

Statement for the Record
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Chairman Cardin, Ranking Member Risch, and distinguished members of the Committee, on behalf of the Department of State, thank you for the opportunity to speak here today. More broadly, thank you for your unfailing support throughout the 14 months I have been in this new role. I am honored to provide you today with an update on our work in the service of the United States' international technology policy priorities and will speak specifically to our efforts to strengthen U.S. global leadership to unlock the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) while also addressing its challenges.

At the State Department, I oversee the organizations that lead and coordinate the Department's work on cyberspace, digital policy, and emerging technologies: the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy, known as CDP, and the Office of the Special Envoy for Critical and Emerging Technology, S/TECH for short. Building on years of bipartisan work, Secretary of State Antony Blinken established these organizations in partnership with Congress as part of a comprehensive effort to modernize American diplomacy and make technology central to U.S. foreign policy. He gave us a mission: to shape the terms of the technology future and to extend the Biden administration's modern industrial and innovation strategy into the international realm.

Together, CDP and S/TECH, with our interagency partners, work to advance U.S. leadership globally on topics such as: trusted technologies and digital infrastructure, artificial intelligence, advanced wireless networks, quantum computing, biotechnology, cloud services and data centers, undersea telecommunications cables, satellite communications; and trusted data flows across borders. We also work to build partner cybersecurity capacity;

strengthen consensus-based international technical standards; advance global cyber stability and counter adversaries in cyberspace through sustained diplomatic initiatives and international partnerships; and finally, we use technology to promote and protect human rights.

An important distinction between my work and the work of my colleague appearing with me today, Dr. Matthew Graviss, is that my team focuses on leading U.S. diplomacy on technology topics with *external, international* audiences. So, while my team engages governments around the world, multilateral institutions, civil society, and industry, these efforts are stronger when we lead by example and responsibly and effectively use AI *inside* the State Department as well. That is where Dr. Graviss and his team's exciting work comes in, as he will explain shortly.

As someone who spent a decade building and leading a cybersecurity software company after a couple of combat tours in the Marines, I believe that responsible technological innovation is increasingly a foundational source of geopolitical power. Over the past year, I have seen firsthand in how technologies are transforming every aspect of our societies and our economies – how we work, how we learn, how we communicate, and how we care for ourselves. They are also transforming every aspect of our foreign policy. Many traditional measures of strength, such as GDP or military capacity, are increasingly downstream from our ability to innovate in core technology areas. In that sense, technology innovation is driving more and more of what is, and is not, possible in our foreign and national security policy. Put simply, in the realm of geopolitical competition, tech is the game. It is revolutionary and it is accelerating. The United States must lead, engaging boldly on behalf of our values and interests.

As the President recently said, “we stand at an inflection point in history” and nowhere is that more evident than with artificial intelligence. The decisions that we make collectively today about how we shape the parameters around AI will define our world for decades. It is a responsibility that we must assume together with our private sector, civil society, and our

international partners. American companies lead the world in AI innovation, and the United States has increasingly strong momentum domestically to lead in AI governance. The recent Executive Order on AI directs *the most significant action* any government anywhere in the world has ever taken on AI safety, security, and trust. It is just the next step after securing the voluntary commitments agreed to by leading AI companies, and the President is committed to working with Congress to craft bipartisan legislation that establishes an enduring domestic policy framework.

At the same time, we are working internationally with our closest partners to advance our shared views on AI policy. The G7, with strong U.S. engagement, just released an International Code of Conduct for AI developers which draws heavily from the voluntary commitments. I attended the UK's AI Safety Summit two weeks ago at Bletchley Park, hallowed ground in the history of technology and national security. And we continue to work to advance shared approaches to AI with our European partners through the U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council.

Countries around the world realize that AI is now *the* foundational technology driving advances that can help solve some of our most pressing shared challenges in science, health care, energy, transportation, education, and more. And AI is already ubiquitous - the choice is not *whether* AI will change our societies and economies, but *how* governments and societies use it responsibly. We must ensure that rights-respecting states sustain their competitive advantage, that the technologies benefit all our people, and that risks are mitigated.

My team's role – in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development, which is leading on how AI can be used to advance global development – is to engage with the world in these conversations – to synchronize multi-stakeholder approaches on AI governance, to harness the benefits of AI, to mitigate its risks, and to do so while encouraging our innovation ecosystem. We do this with three orienting principles always in mind:

First, it is essential for the United States to lead with an affirmative vision for the role of technology in our shared future. We believe in technology's power to accelerate innovation, to solve major global challenges, and to support our future prosperity. Our affirmative vision is reflected in both our engagements and foreign assistance, through programs such as AI Connect at State and the Responsible Computing Challenge and Equitable AI Challenge at USAID, and other recently announced programs to leverage AI to help reduce poverty, address energy needs, improve global public health, access to education, and build a stronger coalition around inclusive and ethical AI governance. This affirmative vision must include a commitment to elevating the voices of those around the world who are often not included in the conversations around AI development, deployment, and the international standards governing AI. By committing resources to these programs, we were able to secure follow-on investments from the private sector that didn't just match but far exceeded our commitment of \$15 million to leverage AI to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. The United States is the world's leader in innovation – if we don't champion the benefits of technology, who will?

Second, we know we must do this work in partnership with others. International partnerships on everything from R&D investment to standards harmonization to regulatory interoperability are the policy underpinnings necessary to seize this moment. No one can do this alone. Over the past year, the State Department has been engaged constantly with allies and partners bilaterally and in multilateral venues like the G7, the G20, the OECD, and the United Nations to achieve tangible commitments on the responsible development, deployment, and use of artificial intelligence. Through the AI Executive Order, the United States is leading by example, providing a model for the responsible use of this critical technology. We are working to increase participation in the AI Voluntary Commitments among leading companies in the United States and all around the world, to broaden adherence to the Code of Conduct, and to internationalize different elements of the E.O. as a more comprehensive policy framework. In

addition to working the governments and companies, we – from the President on down – are working with civil society experts and organizations at every step on this journey to effectively manage risks related to AI technologies.

Third, we recognize that all this is happening while a determined and well-resourced set of adversaries and competitors tirelessly advance a very different view of technology's role in our future. They are aggressively trying to re-shape the international rules-based order and are investing heavily in a worldview that prioritizes authoritarian tactics over democratic values and governance. Technology governance, and specifically AI, is one of the geopolitical imperatives of our time. We need to lead international conversations to shape the global technology landscape of the future, so that AI advances democratic values and human rights, protects our safety and security, and supports consumers and workers. When the United States pulls back, our adversaries and competitors fill the void.

Technology with global impact requires global action, and the State Department is delivering on the important work of technology diplomacy for the American people.

Thank you again for the opportunity to join you today. I look forward to your questions and perspectives.