffic control. The ICAO Council launched an investigation of this matter that was performed by a Fact-Finding Investigation Team (FFIT) of experts from the ICAO Secretariat. The FFIT report was completed in June 2022. Based on that report, the ICAO Council and the 41st ICAO Assembly, which took place in September-October 2022, condemned Belarus' infractions of the Chicago Convention related to its forced landing of Ryanair flight 4978. If confirmed, I commit to working to ensure future investigations are conducted with full transparency.

Question. How will you work to combat malign Chinese influence at ICAO?

Answer. If confirmed, I will prioritize working with allies and partners to strengthen ICAO's governance and its ability to fulfil its mandate of ensuring the safety, security, and sustainability of civil aviation. I will oppose efforts by states, including the PRC, that seek to make ICAO and other international organizations less transparent and accountable or to use the organizations to advance their own interests. If confirmed, I will also continue to support greater U.S. representation at ICAO, including by advocating for qualified and independent candidates.

Question. If confirmed, how will you work to recruit, install and retain qualified Americans for positions within the U.N.? How can you, alongside colleagues at U.S./U.N. New York and the Bureau of International Organizations (IO), promote such individuals in the U.N. system to better promote America's values and the shared interests of our partners?

Answer. If confirmed, increasing U.S. citizen employment at ICAO would be a top priority. Increasing the number of U.S. citizens in international organizations such as ICAO requires a multifaceted approach focused on all levels of employment. I

would work with the IO Bureau and its missions to promote qualified U.S. citizens for senior leadership and mid-level appointment opportunities, as well as entry-level talent through programs such as the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) program.

Question. What is your understanding of morale throughout the U.S. Mission to ICAO?

Answer. My understanding is that morale is good at the U.S. Mission to ICAO. Having said that, establishing and maintaining high morale is always a work in progress. I understand that the current Chargé d'Affaires, Brent Christensen, has done a very good job of working with employees at Mission ICAO for a better atmosphere. If confirmed, I am absolutely committed to continuing and building on this effort.

Question. How do you intend to improve morale at U.S. Mission to ICAO?

Answer. If confirmed, I would bring to the role a strong respect for the Mission and its employees. I would also bring a commitment to work in concert with the team to advance United States interests at this important multilateral agency.

Question. How do you intend to create a unified mission and vision at U.S. Mission to ICAO?

Answer. My intention would be to incorporate the insights of all the current employees at the U.S. Mission to ICAO. Then, to make sure that we are unified in our mission, to improve the U.S. standing at ICAO, and increase the number of U.S. citizen employees at ICAO.

Question. Management is a key responsibility for Chiefs of Mission. How would you describe your management style?

Answer. I strive to lead by example. I commit myself to serve with integrity and mutual respect. I am guided by the principles of decency and kindness and valuing each and every employee for the insights they have to offer.

Question. Do you believe it is ever acceptable or constructive to berate subordinates, either in public or private?

Answer. I do not believe it is ever acceptable to berate subordinates either in public or private. I believe in honesty and decency, which my record in public service bears out. If confirmed, I commit to these guiding principles in all of my interactions with staff, and I will encourage the same from them with me and among one another.

Question. How do you envision your relationship with the Deputy Chief of Mission?

Answer. If confirmed, I would view the relationship with the Deputy Chief of Mission as one of mutual respect and built upon trust. I believe it is very important for the Deputy Chief of Mission, as well as the Ambassador, to work together in a strong partnership for the best interests of the United States of America.

Question. If confirmed, what leadership responsibilities do you intend to entrust to your Deputy Chief of Mission?

Answer. I have deep respect for the career officers of the State Department, and the tradecraft, abilities, and commitment they bring to public service. If confirmed, I would intend to entrust to the Deputy Chief of Mission the traditional roles and responsibilities assigned to DCMs at U.S. Missions around the world. I would work closely with this key officer of the U.S. mission to build trust and a cooperative relationship that prioritizes the pursuit of U.S. interests and the care of our staff.

Question. In order to create and continue employee excellence at the Department, accurate and direct employee evaluation reports (EERs) for Foreign Service Officers are imperative, though often lacking. Do you believe that it is important to provide employees with accurate, constructive feedback on their performances in order to encourage improvement and reward those who most succeeded in their roles?

Answer. I do believe it is important to provide employees with accurate, constructive feedback for their performance in their jobs. I would provide this feedback in a clear, honest, straightforward, and respectful manner in order to encourage improvement in areas that are identified.

Question. If confirmed, would you support and encourage clear, accurate, and direct feedback to employees in order to improve performance and reward high achievers?

Answer. If confirmed, I would certainly encourage clear, accurate and direct feedback to employees. I think it is important to be honest, and to be appropriately di-

rect in order to create an environment that encourages trust and improvement based upon that honesty.

Question. It is imperative that U.S. diplomats get outside of posts abroad to meet with local actors, including host government officials, non-government organizations, and local citizens. In your experience, do U.S. diplomats get outside of our Embassy walls enough to accomplish fully their missions?

Answer. Through my experience as a former Governor, I understand the importance of getting outside your comfort zone, and being in contact with those who are leaders in the country you are visiting. I was able to do this during trade missions to Europe, South America, and Israel. Based on that experience, I do believe it is important to get outside the mission's confines and interact with local officials, both in business and government.

Question. How do you intend to improve the ability of U.S. diplomats to better access all local populations?

Answer. If confirmed, I would work to ensure the small staff of the Mission is fully engaged with member states of the International Civil Aviation Organization, and actively engaged with government, civic, and business organizations of the host country, where appropriate, by making sure that their schedules allow them this opportunity.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO HON. CHARLIE CRIST BY SENATOR MARCO RUBIO

Question. In May 2022, Secretary Blinken said that the People's Republic of China is the "only country with both the intent to reshape the international order and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to do it." The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) clearly holds the reins of power in the People's Republic of China (PRC) and has used this power to commit genocide in Xinjiang, flood our communities with fentanyl, and emit, by far the largest quantity of greenhouse gases in the world today. With their absolute control of Chinese society and industry, the CCP could stop all of these destructive actions tomorrow if they so choose. Is the CCP a threat to the United States?

Answer. Earlier this year, the Director of National Intelligence testified that "the CCP represents both the leading and most consequential threat to U.S. national security and leadership globally." Under President Xi, the CCP has become more repressive at home and more aggressive abroad, seeking to undercut U.S. influence and alliances. If confirmed, I will advance U.S. national security interests and push back against PRC efforts to expand its problematic influence, through robust and forthright diplomatic engagements, public diplomacy, and commercial advocacy to bolster U.S. standing at ICAO.

Question. Does the CCP undertake any activities that are beneficial to U.S. interests? If so, please explain.

Answer. The Administration assesses the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) activities in the context of the fact that, as Secretary Blinken has said, the CCP has become more repressive at home and more aggressive abroad. According to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence's 2023 Annual Threat Assessment, the CCP is seeking to "undercut U.S. influence, drive wedges between Washington and its partners, and foster some norms that favor its authoritarian system."

Question. Do you believe that there are any areas within which the CCP that would constructively work with the United States in good faith, knowing that at any moment Chinese interlocutors with U.S. representatives could be disappeared at a moment's notice? If so, please explain.

Answer. As the United States competes vigorously with the PRC, the United States manages this competition responsibly so that competition does not veer into conflict. The United States will work with the PRC to address transnational challenges, such as climate change, when it is in our interest to do so—as Secretary Blinken has said, not as a favor to us or anyone else, and never in exchange for walking away from our principles, but because it is what the world expects. If confirmed, I will work with the Department of State's Office of China Coordination to advance U.S. objectives and counter harmful behavior by the PRC and other actors in ICAO.

Question. If confirmed, will you approve any joint activity with organizations or representatives from the PRC in the countries or areas in which you will work?

Answer. If confirmed, my priority will be advancing U.S. national security interests at ICAO and countering efforts by our strategic and regional competitors to undermine those interests. The Administration has been clear that the PRC is the most consequential geopolitical challenge facing the United States, and that the United States is committed to working to strengthen our partners in the region. If confirmed, I will work closely with Department of State and interagency colleagues and Congress to address China's efforts to expand its influence in ICAO.

Question. Along with other standard-setting UN agencies, concern has been growing that the CCP is actively working to increase its influence at the ICAO in order to ensure that its preferred rules are imposed on the rest of the world. For example, in 2020, the Trump Administration criticized the ICAO's decision to block the twitter accounts of world leaders who called for Taiwan to be include in the ICAO. There have also been Chinese attempts to steer ICAO regulations for passports to favor formats that would benefit Chinese manufacturers. If confirmed, in what areas can we work with the CCP regarding international aviation?

Answer. One area is reducing emissions. While ICAO Resolutions are not legally binding, the Assembly Resolution on the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) asked ICAO to develop standards and recommended practices (SARPs) ensuring its uniform implementation. Those standards cover all requirements necessary for ensuring a level playing field for U.S. airlines. If confirmed, I commit to working for early participation of countries with significant aviation activity, such as the PRC.

The United States and China have a history of cooperating on civil aviation, including an active program to support the certifying of aircraft components manufactured in China. If confirmed, I will continue to support where those efforts continue to serve United States interests.

Question. Do you commit to voting against proposals, put forward by CCP representatives to the ICAO, which are not to the U.S.' interests?

Answer. Standard-setting bodies are essential to the national security and economic security of the United States and our partners, friends, and allies. Organizations such as ICAO must remain transparent and accountable to membership, focused on mandates and core competencies, and led by independent, qualified individuals. If confirmed, I will prioritize working with allies and partners to strengthen ICAO's governance and its ability to fulfil its mandate: the safety, security, and sustainability of civil aviation. If confirmed, I will oppose efforts by states, including the PRC, that seek to make ICAO and other international organizations less transparent and accountable or to use the organizations to advance their own narrow interests rather than those of all U.N. member states.

Question. ICAO additionally regulates international balloon and airship flights. Will you commit to voting against any airship or balloon proposals put forward by the CCP?

Answer. If confirmed, I will make clear our Nation's firm resolve to counter efforts by states that may seek to advance initiatives that are harmful to U.S. interests or seek to use ICAO to advance their own narrow interests rather than those of all UN member states.

Question. Do you support Taiwan's participation at the ICAO?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to supporting Taiwan's meaningful participation in ICAO, in line with longstanding U.S. policy. The United States will continue to support Taiwan's membership in international organizations where statehood is not a requirement and encourage Taiwan's meaningful participation in organizations where membership is not possible.

Aviation security, safety, and environmental impacts are matters of global importance, and should involve all interested stakeholders, including Taiwan, which has a major aviation sector and can both benefit from and contribute to technical discussions on aviation safety and security based on its own aviation experiences.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO HON. CHARLIE CRIST BY SENATOR TED CRUZ

As you know, members of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) work to adopt consensus standards to maintain safe and efficient

airspace systems. In 2006, ICAO increased the mandatory pilot retirement age for commercial pilots from 60 to 65, after analysis from ICAO's aviation chief medical determined that any aviation risk due to the pilot's age was less than 0.84 percent—a rapidly diminished percentage since the original analysis, due to significant technological advancements in aircraft automation.

Every year, thousands of U.S. commercial pilots are forced into mandatory retirement at age 65, without a stable income and still being healthy enough to fly and educate younger pilots. The 65-year-old pilot community does not want to leave their job. These pilots are committed to serving our Nation's skies and ensuring safety remains the gold standard in aviation.

Question. Would you support a two-year increase in the U.S. pilot retirement age requirement for commercial pilots, from age 65 to 67? Further, how would you advocate for its adoption at the international level?

Answer. As I understand it, the FAA would need to conduct additional research to ensure that any changes do not impact safe operations in the National Airspace System. After having the opportunity to discuss with your office, I recognize this is an important issue for ICAO, the FAA, and the Senate. If confirmed, should the U.S. Government pursue increasing the maximum pilot age following completion of additional research, I would work with your office, and with our international partners, to ensure harmonization, including at ICAO.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO CARDELL KENNETH RICHARDSON, SR. BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

Ukraine Oversight Efforts

I understand that the State Department OIG has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, which includes informal information-sharing agreements and investigative collaboration, signaling significant Ukrainian buy-in to our efforts to prevent waste of U.S. tax dollars. State OIG also has personnel on the ground in Kyiv that facilitates engagement with Ukrainian authorities.

Question. Do you agree that partnering with Ukraine is important to ongoing oversight efforts? How do you plan to ensure that Ukraine is engaged in accountability of funds?

Answer. Partnering with Ukraine officials is essential in the ongoing oversight of assistance to Ukraine. The accountability of funds has to be a collaborative effort between the USG and Ukraine officials. If confirmed, to ensure accountability of funds, I will partner with Inspectors General from the Department of Defense (DOD) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to ensure programmatic audits and evaluations of Ukraine assistance as reflected in the Joint Strategic Oversight Plan for Operation Atlantic Resolve (OAR) are executed in a timely manner. These projects will reveal whether or not the proper processes and internal controls are in place, and being followed. The intent is to be proactive in preventing fraud, waste, abuse or gross mismanagement; and to expose flags or fraud indicators, and investigate as appropriate. The process will require a positive relationship with Ukraine officials to ensure access to files, processes and data. If confirmed I will travel to Ukraine, along with IGs from DOD and USAID and meet with Ukraine officials to develop the necessary relationships to ensure OIG has ample access to conduct the requisite scopes of analysis to ensure full accountability of funds. Currently there is a trip to Ukraine planned for the January-February 2024 timeframe to meet with stakeholder officials from the National Anticorruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU), the Special Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO) and the High Anti-Corruption Court (HACC). If confirmed I will meet and work with these Ukraine officials to ensure that OIG has the cooperation necessary to perform the required oversight of U.S. assistance to Ukraine.

Question. How do you plan to balance the pressing need to conduct scrupulous oversight of U.S. assistance to Ukraine with other pressing priorities?

Answer. Oversight is multifaceted. Recognizing that resources are finite, while requirements tend to be infinite; I will assess the situation and prioritize accordingly, since all priorities are not equal. I will align the available resources to the highest priorities. I will conduct a risk assessment and gap analysis, then adjust accordingly and act deliberately. If the risk analysis suggests that more, or different resources are needed to support the oversight requirements, I will make an informed case,

and request additional resources necessary to carry out the oversight mission fully and accurately.

Independence

Above all, the most critical trait that an Inspector General must have is independence. Unfortunately, there have been attempts in recent memory to influence Inspector Generals and impugn their integrity.

Question. Do you commit to us that you will serve as a fully independent Inspector General, free from influence, political or otherwise?

Answer. Yes, absolutely.

State Action on Recommendations

State OIG reports can result in recommendations that may be unwelcome for the Department. The OIG works to follow up on outstanding recommendations, but there are often open recommendations that have not been fully implemented.

Question. How will you ensure that recommendations are acted upon by the Department, and more importantly, result in actionable changes?

Answer. While IGs are authorized by statute to develop recommendations to improve government programs and operations; IGs are not authorized to enforce the implementation of these value-added recommendations. Rather, agencies possess the authority to ensure the implementation of IG recommendations. IG recommendations would be far more effective if agency leaders were compelled by statute, executive order or policy, to address all IG recommendations within some specified period of time. I will ensure that State open recommendations are tracked, reported to the Secretary of State for management action and included in State OIG semiannual reports to Congress for transparency.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO NICOLE SHAMPAINÉ BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

Chemical Weapons Incidents

The increasing number of incidents of chemical weapons use is a growing international concern. The international community turns to the OPCW, which was originally designed to oversee the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles, for this mission.

Question. How adequate are the OPCW's resources for its role as a non-proliferation agency? How do you assess the United States' response to recent cases of use?

Answer. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) continues to require additional voluntary funding from States Parties—including the United States—to be fit for purpose and hold Russia, Syria, and others to account in an ever-changing security environment. The Organization's workload over the past ten years has significantly increased, including on Syria accountability, and Russia and its allies have increasingly pushed back against fiscal support to the OPCW. Without our support, the Organization will likely cut back on its capabilities to investigate and attribute future uses of chemical weapons (CW) by either state or non-state actors, let alone build capabilities to test novel agents, for example.

On Syria's use of CW, the United States' response has been comprehensive. The United States worked with allies, partners, and the international community to condemn Syria's use of CW and, in an unprecedented step, secure a decision from the Conference of the States Parties of the OPCW to suspend certain rights and privileges of Syria under the Chemical Weapons Convention. Moreover, the United States supports the U.N.'s International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism work to document and build case files on the most serious crimes under international law committed in Syria, including the use of chemical weapons, and we continue to work with responsible countries and through organizations and initiatives such as the Partnership against Impunity for the Use of Chemical Weapons, the U.N. Human Rights Council, and the UNSC to hold the Assad regime accountable. The actions at the OPCW and other institutions demonstrate the world is concerned by and condemns the Assad regime's use of CW. Such a response has been essential to demonstrating that the norm against CW use remains strong, and U.S. leadership has been instrumental in this regard.

On Russia's multiple assassination attempts using chemical weapons, the United States continues to challenge Russia's disinformation campaign and press the Krem-

lin for answers. We have also taken more tangible steps in coordination with allies and partners. In October 2018, the United States, along with Canada and the Netherlands, submitted a Technical Change Proposal to add two families of novichoks, including one of the chemicals used to poison the Skripals, to the CWC's Annex on Chemicals. In November 2019, this technical change was adopted by consensus at the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of States Parties to the OPCW. Additionally, forty-five States Parties—including the United States—have pressed Russia to answer questions under Article IX, paragraph 2 of the CWC on the poisoning of Mr. Navalny on Russian soil; Russia has not provided sufficient responses to those questions.

If confirmed, I will work with partners to support the OPCW's robust implementation of the Convention, seek every opportunity to strengthen its capabilities in the interest of U.S. national security, and continue to press to hold Russia and Syria to account.

Disinformation About Chemical Weapons

The current U.S. Representative to the OPCW has said that Russia has spread disinformation about chemical weapons use by Ukraine.

Question. What can the United States do in the OPCW context to respond to disinformation about chemical attacks?

Answer. It is essential to counter Russia's disinformation on CW issues. Russia has sought to distract from its brutal conduct in its war of aggression against Ukraine by alleging Ukraine's prospective use of CW. To combat the Russian Federation's disinformation campaign, the United States and partners repeatedly refuted the allegations, including at the highest levels of government but also at the grassroots level, across the globe. For example, on February 17, 2022, Secretary Blinken warned the U.N. Security Council that Russian officials were potentially creating a false flag chemical weapons event as a pretext for Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In April 2022, the United States also supported the use of \$250,000 for the OPCW's Trust Fund for the Implementation of Article X in support of the provision of assistance and protection to Ukraine in the event of the use or threat of use of chemical weapons, and the United States has encouraged other countries to provide support to Ukraine directly and through additional support to the OPCW so the Organization could further support Ukraine by providing important training and equipment.

If confirmed, I would look forward to continuing to work with willing CWC States Parties to identify and take appropriate steps at the OPCW to highlight and hold Russia to account for its use of chemical weapons and noncompliance with the CWC as well as to counter the Kremlin's disinformation.

Challenges in Multilateral Diplomacy

Question. What are the central challenges in conducting multilateral diplomacy in an era of more intense strategic competition with Russia and China? Can organization like the OPCW function effectively if Russia and China are seeking to impede their activities?

Answer. While the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China are active in multilateral forums, their influence at the OPCW is limited to a core group of about a dozen countries that systematically oppose sensible OPCW actions in line with the CWC's purpose to eliminate chemical weapons permanently and verifiably and to consequently prevent their use. In response, the United States continues to diligently work with other States Parties to strengthen the Convention—and the OPCW—to ensure the norm against the use of CW remains strong and to counter Russia's and the PRC's attempts to revise, weaken, or dismantle disarmament and arms control mechanisms that promote stability and predictability in international security. Unlike in some multilateral fora, there is no veto at the OPCW and decisions can be taken by vote; Russia, the PRC, and others are therefore unable to block decisions where there is widespread support. The United States also strengthens the functioning of the OPCW by assisting States Parties with their national implementation of the CWC, such as by assisting in the formulation of CWC implementing legislation.

What the United States has accomplished with our partners at the OPCW is extraordinary and shows that the United States can effectively work with likeminded and responsible States Parties to counter Russian and PRC obstructionism. It is critical for the United States to remain actively engaged at the OPCW to ensure our partners have the benefit of our perspective as we continue to build a broad coalition in support of the norm against chemical weapons use. If confirmed, I will work to maintain strong support among States Parties for the OPCW's effective operation

and ensure the United States continues to respond to attempts by Russia and the PRC to impede the good work of the OPCW.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO NICOLE SHAMPAINÉ BY SENATOR MARCO RUBIO

Question. In May 2022, Secretary Blinken said that the People’s Republic of China is the “only country with both the intent to reshape the international order and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to do it.” The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) clearly holds the reins of power in the People’s Republic of China and has used this power to commit genocide in Xinjiang, flood our communities with fentanyl, and emit, by far the largest quantity of greenhouse gases in the world today. With their absolute control of Chinese society and industry, the CCP could stop all of these destructive actions tomorrow if they so choose. Is the Chinese Communist Party a threat to the United States?

Answer. Earlier this year, the Director of National Intelligence testified that “the CCP represents both the leading and most consequential threat to U.S. national security and leadership globally.” Under President Xi, the CCP has become more repressive at home and more aggressive abroad, seeking to undercut U.S. influence and alliances. If confirmed, I will advance U.S. national security interests and push back against PRC efforts to expand its problematic influence, through robust and forthright diplomatic engagement and public diplomacy, to advance the Administration’s policies and goals and strengthen the capabilities of the OPCW.

Question. Does the Chinese Communist Party undertake any activities that are beneficial to U.S. interests?

Answer. The Administration assesses the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) activities in the context of the fact that, as Secretary Blinken has said, the CCP has become more repressive at home and more aggressive abroad.

According to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence’s 2023 Annual Threat Assessment, the CCP is seeking to “undercut U.S. influence, drive wedges between Washington and its partners, and foster some norms that favor its authoritarian system.”

Question. Do you believe that there are any areas within which the Chinese Communist Party would constructively work with the United States in good faith?

Answer. As the United States competes vigorously with the PRC, the United States manages this competition responsibly so that competition does not veer into conflict. The United States will work with the PRC to address transnational challenges, such as climate change, when it is in our interest to do so—as Secretary Blinken has said, not as a favor to us or anyone else, and never in exchange for walking away from our principles, but because it is what the world expects. If confirmed, I will work with the Department of State’s new Office of China Coordination to advance U.S. objectives and counter harmful behavior by the PRC and other actors in the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Question. If confirmed, will you approve any joint activity with organizations or representatives from the PRC in the countries or areas in which you will work?

Answer. If confirmed, in the context of my work with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, I will make sure that any activity in which the United States is involved is in the national security interest of the United States.

Question. As you may be aware, a group of federal employees penned an open letter to President Biden criticizing U.S. support for Israel in the aftermath of Hamas’ brutal terrorist attack on October 7, 2023. Efforts like these directly undermine the duty of our diplomats to advance the policies of the President of the United States. Yes or no, did you sign the open letter to the President expressing opposition to the President’s Israel policy?

Answer. No, I did not sign the letter.

Question. Have you ever expressed support for an Israeli ceasefire in Gaza?

Answer. No, I have not expressed support for an Israeli ceasefire in Gaza.

Question. Do you agree that Hamas is an antisemitic entity and that a ceasefire would allow these groups to reconstitute and attack Israel, and Americans, in the future?

Answer. Yes, Hamas is a terrorist group that seeks to eliminate the State of Israel and whose founding charter calls for the killing of Jewish people. A ceasefire right now could give Hamas time to regroup and fail to prevent Hamas from continuing terror attacks and firing rockets at Israel.

Question. Do you agree that calling for a ceasefire in Gaza means calling for Israel to stop its pursuit of Hamas, a designated foreign terrorist organization, that orchestrated the October 7 attacks and still refuses to release Israeli and American hostages?

Answer. It is the policy of the Administration to support temporary humanitarian pauses to enable a sustained flow of aid and to allow the voluntary movement of civilians who are seeking to move to safer locations. The U.S. Government is actively working with partners to secure the release of all hostages held by Hamas.

Question. Do you believe that Israel, in its operation against Hamas, which is known to use civilians as human shields, is taking all necessary steps to minimize civilian casualties?

Answer. I believe that Israel has the right to protect itself, consistent with international law. The United States has urged Israel to differentiate between civilians and Hamas terrorists and do everything possible to avoid civilian casualties. Hamas's use of civilians as human shields, a blatant violation of international law, does not lessen Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law.

Question. If confirmed, would you define one of your employees or contractors signing an open letter criticizing you, or policies you undertake at the instruction of the President, as insubordination as defined by the Government Accountability Office?

Answer. Throughout my career I have always refrained from criticizing Department policies publicly. As a leader, I have always encouraged robust internal discussion, debate, and respect for different opinions, while discouraging the airing of disagreement with U.S. policy in public. According to the Government Accountability Office's definition of insubordination, however, expression of concerns in public is not classified as insubordination.

Question. If confirmed, how will you address discipline issues, such as insubordination, that do not take established dissent channels?

Answer. If confirmed, I would make sure anyone not availing themselves of internal dissent channels to express their concerns was made aware of the fact that such channels not only exist but are taken seriously by Department leadership and I would strongly encourage them to avail themselves of these opportunities to make their views and voices heard.

Question. In your view, are the actions these federal employees took, by anonymously signing a letter to the President of the United States, covered as "whistleblowing?"

Answer. I am not in favor of public expressions of dissent by Department employees. Having said this, I also believe employees should be allowed to express disagreement without fear of reprisal. If confirmed, I will uphold all relevant laws and policies pertaining to the protection of whistleblowers, including the provisions of 5 U.S.C. § 2302(b)(8).

Question. Since the expiration of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 1997, the world has seen increased use of Chemical Weapons (CW) by malign actors, including Russia and North Korea to assassinate opposition voices, Syrian forces to support military operations on their own people, and by terrorist actors such as ISIS in northern Iraq to commit atrocities. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons' (OPCW) original mandate to oversee destruction of CW stockpiles was adjusted after 1997 to one more of an investigative body. In your view, how should the U.S. best respond to the use of CWs by State and non-state actors for non-military purposes?

Answer. Since its entry into force in 1997, the OPCW has done significant work to verify the destruction of States Parties declared chemical weapons stockpiles. This year, when the U.S. Government completed destruction of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile, the OPCW verified the destruction of the last chemical munition of those declared by State Parties.

In addition to its mandate to oversee the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles, the OPCW's role also includes investigating and addressing alleged instances of chemical weapons use. And with increased use of chemical weapons in recent years by CWC State Parties—both in assassination attempts by Russia and in larg-

er-scale use by Syria—and by non-state actors, the OPCW has used and further developed tools to enable it to carry out its mandate. This includes the establishment of investigative efforts related to Syria’s use of chemical weapons, as well as the provision of technical assistance to the United Kingdom and Germany to assist in evaluating samples in connection with the attempted assassination of Sergei Skripal, Yulia Skripal, and Aleksey Navalny. When it comes to non-state actors, the OPCW works to ensure States Parties are actively involved in preventing the transfer of chemicals to such organizations.

The work of the OPCW enjoys the strong backing of the United States and our partners. The United States should continue to ensure the OPCW is fit for purpose given increased threats. In addition, the United States should continue to pursue efforts outside of the OPCW to hold those responsible for chemical weapons use accountable for their actions. This includes, for example, continuing to support the U.N.’s International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism which is working to document and build case files on the most serious crimes under international law committed in Syria, including the use of chemical weapons. If confirmed, I will work to make sure the OPCW remains equipped to address and investigate alleged uses of chemical weapons and will work with partner countries to hold Syria and Russia to account for their multiple uses of CW.

Question. Does the OPCW have adequate resources for investigations and counter-proliferation efforts?

Answer. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) continues to require additional voluntary funding from States Parties—including the United States—to be fit for purpose and hold Russia, Syria, and others to account in an ever-changing security environment. The Organization’s workload over the past ten years has significantly increased, including on Syria accountability, and Russia and its allies have increasingly pushed back against fiscal support to the OPCW. Without our support, the Organization will likely cut back on its capabilities to investigate and attribute future uses of chemical weapons (CW) by either state or non-state actors, let alone build capabilities to test novel agents, for example.

Question. While you have a history of challenging assignments in the Foreign Service, if confirmed, how will you leverage what appears to be a lack of Chemical Weapons expertise to lead this complex and specific issue?

Answer. If confirmed, I am confident the diplomatic skills and expertise I have developed throughout my career in the Foreign Service will serve me well as the U.S. Ambassador to the OPCW. Over the course of my career, I have served in a variety of assignments handling complex multilateral and bilateral matters, including at the U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna where I worked on non-proliferation issues, among other matters. I have also worked on counterterrorism at the National Security Council. In my work in these varied assignments, I have continually demonstrated the ability to master a broad range of subject matters by working closely with technical experts across the U.S. Government and to develop and implement diplomatic strategies to advance U.S. positions on challenging and technical topics.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO JOANN M. LOCKARD BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

Question. Is there any effort underway to review and revise the Sahel strategy and its implementation in light of recent events? How will this impact your priorities if confirmed as Ambassador?

Answer. The situation in the Sahel is fluid, and we constantly revisit our strategy considering changing dynamics. Our principles have not changed. We remain focused on working with our African partners and the people to address challenges and support democracy, which is the best foundation for development, social cohesion, prosperity, and stability across the Sahel and the African continent. If confirmed, my priorities will be to strengthen democracy and governance, promote respect for human rights, advance peace and security, and foster economic opportunity and social development.

Question. Do you believe that visa restrictions or financial sanctions against coup leaders responsible for gross violations of human rights, serious corruption, or undermining basic democratic principles is “incongruent” with U.S. efforts to restore democracy and respect for the rule of law in Burkina Faso?

Answer. Sanctions are one tool in our toolkit. Above all, sanctions and visa restrictions are designed to advance policy priorities and promote accountability. They are a means to bring actors to the negotiating table, compel changes in behavior, promote accountability, and convey U.S. values. Our policy and programmatic objectives have been to support citizens and work with the transition government to get Burkina Faso back on the path to democracy. If confirmed, I commit to review all tools available to us, including economic sanctions and visa restrictions, and to recommend the best combination of tools to advance U.S. foreign policy goals.

Question. Do you believe the junta is capable of undertaking reforms that are to form the foundation of a more democratic system?

Answer. If confirmed, I will press the Transition Authorities to hold free and fair elections to usher in a return to democracy. I am concerned by the continued shrinking of civic space in Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso's best path to long-term stability lies in free and fair elections that reflect the will of the people and a return to democratic governance that strives to deliver the public services that address root causes of instability.

Question. If confirmed, will you develop a sanctions strategy for junta leaders and those who undermine a return to civilian rule in Burkina Faso?

Answer. If confirmed, I will develop a strategy to encourage the transition government's return to democracy. I will consider the full range of tools available to me to advance our policy priorities and promote accountability, including sanctions and visa restrictions.

Question. What steps will you take to support accountability for the ongoing human rights abuses happening in the country?

Answer. If confirmed, I will support the Embassy's ongoing work to strengthen the ability of law enforcement to operate consistent with rule of law. I will urge the Government to open transparent investigations into all allegations of human rights abuses and violations and to hold those found responsible to account. I will implement an aggressive diplomatic strategy to advocate for the respect for human rights by Burkinabe security forces, state-sponsored militias, and other actors. I will emphasize the requirement that Transition Authorities abide by international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including the distinction between civilians and combatants in warfare, emphasizing the prohibition on attacking those not directly engaged in hostilities.

Question. What steps will you take - if confirmed - to support democracy in Burkina Faso? What do you hope to accomplish through these actions? What are the potential impediments to addressing the specific obstacles you have identified?

Answer. U.S. Government efforts, through foreign assistance programming and diplomatic engagement, focus on enabling and supporting free and fair elections and electoral processes that are peaceful and inclusive. I will support capacity-building for key actors and civil society, training for national elections commissions, promotion of marginalized groups' representation in government, a free press, and voter education and election observation programs. I will encourage policies that increase women's and youth political participation as voters, civil society members and leaders, and office holders at all levels of government. The effect of closing civic space on free and open debate is an obstacle to a free and fair electoral process.

Question. How will you utilize U.S. Government assistance resources at your disposal, including the Democracy Commission Small Grants program and other sources of State Department and USAID funding, to support investment and governance, and what will you prioritize in processes to administer such assistance?

Answer. U.S. Government efforts, through foreign assistance programming and diplomatic engagement, focus on enabling and supporting free and fair elections and electoral processes, including dialogue and roundtables, that are peaceful and inclusive. I will support capacity-building for key actors and civil society, training for national elections commissions, promotion of marginalized groups' representation in government and transition processes, a free press, and voter education and election observation programs. I will encourage policies that increase women's and youth political participation as voters, civil society members and leaders, and office holders at all levels of government. A foundation of transparent, efficient, and accountable governance is essential to building citizen confidence in Burkina Faso's future.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to meet with civil society members, human rights, and other non-governmental organizations in the U.S. and with local human rights NGOs, and other members of civil society in Burkina Faso?

What steps will you take to pro-actively address efforts to restrict or penalize NGOs and civil society via legal or regulatory measures?

Will you and your Embassy team actively engage with Burkina Faso on freedom of the press and address any government efforts designed to control or undermine press freedom through legal, regulatory, or other measures? Will you commit to meeting regularly with independent, local press in Burkina Faso?

Answer. Civil society are some of most important partners on fighting corruption; countering insecurity; working toward free and fair elections; and promoting respect for human rights, especially of women and children. If confirmed, I commit to engaging robustly with Burkinabe civil society on many issues. In my prior role in Ouagadougou from 2006–09, I invested in training journalists to strengthen Burkina Faso's democracy. This is an issue that is particularly important to me. As such, I will advocate for press freedom and work to ensure actions by the transition government do not undermine fundamental freedoms for the Burkinabe people, including press freedom and freedom of assembly. If confirmed, I will meet regularly with press in Burkina Faso to understand their perspectives on the media environment and ensure they understand U.S. policy in Burkina Faso.

Question. Will you commit, if confirmed, to ensuring that you fully brief Members of Congress and/or their staff each time you are in Washington for visits or consultations during your tenure as Ambassador to Burkina Faso?

Answer. Yes.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO JOANN M. LOCKARD BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

The Bilateral Relationship

Question. In your view, what are the top three priorities for the U.S. bilateral relationship with Burkina Faso that you will advance or maintain as U.S. Ambassador, if confirmed?

Answer. In my view, the top three policy priorities in Burkina Faso are: strengthen democracy and governance, advance peace and security with a respect for human rights, and foster economic opportunity and social development.

The United States is committed to advancing these priorities while countering harmful activities by the People's Republic of China (PRC), Russia, violent extremist groups, and other foreign actors. Embassy engagement focuses on urging the Transition Authorities to organize free and fair elections to usher in a return to democracy.

Question. Please describe your approach, if confirmed, to engaging with the junta in Burkina Faso.

Answer. Sustained U.S. engagement in Burkina Faso is more critical than ever, as a stable Burkina Faso is essential to the region. Burkinabe officials continue to express a desire to partner with the United States. If confirmed, I will continue to engage with the Transition Authorities (TA) to implement our policy priorities. The TA are primarily focused on the security situation. We will continue to promote respect for human rights, the rule of law, good governance, and free movement for humanitarian workers as smart security policy.

Question. Junta leader Captain Ibrahim Traoré recently suggested that he will no longer adhere to the ECOWAS-negotiated July 2024 deadline to complete the post-coup political transition process and hold elections, citing concerns about security and territorial control. What can the United States do to encourage timely and credible elections in Burkina Faso, in your view?

Answer. If confirmed, I will press the TA to hold free and fair elections as soon as possible to usher in a return to democracy. Recent statements from Transition President Traoré that elections are not a priority for Burkina Faso were disappointing. The TA's expressed intent to extend the originally declared transition timeline could bring increased tension with ECOWAS, in addition to damaging trust with the Burkinabe public and the international community. If confirmed, I will continue to press for a return to democratic elections in line with a publicly declared transitional timeline.

U.S. Government efforts, through foreign assistance programming and diplomatic engagement, focus on enabling and supporting free and fair elections and electoral processes that are peaceful and inclusive. I will support capacity-building for key actors and civil society, including to counter disinformation, training for national

elections commissions, promotion of representation of marginalized groups in government, a free press, and voter education and election observation programs. I will encourage policies that increase women's and youth political participation as voters, civil society members and leaders, and office holders at all levels of government.

I recognize that security from terrorist threats is a vital component of Burkina Faso's ability to hold free and fair elections but believe insecurity cannot be used to delay the timeline agreed upon with ECOWAS and prolong the transition to democracy.

Question. What U.S. security assistance and security cooperation activities remain ongoing in Burkina Faso, either because they are not directly affected by coup-related restrictions under Section 7008, or pursuant to "notwithstanding" authorities? Please include information on legal authorities under which these activities are being conducted, and funding levels where applicable.

Answer. In FY 2022, the Department of State's CT Bureau obligated more than \$16 million in foreign assistance funds to strengthen civilian security forces and judicial sectors in Burkina Faso to identify, interdict, investigate, respond to, and prosecute known or suspected terrorist actors and activities. CT programming aims to improve border security and management through increased law enforcement capacity building to prevent, detect, respond to, and disrupt terrorist activities and conduct civilian-led investigations and prosecutions of terrorism cases in accordance with international standards. The Department of State also continues to support Burkinabe security forces with conventional weapons and ammunition security and stockpile management capacity.

Question. Under what conditions, and for what type(s) of program, if at all, would you support a waiver under Section 7008 to permit U.S. military aid for Burkina Faso?

Answer. If confirmed, in considering whether to pursue a waiver of the restriction under section 7008 to permit U.S. military assistance for Burkina Faso, I would work with the interagency to consider relevant conditions, including whether the transition government has demonstrated its commitment to a counterterrorism strategy that prioritizes the safety of civilians and respect for human rights, a return to democracy, and not pursuing a relationship with the Wagner Group.

Question. Are there ways, in your view, for the United States to support greater military professionalism and more effective counterinsurgency tactics on the part of state security forces in Burkina Faso given the current circumstances?

Answer. Through our limited security cooperation, we continue to advocate for respect of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The Department of Defense continues to collaborate with the transition government in connection with certain military exercises, such as Flintlock, that advance U.S. policy objectives. Our U.S. military personnel at the Embassy can also engage their counterparts on the need for counterinsurgency tactics that prioritize safety of civilians. Most U.S. military training for Burkina Faso is subject to the restriction under section 7008.

Question. If confirmed, what measures will you put in place to ensure that all U.S. foreign assistance provided by agencies under Chief of Mission authority in Burkina Faso, including the Department of State and United States Agency for International Development, are in full compliance with current law, which strictly prohibits the use of U.S. foreign assistance to perform or promote abortion, support involuntary sterilizations, or lobby for or against the legalization of abortion overseas?

Answer. If confirmed, I will take all legislative restrictions, including restrictions related to abortion, very seriously and work with partners to ensure compliance.

Question. Do you acknowledge that pressuring countries to withdraw from the Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women's Health and Strengthening the Family crosses the line established by the Siljander amendment, which prohibits lobbying for or against the legalization of abortion overseas?

Answer. The Biden-Harris Administration's position on the Geneva Consensus Declaration relates neither to abortion nor to the legalization of abortion. Our concerns relate in part to the opacity of process regarding origins and intent. While the GCD quotes from various UN instruments on women, family, and life, including instruments the United States has not ratified, the GCD is not a UN document and does not reflect consensus successfully achieved at the UN, including in Geneva.

Question. If confirmed, will you commit to disavowing point four in the U.S. Statement at the Universal Period Review of Burkina Faso, as delivered by Mr. Jesse

Lynch on November 6, 2023, which recommends Burkina Faso's withdrawal from the Geneva Consensus Declaration?

Answer. The United States withdrew from the Geneva Consensus Declaration (GCD) in January 2021 and immediately notified GCD members. In the ensuing period, we have become alarmed countries like the Russian Federation have allegedly joined the Geneva Consensus Declaration.

Transparency issues and confusion persist regarding the authority of government officials to accede to the declaration. Bearing in mind the UPR process for Burkina Faso will not be repeated for another five years, the United States' recommendation related to Burkina Faso reaffirming its existing political commitments and clarifying its continuing support for multilateral efforts to advance human rights, gender equality, and global health remains firm.

Foreign Malign Actors

Recent reports suggest that the military Government in Burkina Faso is increasingly collaborating with Russia. The U.S. Government's strategy has been to prevent Burkina Faso's military Government from fully aligning with Russia, notably securing the services of the Wagner Group.

Question. Can you describe the Biden Administration's strategy to counter Russian malign influence, specifically preventing them from drifting toward Wagner for security assistance? Do you believe the strategy has been effective or not?

Answer. We understand the threat of the Wagner Group in Africa, and the Administration is working closely with U.S., African, and allied defense, intelligence, and law enforcement partners to identify all the elements of their network and limit the Wagner Group's (and its remnants or successors') ability to operate in Africa. The Administration's sanctions and interdiction efforts have had a significant impact on Russia and the Wagner Group's ability to continue exploiting African resources and abusing human rights. If confirmed, I will continue those efforts.

Question. Should the military Government in Burkina Faso continue to strengthen its security ties with Russia, what should the U.S. policy response be to bring them back to the table?

Answer. If confirmed, I will continue to prioritize activities—including in support of the AU and African regional institutions—that strengthen democratic institutions, counter disinformation, support the return to democracy, slow the spread of violent extremist organizations, push the Wagner Group from the region, and prevent successor organizations from taking hold.

Wagner and Russia thrive where options are few. If confirmed, I would explore how vital bilateral U.S. foreign assistance could be used both to provide a credible alternative to Wagner and to build civilian institutions to be more resilient to foreign interference, while complying with the restriction under Section 7008 of the annual appropriations act on providing U.S. foreign assistance to countries where a coup d'état has occurred.

I will also continue collaborating with interagency and international partners, in Africa and around the world, to reduce Russia's destabilizing influence, including its use of Wagner. In addition to sustaining cooperation with our traditional likeminded European partners, African partners see Russia's destabilizing influence themselves and are asking for help to address the threat. If confirmed, I will share information on the deleterious effects of the Wagner Group with our partners, reminding them that countries that partner with Wagner become weaker, poorer, more volatile, and less secure. I will continue our work on campaigns to counter disinformation so the Burkinabe people know what Wagner truly represents.

Question. Given the apparent deepening of Russian engagement in Burkina Faso, how will you safeguard U.S. interests, especially in counterterrorism, and support the country's transition back to civilian government?

Answer. Our counterterrorism efforts in Burkina Faso center on training and equipping civilian law enforcement units to respond to threats from violent extremist organizations and protect the population, as well as supporting judicial processes that are in accordance with human rights and international law. We believe—and our Burkinabe partners recognize—that these efforts are valuable. If confirmed, I will continue these efforts.

We know that Wagner is an ineffective counterterrorism partner.

Attacks against civilians in Mali have more than doubled since its arrival in late 2021; Wagner's tactics are creating more recruitment opportunities for terrorists. If confirmed, I will do everything in my power to prevent the Wagner Group from funding Russia's war in Ukraine at the expense of the Burkinabe people.

French media outlets reported the arrival in Ouagadougou of a Russian security detachment in mid-November 2023.

Question. To what extent does this development change the assessment by then-Under Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, after her trip to Burkina Faso in October 2022, that Capt. Traore had “no intention of inviting Wagner” into the country?

Answer. We are aware of the reports, but there has been no confirmation that the detachment was part of the Wagner Group.

Question. If reports are confirmed, how would a Russian security deployment in Burkina Faso affect U.S. engagement with the transitional government? Would you advocate any changes to ongoing U.S. security assistance programs as a result?

Answer. We stand with the people of Burkina Faso in their aspirations for security and stability, which Wagner has shown in Mali they will not and cannot bring. As Secretary Blinken has said, “Every place that the Wagner Group has gone, death, destruction and exploitation have followed.” In Mali, more civilians were killed in 2022 after the Wagner Group’s arrival than in any other year since the conflict broke out in 2012. This outcome must be prevented in Burkina Faso.

We recognize the daunting security challenges Burkina Faso faces and seek to support its security efforts within the constraints of our law and policy.

Question. As Burkina Faso engages in a brutal fight with jihadist insurgents, what steps can the U.S. and international community take to protect better civilians, especially women and children who bear the brunt of this fight?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with civil society to help promote women’s rights and women’s full, equal, and meaningful participation in economic, political, and social life. I will encourage the transition government to enforce laws to counter gender-based violence, to increase women’s participation in all levels of governance, and to take steps to help women and children gain access to health care. If confirmed, I will take steps to ensure women’s meaningful participation in programs organized by the U.S. Government. Engaging directly with women and women-led civil society organizations will be a core component of my efforts.

Question. Are state security forces in Burkina Faso responsible for gross violations of internationally-recognized human rights, in your assessment?

Answer. There have been numerous reports that government security forces and government-sponsored militias, known as the Volunteers for the Defense of the Fatherland (Volontaires pour la defense de la Patrie), committed extrajudicial killings during the year.

Question. If confirmed, how would you seek to promote and protect space for peaceful debate, dissent, civic activism, and political competition in Burkina Faso—especially in light of apparent increases in media censorship, intimidation including death threats against local journalists and activists, and “forced conscription” allegedly targeting critics of the junta?

Answer. If confirmed, I will support capacity-building for key actors and civil society, training for national elections commissions, promotion of marginalized groups’ representation in government and transition process, a free press, and voter education and election observation programs. Our efforts to advance good governance and democracy are facilitated by a population that already strongly values freedom of expression and freedom of religion, as well as a vibrant civil society that seeks to advance good governance and anti-corruption efforts. I will continue to support the Burkinabe in their efforts to express their rights.

Question. Under what conditions, if at all, would you advocate using sanctions authorities under EO13818 (Global Magnitsky) to designate Burkinabe state officials, including military commanders, on human rights grounds? If not, why not?

Answer. U.S. sanctions policy is one tool in our toolkit. Above all, sanctions and visa restrictions are designed to advance policy priorities and promote accountability. They are a means to bring actors to the negotiating table, compel changes in behavior, promote accountability, and convey U.S. values. If confirmed, I commit to review all tools available to us, including economic sanctions and visa restrictions, and to recommend the best combination of tools to advance foreign policy goals.

State Management and Oversight

Question. How do you intend to work with senior leadership at the State Department to address acute staffing challenges at Mission Ouagadougou?

Answer. Due in part to the historically difficult-to-staff situation in Ouagadougou, the Department has changed the staffing pattern to include additional incentives, such as new allowances and R&Rs, for service at the Embassy. As a result, the Embassy expects most positions to be filled by next summer. If confirmed, I will work with the Department to identify additional effective recruitment tools to encourage qualified bidders to serve at Embassy Ouagadougou. Tools I have used successfully in prior assignments include Ambassador and DCM engagement in the bid cycle, such as reaching out directly to interested bidders and participating in recruiting videos and webinars.

Question. Many U.S. missions have been under enormous stress over the last several years, in large part due to COVID. What is your understanding of morale throughout Mission Ouagadougou?

Answer. I understand that despite the current staffing challenges in Ouagadougou, morale is relatively high at Post. The people who serve in Ouagadougou do so because they believe in the mission.

Question. How do you intend to improve morale at Mission Ouagadougou?

Answer. If confirmed, my goal as Chief of Mission will be to maintain the high morale and focus on supporting a cohesive, inclusive team environment for all Embassy staff members, including our Locally Employed staff. I will ensure that my DCM and I are accessible to all employees and intend to use tools, such as regular meetings with the LE staff committee, town halls, and hosting staff at the Chief of Mission Residence for team building events. I will encourage every member of Embassy staff to communicate their ideas and concerns in order to improve our team environment throughout my tenure.

Question. How do you intend to create a unified mission and vision at Mission Ouagadougou?

Answer. I understand that the Embassy team is currently reviewing the strategic goals for Embassy Ouagadougou given the fluid situation in Burkina Faso. If confirmed, I intend to continue that process on an ongoing basis to ensure that the team is working on the most important and current priorities to achieve U.S. policy objectives. I will convene the senior leadership team at least twice a year to review our progress and ensure that all agencies and offices share one unified vision.

In the past, I have also used town halls, team offsites, and cards clipped to lanyards outlining Embassy objectives in both English and local languages to ensure that every member of our Mission team understands and is committed to the success of our policy vision. If confirmed, I will work with the team to find the most effective tools to do this in Burkina Faso.

Question. Management is a key responsibility for chiefs of Mission. How would you describe your management style?

Answer. I have an inclusive and empathetic management style. I encourage every team member to participate in policy discussions and present their ideas. Sometimes the best opportunities to move the needle forward on goals come from ideas on the ground, and I want to make sure all staff have the opportunity to make a difference and contribute to achieving our objectives.

Question. Do you believe it is ever acceptable or constructive to berate subordinates, either in public or in private?

Answer. It is never acceptable to berate subordinates.

Question. How do you envision your relationship with the Deputy Chief of Mission?

Answer. As a former Deputy Chief of Mission, I know how critical this relationship is for the success of our embassies around the globe. In Ouagadougou, if confirmed, I envision a strong, open, and trusting relationship with the current DCM, who has been at post for almost 18 months, and the incoming DCM, who will arrive in summer 2024. Both have strong backgrounds in Africa policy and French language skills, which compliment mine. I very much look forward to working closely with them to create a unified leadership team for Embassy Ouagadougou.

Question. If confirmed, what leadership responsibilities do you intend to entrust to your Deputy Chief of Mission?

Answer. If confirmed, I envision a unified leadership team in the Embassy Ouagadougou Front Office. Typically, the DCM manages most of the internal coordination and operations for the Embassy, and the Chief of Mission is the public face of the United States to both the government and public. The DCM also needs to be included occasionally in external activities to be able to step into the role of

Chargé d'affaires in the absence of the Ambassador. If confirmed, I will work with my DCM to maximize their strengths and identify the most effective areas where they can help me to lead the Mission team.

Question. In order to create and continue employee excellence at the Department, accurate and direct employee evaluation reports (EERs) for Foreign Service Officers are imperative, though often lacking. Do you believe that it is important to provide employees with accurate, constructive feedback on their performance in order to encourage improvement and reward those who most succeed in their roles?

Question. Yes, I believe it is important to provide employees with accurate annual employee evaluation reports. Throughout my Foreign Service career, I have met with each of my direct reports regularly to provide feedback on their ongoing tasks and set aside several times a year to review their overall progress. I also met at least a couple times a year with employees supervised by my direct reports. Finally, I was always available for additional feedback if requested by the employee. I intend to continue this practice if confirmed.

Question. If confirmed, would you support and encourage clear, accurate, and direct feedback to employees in order to improve performance and reward high achievers?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I will encourage each supervisor at Embassy Ouagadougou to meet regularly with their employees to provide both positive and constructive feedback on performance. I will also encourage all employees to draft meaningful award nominations for any deserving colleague or subordinate.

Question. It is imperative that U.S. diplomats get outside of posts abroad to meet with local actors, including host government officials, non-government organizations, and local citizens. In your experience, do U.S. diplomats get outside of our Embassy walls enough to fully accomplish their missions?

Answer. It has always been my experience that our diplomats and local staff make every effort, within security allowances, to get out as much as possible. For example, I encourage Consular and Management colleagues to participate in public outreach, such as meeting with students or explaining our travel and contracting regulations to appropriate audiences.

Question. How do you intend to improve the ability of U.S. diplomats to better access all local populations?

Answer. In Burkina Faso, the security situation has limited our diplomats' ability to get out of Ouagadougou. However, recently the Public Diplomacy team organized an event in Koudougou that received tremendous local feedback. If confirmed, I will work with our team to find additional opportunities to ensure that the United States is visible beyond the capital as security conditions allow. In addition, I will encourage the entire team to use every tool at our disposal, including our American corners and social media platforms, to be present and visible with the Burkinabe people even when security conditions do not allow us to be physically together.

LETTER ENDORSING JEFFREY PRESCOTT
SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD BY SENATOR BRIAN SCHATZ

November 15, 2023

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member,

On behalf of the White House Fellows Class of 2010-2011, we would like to express our full endorsement of our fellow colleague, Mr. Jeffrey Prescott, as Nominee for U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, with the rank of Ambassador.

Serving in a nonpartisan capacity as White House Fellows together was an unforgettable experience that has continued to be a hallmark for all our careers. We grew together a lot during that one year and our commitment to our government, democracy, and each other remains stronger than ever before.

Over the past decade, we have been proud to watch Jeff demonstrate leadership through some of the most challenging times, including over the past three years of service as Deputy to Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield. Starting as a White House Fellow with us, he has served in senior White House, National Security Council, and State Department roles. In his current role, we've seen Jeff help advance U.S. leadership at the UN where he has helped lead the U.S. response on critical food security and humanitarian crises, which in our experience is where his heart and mind have always been. Having started his career as a human rights lawyer and academic and with deep experience on China, Jeff understands the importance of America's global leadership and the stakes of the competition with China. We've benefitted from his wisdom, knowledge, measured approach, and experience on these issues during our fellowship together and beyond.

We hope you'll get to know Jeff personally, as we have. Raised in Wichita, Kansas, Jeff is widely respected among his colleagues for his relentless work ethic, sharp mind, warm spirit, management style, and for inspiring those that work with him — including us. If confirmed, we are certain that Jeff would be prepared in this new role to advance U.S. priorities and ensure accountability across the food security, agriculture, and humanitarian issues that matter most to the American people.

Sincerely,

Samar Ali

Pat Basu

R. Erich Caulfield

Jason Dempsey

Harley Feldbaum

William Gallagher

Dr. Thomas Fisher

Erica Jeffries Purdo

Kubby Rashid

Dr. Sunny Ramchandani

Dr. Rachel Thornton

INFORMATION REGARDING ROBERT MALLEY,
FORMER SPECIAL ENVOY TO IRAN

SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD BY SENATOR BILL HAGERTY

11/15/23, 3:57 PM

Final Say - Tehran Times



Exclusive: The Letter that Brought Rob Malley Down

Final Say

August 27, 2023 - 22:48

Politics

TEHRAN – In Last July, the Tehran Times exclusively reported that former U.S. envoy for Iran Rob Malley got his security clearance suspended on April 21. The Tehran Times now can reveal that Malley breached three U.S. national security rules.

Despite all the kerfuffle over his dismissal, Malley's episode is one of ambiguity and equivocality, with only a few people in the know about its full dimensions. This has greatly enraged many on the Capitol Hill and prompted them to demand clear answers from the Biden administration regarding the suspension of Malley's security clearance. House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaul sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken demanding answers on Malley.

"Media reports indicate that Special Envoy for Iran, Robert Malley, was placed on unpaid leave after his security clearance was suspended earlier this year amidst an investigation into potential mishandling of classified documents," the chairman wrote. "These reports raise serious concerns both regarding Malley's conduct and whether the State Department misled Congress and the American public."

McCaul also lashed out at the State Department for failing to inform Congress of the full details on Malley's case.

Despite pressing demands from Congress, the Biden administration remained tight-lipped about Malley.

This is while the story of Malley is full of details showing that he endangered U.S. national security, according to a Memorandum obtained by the Tehran Times.

On April 21, Malley received a Memorandum from Erin Smart, the director of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Office of Personnel Security and Suitability, informing him of the reasons why his security clearance was withdrawn.

In this letter, Smart determined that Malley's "continued national security eligibility is not clearly consistent with the interests of national security," according to the document seen by the Tehran Times.

The Memorandum enumerates three reasons for the suspension of Malley's security clearance that includes actions that have to do with personal conduct, handling of protected information, and use of information technology.

11/15/23, 3:57 PM

Final Say - Tehran Times

"The DS Office of Personnel Security (DS/SI/PSS) has received information regarding you that raises serious security concerns and can be disqualifying under National Security Adjudicative Guidelines E (Personal Conduct), K (Handling of Protected Information), and M (Use of Information Technology)," Smart tersely told Malley.

After explaining the next steps, Smart then asks Malley to turn in his building ID card, any government-issued credentials, and his diplomatic passport.

11/15/23, 3:57 PM

Final Say - Tehran Times

The full details of the suspension of Malley's security clearance are not previously reported.

The Memorandum does not mention examples of how Malley's personal conduct endangered U.S. national security or how he mishandled protected information. But the Tehran Times previously reported that Malley's suspicious contact with his aides of Iranian descent has contributed to his downfall.

Malley had extensive contact with a web of Iranian-American figures, ranging from Ali Vaez and Vali Nasr to Trita Parsi, before assuming office. And his son is still working with Parsi at the Quincy Institute.

During his tenure as Iran envoy, Malley has been in close contact with at least Vaez, according to a previous report by the Tehran Times.

Earlier this month, the Tehran Times revealed a secret document outlining behind-the-scenes efforts by Malley and Vaez to stage what can be called a diplomatic coup in Iran during the 2022 Mahsa Amini unrest.

According to this document, Vaez prepared a list of 14 Iranian figures as part of a broader effort by the State Department to turn up the heat on Iran. The list included many opposition figures along with lesser-known individuals.

The majority of those on the list are not known to the public. Some of them expressed awe after the publication of their names in the Tehran Times, indicating that Vaez had either included their names without their knowledge or they didn't expect Vaez would spill the beans.

The exposition of the list could well be an example of Malley's improper personal conduct or mishandling of protected information. Of course, this remains a speculation given that the Memorandum is cagey about the examples of Malley's infractions.

By Sadegh Fereydounabadi



United States Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

APR 21 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: S/IAG – Robert Malley (ES-00, Special Envoy to Iran)
FROM: DS/SI/PSS – Erin E. Smart, Director
SUBJECT: National Security Eligibility Suspension

This memorandum is to notify you that, in accordance with U.S. government standards set forth in Executive Orders 12968 and 13467, as amended, National Security Adjudicative Guidelines, and Department of State regulations, I, as the Director of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Office of Personnel Security and Suitability (DS/SI/PSS), have determined that your continued national security eligibility is not clearly consistent with the interests of national security. Your national security eligibility, including your Top Secret security clearance, is suspended pending an ongoing investigation.

The DS Office of Personnel Security (DS/SI/PSS) has received information regarding you that raises serious security concerns and can be disqualifying under National Security Adjudicative Guidelines E (Personal Conduct), K (Handling Protected Information), and M (Use of Information Technology). The suspension of your security clearance does not constitute a formal revocation and does not indicate that such action is planned.

If, after further investigation and review, I revoke your national security eligibility, including your Top Secret security clearance, you will be given an opportunity to reply in writing and request a review of that determination by the Senior Coordinator for the DS Security Infrastructure Directorate (DS/SI). If the DS/SI Senior Coordinator sustains the revocation of your national security eligibility, you will then be afforded the opportunity to appeal that decision to the Department's Security Appeals Panel.

Pursuant to 12 FAM 233.4, you are required to turn in your building ID card, any government-issued credentials, and your diplomatic passport to DS/SI/PSS.

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

11/15/23, 3:57 PM

Final Say - Tehran Times

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

- 2 -

Our office will submit a request in IRM's Azure Automated Badge Request (ABR) System for you to be issued an updated non-sensitive building badge. Your point-of-contact is Mr. Al Luna, who can be reached at (202) 794-8180 (Teams) or LunaA@state.gov to facilitate this requirement. For One Badge Building Access Help, contact the ID Unit Customer Service Center at IDServicesCSC@state.gov or dial 202-647-1775 (1-888-671-3747 if located outside the National Capital Region). Attached is an Acknowledgement of Receipt for your signature, acknowledging your understanding of these actions, not your agreement.

You are required to return the Acknowledgement of Receipt, signed, and dated, to Mr. Al Luna within five days of receipt. You may return the completed memorandum by fax to 571-345-3192, or you may scan it and email it to LunaA@state.gov.

If you believe that this action was taken against your national security eligibility as reprisal for a protected disclosure, as defined in Presidential Policy Directive 19, you may make a separate written request for review of the alleged reprisal to the Deputy Inspector General at U.S. Department of State, Office of Inspector General, Washington, DC 20522-0308. This request must contain, with as much specificity as possible, information about the protected disclosure and the conduct constituting the alleged reprisal.

Enclosure:

Acknowledgement of Receipt

cc: M/GTM-HR: MPhillips
GTM/ER/CSD: CFuller
ManagerSupport: TLambert
Bureau EX: KLakhdhir; DCline
DS/IS/APD: AUtley; DHicks; AHallenbeck
DS/SI/PSS: Certification Team (DSPPSCertTeam@state.gov)
DS/SI/ITP: JAtiles; JNisoff
INR: DMcDaniel

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 13, 2023

Ms. Diana Shaw
Deputy Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General
Department of State
2201 C St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ms. Shaw:

Given the role and responsibilities of the Special Envoy for Iran and the position's importance to securing U.S. national security interests, we were alarmed to learn that the U.S. Department of State has suspended Special Envoy for Iran Robert Malley's clearance, is conducting an investigation into Malley's handling of classified information, and only recently placed Malley on leave without pay. We write to request that the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) conduct an independent investigation into whether State Department officials complied with all appropriate laws and regulations—including policies and procedures described in the State Department's Foreign Affairs Manual (FAM)—with regard to the suspension of Special Envoy for Iran Malley's access to classified information.

On Thursday, June 29, 2023, it was reported that the State Department had placed Special Envoy Malley "on leave without pay, which occurred after his security clearance was suspended earlier this year amid an investigation into his handling of classified material." As one news report added: "A U.S. official said that Malley's clearance was suspended amid a State Department diplomatic security investigation into the possible mishandling of classified information. Another source familiar with the matter said he was placed on unpaid leave on Thursday afternoon." Special Envoy Malley is quoted by news organizations as confirming the suspension: "I have been informed that my security clearance is under review." In addition, it was reported this week that the "FBI is now looking into President Biden's Iran envoy, Rob Malley," including "Malley's handling of classified material."

In light of relevant laws and regulations, including policies and procedures described in the Foreign Affairs Manual, we request answers to the following questions no later than Friday, July 21, 2023:

- (1) On what date was Special Envoy Malley notified in writing, as required by 12 FAM 233, that his security clearance had been suspended? On what date(s) did the alleged event(s) occur that precipitated this review and suspension?
- (2) Did Special Envoy Malley, as required by 12 FAM 233, subsequently turn in all "Department-issued credentials that provide logical or physical access to classified systems or designated classified spaces/facilities and any and all Special Issuance Agency-issued passport(s) to the Office of Personnel Security and Suitability (DS/SI/PSS)?"

- (a) Is yes, on what date?
 - (b) If no, when will this requirement under 12 FAM 233 be fulfilled?
- (3) Was Special Envoy Malley's physical access to "Mahogany Row"—the highly-secured area of the State Department's 7th Floor that includes the offices of the Secretary of State and other top diplomatic officials—restricted?
- (a) If yes, on what date and to what extent?
- (4) Given that the Special Envoy for Iran leads the State Department's Iran Action Group (IAG), was Special Envoy Malley restricted from physically accessing IAG's classified spaces?
- (a) If yes, on what date and to what extent?
- (5) Did Special Envoy Malley, as required by 12 FAM 233, return all classified devices issued to him to the State Department?
- (a) If yes, on what date?
- (6) Given that the Special Envoy for Iran leads the State Department's Iran Action Group, when and how were IAG members informed that Special Envoy Malley's clearance was suspended?
- (7) After the State Department suspended Special Envoy Malley's clearance, when and how were members of the Iran Action Group expressly directed not discuss or otherwise share any classified information with Malley? Please clarify the extent and depth of restrictions conveyed to IAG members and other State Department employees.
- (8) On what date did the State Department place Special Envoy Malley on leave without pay? Why did the State Department make the decision to do so on this date rather than on the date on which Malley's clearance was suspended?
- (9) In the time that passed between the State Department's suspension of Special Envoy Malley's clearance and the State Department's decision to place Malley on leave without pay, what roles, responsibilities, and duties did Malley continue to have with respect to the Iran Action Group?
- (10) On what date did Abram Paley begin serving as acting Special Envoy for Iran?
- (11) Is Abram Paley, in his current capacity as acting Special Envoy for Iran, exercising significant authority pursuant to the laws of the United States?
- (a) If no, did the President or Secretary of State submit, as required by Section 5105 of the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022* (Public Law 117-81), a waiver, which would allow Paley to operate in the role for 180 days without Senate confirmation, to appropriate congressional committees not later than 15 days before Paley's appointment?

(b) If yes, did the Secretary of State submit, as required by Section 5105 of the FY2022 NDAA, a notification for temporary appointments exercising significant authority to appropriate congressional committees not later than 15 days after Paley's appointment?

We thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response by Friday, July 21, 2023.

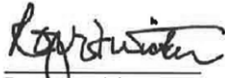
Sincerely,



Bill Hagerty
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Roger J. Wicker
United States Senator



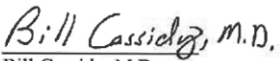
Tim Scott
United States Senator



Ted Cruz
United States Senator



Tom Cotton
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Rick Scott
United States Senator

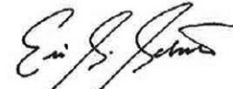


John Barrasso
United States Senator


Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator


Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator


James Lankford
United States Senator


Eric S. Schmitt
United States Senator


Ted Budd
United States Senator


Mike Braun
United States Senator


Kevin Cramer
United States Senator


Thom Tillis
United States Senator