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**Statement of Mileydi Guilarte  
Nominee for United States Alternate Executive Director  
Inter-American Development Bank  
U. S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
May 19, 2015**

*(As prepared for Delivery)*

Chairman Barrasso, Senator Udall, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am honored that President Obama nominated me to serve as the Alternate Executive Director at the Inter-American Development Bank. I am also grateful to Secretary Lew and Assistant Secretary Marisa Lago for supporting me.

I am also grateful to my family, friends, and colleagues [that are present today], for their love, encouragement, and unwavering support. I specially would like to thank my mother, Zenaida, for inspiring me to be better each day.

If confirmed, I will bring to the IDB a deep understanding of Latin America, solid experience with international development, a strong belief in the value of public service, and the commitment to relentlessly promote the U.S. interests in the region.

Representing the United States at the IDB, an institution created to support the economic and social development of Latin America, is a humbling yet vital undertaking. If confirmed, I would be the first Latina in nearly 30 years to hold this important position.

Since I appeared before this distinguished committee a year ago, I have continued to strengthen my experience and engagement in Latin America at the United States Agency for International Development, primarily working on our response to last summer's surge of unaccompanied minors from Central America. Addressing the interrelated economic, political and security challenges facing the region and their consequences, are critical to the national security interests of the United States. If confirmed, I hope to continue supporting this difficult and challenging task.

Let me take the opportunity to tell you a little bit about my background, which has shaped how I came to pursue a career in international development. Born in Cuba, I left Havana for the United States at an early age with my family in search of a better life with only a single blue suitcase in our hands. I spent my formative years in Miami, where I worked side by side with my parents in flea markets each weekend to help make ends meet. These experiences taught me the values of discipline and hard work. I was the first member of my family to graduate from college, and I feel deeply blessed to have prospered in America.

While in graduate school, I focused on developing a solid academic foundation to understand economic, political and social issues as they impact development and democracy.

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After graduation, my deep commitment to the promotion of democracy and human rights led me to work and live in various countries around the globe. Professionally, I have worked in countries as diverse as India, East Timor, the Philippines, and the Republic of the Maldives. Through these experiences, I deepened my leadership skills and learned how critical the interaction between financial institutions, donors and civil society are in the development of the world's poorest nations.

At the World Bank and at the United Nations, I worked on conflict prevention, humanitarian assistance, and strengthening emerging democracies. Most recently, at the United States Agency for International Development, I have worked on our response to address the root causes of the influx of unaccompanied minors, while at the same time contributed to the interagency process that produced the Administration's proposed \$1 billion request for Central America. These experiences allowed me to appreciate the challenges of working within complex multilateral institutions and develop the skills to help promote effective initiatives in that environment.

Thinking about Latin America has been a constant throughout my life. The opportunity to represent our great country at the Inter-American Development Bank is a particular honor for me as an American born in Latin America.

If confirmed, I will work diligently to advance U.S. objectives at the Inter-American Development Bank by carefully stewarding the resources of the U.S. taxpayer and by promoting greater accountability, transparency and effectiveness. I look forward to working closely with the members of this Committee and your staff.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to answering any questions you might have.