

**WRITTEN STATEMENT of PAUL K. MARTIN,
INSPECTOR GENERAL-DESIGNATE,
UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 19, 2023**

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Risch, and members of the Committee:

I am honored to be nominated to serve as Inspector General for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). If confirmed, I commit to working closely with this Committee in providing timely and comprehensive information relating to the programs and operations of USAID, and the other agencies under the USAID OIG's oversight mandate: the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the Inter-American Foundation (IAF), and the U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF).

At the outset, I would like to recognize my family for their steadfast love and support: my wife, Rebekah Liu, a senior attorney at the Securities and Exchange Commission; and our daughters Anna, Emily, and Grace. I also want to express deep appreciation to my colleagues at the NASA Office of Inspector General (OIG) for their professionalism and accomplishments overseeing the world's premier science, space exploration, and aeronautics agency.

I have dedicated the bulk of my professional life to public service. I moved to Washington, D.C. in 1985 after a 3-year stint as a reporter at a South Carolina daily newspaper. At that time, President Reagan had appointed then-U.S. District Court Judge William W. Wilkins, Jr. as Chairman of the newly formed United States Sentencing Commission, and I was fortunate enough to be one of the agency's first employees. I worked alongside Judge Wilkins, then-Circuit Court Judge Stephen Breyer, five other Commissioners, and a handful of staff to create a new agency that developed the initial set of federal sentencing guidelines. Among other roles, I served as the Commission's Deputy Staff Director where I helped supervise a staff of more than 100 lawyers, researchers, guidelines trainers, and data technicians. Along the way, I attended law school at night at Georgetown University where I received a Juris Doctor but, much more significantly, where I met my wife, Rebekah.

I moved to the Department of Justice (DOJ) OIG in 1998. During my time there, I served in a variety of positions, including Deputy Inspector General for 6 years. I was proud to work with my OIG colleagues in conducting critical oversight of DOJ activities, particularly the transformation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

In November 2009, I was honored to be confirmed by the Senate as Inspector General for NASA where I currently work with 190 dedicated auditors, investigators, attorneys, data analysts, and support personnel to provide high-quality oversight of the nation's civilian space program.

Finally, since late March 2020 at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, I have also served as Vice Chair of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC), an entity created by Congress to coordinate independent oversight of the \$5 trillion in emergency federal pandemic relief spending.

As the Committee considers my nomination, I am energized by the prospect of working with, learning from, and helping lead USAID OIG's dedicated staff located across five continents as the office continues to ensure the integrity and effectiveness of the U.S. government's international development and global humanitarian assistance efforts.

If confirmed, I see four main areas where the OIG can continue to add significant value:

- First, the OIG must continue its aggressive oversight of the tens of billions of dollars in assistance provided by USAID to Ukraine and its people since the onset of Russia's invasion in February 2022. Congress and American taxpayers deserve the OIG's full attention to ensure that USAID programs in Ukraine are working as intended, account for risk, and are not compromised by corruption. This likely means increasing the office's tempo of audits, evaluations, and investigations into USAID funds provided to Ukraine and expanding the office's joint oversight efforts with our OIG colleagues at the Departments of Defense and State under the Lead Inspector General authority.
- Second, in addition to Ukraine, the OIG must also continue rigorous oversight of U.S. foreign assistance programs in the many other vulnerable parts of the world. To me, successful oversight is oversight that (1) is helpful to agency management and contains practical recommendations for improvement; (2) provides substantive, timely, and relevant to Congress and the public; and (3) ensures transparency and accountability about how USAID and the agencies under the OIG's oversight purview spend taxpayer dollars. As world events prompt emergency and long-term responses from USAID, the OIG should highlight findings from its past work to inform USAID on the key risks and challenges when it establishes new, or expands existing, programs.

- Third, the OIG, through its global ability to conduct investigations overseas, must continue to ensure the integrity of U.S. foreign assistance efforts by holding accountable those who corrupt or defraud taxpayer-funded programs. This includes investigations into misuse of U.S. aid dollars programmed through both nongovernmental organizations and the United Nations. Against the backdrop of the recent horrific terrorist attacks in Israel, OIG oversight of USAID programs in Gaza and the West Bank, including investigations into allegations that USAID dollars have been diverted to terrorist organizations, must continue to be a priority. These efforts will fall in large measure on the professionalism and expertise of our investigative and audit teams dedicated to the region.
- Finally, in fulfilling its statutory oversight role, the OIG must maintain a professional, cooperative, yet independent working relationship with USAID, MCC, IAF, and USADF leadership and staff. Looking inward, the OIG also must continue to build a highly professional environment that attracts and retains the most talented employees with the right mix of skills and a heart for the OIG's oversight mission.

I am thankful for and humbled by this nomination and the opportunity, if confirmed, to serve alongside the USAID OIG team to strengthen American foreign assistance programs around the globe.

Thank you.