

## NOMINATIONS

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THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022

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

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:22 a.m., in Room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Edward J. Markey presiding.

Present: Senators Markey [presiding], Cardin, Shaheen, Murphy, Kaine, Booker, Johnson, and Portman.

### **OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY, U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS**

Senator MARKEY. This nomination hearing of the Senator Foreign Relations Committee will come to order.

We are here today to consider the nominees before us: Ms. Elizabeth Shortino to serve as United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund; the Honorable David Pressman to serve as Ambassador to Hungary; the Honorable Geoffrey Pyatt to serve as Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources; and the Honorable Robert Wood to serve as Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations.

I would like to congratulate each of you on your nominations. We thank you for your service.

We thank your families, who have served and will continue to serve beside you as you embark on your new post.

Elizabeth Shortino is nominated to be the United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund. Ms. Shortino has spent 17 years as a dedicated public servant at the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Treasury.

Since February of 2021, Ms. Shortino has served as the acting U.S. Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund. U.S. leadership at the IMF will be crucial as Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine rages on, further straining Ukraine's economy and jeopardizing global economic growth.

Next, Ambassador David Pressman, nominated to be Ambassador to Hungary. Ambassador Pressman previously served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations for Special Political Affairs.

Ambassador Pressman is a prominent international human rights lawyer. This experience will serve him well as Ambassador to Hungary, where Prime Minister Viktor Orban continues to serve as a foe of democratic institutions and human rights.

In this role, we will rely on you to champion the restoration of checks and balances, support for an independent media, and sup-

port for LGBTQI rights that have come under assault under the Orban government.

Next, Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt, nominated to be Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources. Ambassador Pyatt is a dedicated public servant, having served most recently as Ambassador to Greece and before that Ambassador to Ukraine.

The Assistant Secretary for Energy Resources will be a crucial part of the administration's efforts to lead a clean energy revolution.

We need to cut fossil fuel demand and deploy renewable and energy efficient technologies in order to provide real long-term security for ourselves and for our allies.

As President Biden works to take short-term steps to support Europe in the face of war and disruption, I urge the administration to continue to direct investments, funding, and private sector collaborations towards the renewable energy and electrification solutions that will keep Americans and our allies and partners safe, healthy, and supplied with affordable energy.

Ambassador Pyatt, I look forward to hearing how you will advance those goals as Assistant Secretary.

And finally, I would like to introduce Ambassador Robert Wood, who is nominated to be the Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs at the United Nations.

Ambassador Wood has extensive experience with multilateral bodies from his time as the U.S. Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. mission to the European Union, and Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. mission of international organizations in Vienna, Austria.

We welcome you as well, Ambassador Wood, and as we continue to navigate the pressing challenges to the international community posed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and North Korea's continued illicit development of weapons of mass destruction, we need to ensure that voice at the United Nations remains strong.

We have to continue to build coalitions even as Russia and China continue to serve as spoilers within the United Nations Security Council.

Congratulations to each of you on your nomination to serve in these crucial posts.

Now let me turn and recognize the ranking member today, Senator Portman from Ohio.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ROB PORTMAN,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM OHIO**

Senator PORTMAN. Thank you, Senator Markey, and thank you for your perfect timing. I apologize for being a couple minutes late. We are all juggling all of our commitments this morning.

But I am delighted to be here and particularly with these nominees. Thank you all for being willing to serve our country.

We were just told by Senator Markey something about your background so I will not go into that except to say that all of you are looking to join the ranks of some very important responsibilities.

Elizabeth Shortino to be at IMF—I look forward to talking to you about that; Ambassador David Pressman, U.S. Ambassador to

Hungary; Geoffrey Pyatt, who I got to know when he was ambassador in Ukraine, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources; and Ambassador Robert Wood at the U.N.

This is a critical time—I guess we always say that—in global affairs, but I think it is not an overstatement to say that right now it is particularly difficult because it is a time of great instability, which requires U.S. leadership, in my view, on the world stage.

The positions you have been nominated to are all very important and maybe now more than ever.

Ambassador Pyatt, energy security, as you know, is of critical importance as Russia continues to wage this war against Ukraine. Eight hundred and seventy million dollars a day is about what the Europeans are sending to Russia to help fund the war machine and so we need to see a change there. We are seeing it slowly, more quickly if the United States has an even stronger leadership role.

Unfortunately, it took us a while to work with the EU to get them to make any moves, but they have embargoed Russian coal now, which will take effect in mid-August, as you know, and then they are phasing in this embargo on Russian oil.

I would like to hear from you today, of course, about how we can be more helpful to accelerate Europe's independence from Russia.

Strong concerns with our energy policies here at home because I do not think they are helping right now, and so we need to do what we can to increase production in this country rather than rely on the Venezuelas and Saudi Arabias even and, certainly, the Iranian sources to backfill our own energy needs.

Ambassador Pressman, Hungary has found itself in the middle of these conversations about European energy security and energy independence from Russia. They were a particularly difficult partner to deal with during Europe's attempts to agree to ban Russian oil. In fact, the compromise was required because of them.

I have concerns with the influence of Russia and China in Hungary and I would like to hear from you today about the dynamic and ways in which the United States can work to counter this and the ways in which you personally would work to do so.

Ambassador Wood, no shortage of global issues before the Security Council—as was noted, Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, the global food and energy crises. Multiple humanitarian disasters have confirmed your plate will be full.

I want to talk to you about what your priorities will be at the U.N., if confirmed, and how you plan to work with our partners and allies there to pursue those priorities.

And we do have a lot of allies, and it turns out that Vladimir Putin's brutal and unwarranted attack on Ukraine has strengthened some of those alliances. I note that the NATO meeting coming up will have the heads of state from countries like South Korea and Japan and Australia and New Zealand attending.

Although they are not expanding NATO they are, in effect, expanding its reach by allying with us so closely.

Ms. Shortino, inflation and energy prices continue to climb upwards. Of course, this is impacting us here at home but also impacting emerging and developing countries around the world and to compound that, of course, we have a sovereign country, Ukraine, that needs to be rebuilt.

I am interested—really interested in talking to you about that. I think that IMF can play a central role. Following on the \$40 billion dollar package that Senator Markey and I supported to help Ukraine, I would hope that the IMF can play a bigger role, going forward, to help Ukraine get back on its feet.

I would like to thank you all for being here, again, and, again, for stepping forward to serve your country and we look forward to hearing from you.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, Senator Portman.

And now we will turn to our opening statements from our witnesses. I would ask each of you to keep your statements to five minutes.

And we will begin with you, Ms. Shortino. Whenever you feel comfortable, please begin.

**STATEMENT OF ELIZABETH SHORTINO OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, NOMINATED TO BE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS**

Ms. SHORTINO. Thank you so much, Chairman Markey, and Ranking Member Portman and members of the committee. I am truly honored that President Biden has nominated me to serve as Executive Director of the United States to the International Monetary Fund.

I am also thankful for the support of Vice President Harris, Secretary Yellen, and Deputy Secretary Adeyemo.

I am very pleased to be joined today by my husband, Michael Shortino, my mother, Peggy Demarest, and my son, Alex Shortino, behind me.

I have spent the last 17 years of my career working in international affairs for the U.S. government, serving administrations from both parties to advance U.S. economic interests.

My interest in public service took hold during my years at the University of North Carolina where I majored in political science. Following graduation, I took a position in management consulting.

But after four years of working on business strategy I was drawn to public service. As a graduate student at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, I developed a passion for international economics and diplomacy and, specifically, the role of the Bretton Woods Institutions in the global economic order.

I formally began my career in federal service at the Office of Management and Budget, overseeing State Department and USAID economic and development assistance programs.

Four years later, I made the transition to the Treasury Department in the midst of the global financial crisis. My career at Treasury has spanned a wide range of international topics that have all, on some level, involved the use of IMF engagement to advance U.S. interests.

As an economist working on Pakistan, I worked closely with the State Department, Defense Department, and USAID to leverage the IMF and enhancing U.S. national security interests in the region.

As the director of the Office of the Middle East and North Africa, I developed strong relationships with IMF staff and partnered with

the IMF to design lending programs that would support Arab Spring countries in their economic transitions.

Later, as director of the International Monetary Policy Office, I led Treasury's engagement on IMF policies, IMF lending, and G-7 and G-20. I also spearheaded the U.S. agenda for the G-7 during its presidency in 2020 and oversaw the IMF response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The IMF has a pivotal role to play in supporting the global economy. It is truly a unique organization in its ability to rapidly mobilize support for countries in crisis.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, it mobilized \$33 billion in emergency financing. More recently, it approved \$1.4 billion in rapid financing to support Ukraine.

Its engagement often provides a catalytic effect. Its sound policy advice and robust economic lending conditions can unlock other international support and market financing, and facilitate critical transitions towards a stable and growing economic outlook.

It is the only international institution charged with assessing exchange rate stability and global economic imbalances, and its capacity development programs are of the highest caliber and provide much needed support, particularly for low income and fragile states.

While the IMF has many strengths, it also faces challenges. It is an organization that boasts a broad and diverse membership, and leveraging the IMF's toolkit to advance U.S. interests requires active engagement with IMF management and other board members.

Its lending programs need to incorporate measures to strengthen governance by corruption and bolster anti-money laundering frameworks, which will help ensure that IMF funds and other funds are used appropriately.

With low income countries facing rising debt challenges compounded by the increase in energy and food prices, the IMF has a significant role to play to support its poorest members.

If confirmed as U.S. Executive Director, I will work tirelessly to help ensure the IMF delivers on these future challenges while still executing its core mission.

Building upon my experience, I will press for the IMF to call out unfair and opaque Chinese lending as part of its broader efforts to promote debt sustainability. I will ensure that U.S. interests are protected in the next review of IMF quota and governance reform, which is scheduled to conclude in 2023.

I will take steps to make sure IMF lending is in line with and supports U.S. national and economic goals, including fighting corruption and money laundering.

Finally, I will work to improve the operational effectiveness of the IMF as an institution. I look forward to regularly engaging with the U.S. Congress and this committee on all of these issues, and I would be honored to have the opportunity to serve in this role.

I look forward to your questions today. Thank you.  
[The prepared statement of Ms. Shortino follows:]

## PREPARED STATEMENT OF ELIZABETH SHORTINO

Thank you, Chairman Menendez, Ranking Member Risch, and members of the committee. I am honored that President Biden nominated me to serve as Executive Director of the United States to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and I am thankful for the support of Vice President Harris, Secretary Yellen, and Deputy Secretary Adeyemo. I am pleased to be joined today by my husband, Michael Shortino and my three children: Jack, Alex, and Julia.

I have spent the last 17 years of my career working in international affairs for the U.S. Government, serving administrations from both parties to advance U.S. economic interests. My interest in public service took hold during my undergraduate years at the University of North Carolina, where I majored in political science and interned at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. Following graduation, I took a position in management consulting; but after four years working on business strategy, I was drawn to public service. As a graduate student at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, I developed a passion for international economics and diplomacy, and specifically the role of the Bretton-Woods institutions in the global economic order.

I formally began my career in federal service at the Office of Management and Budget overseeing State Department and USAID economic and development assistance programs to advance economic diplomacy and support U.S. national security interests. Four years later, I made the transition to the Treasury Department in the midst of the global financial crisis.

My career at Treasury has spanned a wide range of international topics that have all, on some level, involved the use of IMF engagement to advance U.S. interests. As a desk economist for Pakistan, I worked closely with the State Department, Defense Department, and USAID to leverage the IMF in enhancing U.S. national security interests in the region. As Director of the Office of Middle East and North Africa, I developed strong relationships with IMF staff and partnered with the IMF to design lending programs that would support Arab Spring countries in their economic transitions. Later, as Director of the International Monetary Policy office, I led Treasury's engagement on IMF policies, IMF lending, and G7 and G20 engagement, including spearheading the U.S. agenda for the G7 during its presidency in 2020 and overseeing the IMF response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The IMF has a pivotal role to play in supporting the global economy. It is truly a unique organization in its ability to rapidly mobilize funding to support countries in a crisis. In the response to the COVID-19 crisis, it mobilized more than \$33 billion in emergency financing, and more recently it approved \$1.4 billion in rapid financing to support Ukraine. Its engagement often provides a catalytic effect; its sound policy advice and robust economic lending conditions can unlock other international support and market financing and facilitate critical transitions towards a stable and growing economic outlook. It is also the only international institution charged with assessing exchange rate stability and global economic balances. And its capacity development programs are of the highest caliber and provide much needed support for low-income countries and fragile states.

While the IMF has many strengths, it also faces challenges. It is an organization that boasts a broad and diverse membership and leveraging the IMF's toolkit to advance U.S. interests requires active engagement with IMF management and other Board members. Its lending programs need to incorporate measures to strengthen governance, fight corruption, and strengthen anti-money laundering frameworks to help ensure IMF funds are used appropriately. With low-income countries facing rising debt challenges, compounded by increasing energy and food prices, the IMF will have a significant role to play to support its poorest members.

If confirmed as U.S. Executive Director, I will work tirelessly to help ensure the IMF delivers on these future challenges while still executing its core mission. Building upon my experience, I will press for the IMF to call out unfair and opaque Chinese lending as part of its broader efforts to promote debt sustainability. I will ensure that U.S. interests are protected in the next review of IMF quota and governance reform, scheduled to conclude in 2023. I will take steps to make sure IMF engagement are in line with and support U.S. national and economic goals, including fighting corruption and money laundering. Finally, I will work to improve the operational effectiveness of the IMF as an institution.

I look forward to regularly engaging with the U.S. Congress and this committee on all of these issues. I would be honored to have the opportunity to serve in this role. I look forward to answering your questions.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you very much.

Now we will turn to you, Mr. Pressman, for your testimony.

**STATEMENT OF HON. DAVID PRESSMAN OF NEW YORK, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES TO HUNGARY**

Mr. PRESSMAN. Chairman Markey, Ranking Member Portman, distinguished members of the committee, it is an honor to return to this committee as the President's nominee to serve as United States Ambassador in Hungary.

I am grateful to President Biden and to Secretary Blinken for the opportunity, if confirmed, to join the exceptional team of public servants at Embassy Budapest at this time of enormous complexity and urgency.

As you know, we meet against a backdrop of rising authoritarianism and democratic backsliding around the world.

Vladimir Putin has once again attacked a sovereign democratic neighbor, flouting the rules-based international order and challenging the institutions that America and its partners stood up to protect it, including the United Nations Security Council where I previously served as the United States ambassador.

Even for someone who has spent much of my career focused on the worst humanity has to offer—national security threats, human rights abuses, war crimes—the carnage Putin continues to wreak in Ukraine is staggering.

But where Putin expected weakness he has found strength. The Ukrainian people's courage and determination, to borrow the words of a former president, has, quote, "lit a candle of hope and inspiration, reminding the world that brave hearts still exist to fight injustice," end quote.

When President Reagan spoke those words he was speaking of Hungary and Hungarians, who, like their Ukrainian neighbors today, inspired people everywhere with their bravery, their thirst for freedom, their zeal for democracy.

In October 1956, Hungarian men and women took to the streets to stand up to Soviet oppression and demanded the right to control their destinies. They did so knowing that they could be imprisoned, tortured, or killed.

Their courage changed the course of Hungary and Europe, and inspired successive generations who chose to dedicate their lives to advancing dignity, freedom, and liberty, including me.

Whether serving in government to advance our nation's interests in the Security Council or working outside of government to uphold human rights, I have always strived to dedicate myself to advancing the fundamental values that make our nation exceptional.

If confirmed, I will bring that same passion for our interests and values to my work as Ambassador to Hungary. Hungary is a long-time friend, ally, and partner that makes significant contributions to common security objectives such as combating terrorism, transnational crime, and weapons proliferation.

As a NATO ally, Hungary supports efforts to defend NATO's eastern flank at this critical moment and has been our partner in addressing challenges around the world, including in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Balkans.

Hungary is also home to hundreds of U.S. companies and the citizens of our nations take part in rich and growing cultural, educational, and scientific exchanges.

As both a NATO ally and a member of the European Union, Hungary joined the world in condemning Putin's unprovoked and brutal war in Ukraine and, ultimately, supported European Union efforts to impose severe costs on Putin.

However, Hungary's reticence in that process and the obvious influence of Russia and China in Hungary and on its government are causes for serious concern, not just for the United States' interests or Europe's but for the people of Hungary.

If confirmed, combating the malign influence of Moscow and Beijing and preserving and, indeed, strengthening our collective response to Putin's war of choice will be a top priority.

The threats to democracy in Hungary are real and they merit our determined attention. Human rights, media freedom, and the rule of law are not "nice to haves" in Hungary or anywhere else. They are fundamental foundations for sustaining democracy and liberty, and for meeting people's most basic needs.

Today in Hungary we see deeply troubling trends in each of these areas. If confirmed, I will support efforts to advance and protect these fundamental rights and transatlantic values.

The opportunity to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Hungary is an opportunity to bring our countries closer together and deepen ties between our economies and our people, and that is essential because the fates of our nations are already very much linked.

A free, safe, and secure Europe of which Hungary is an integral part is fundamental to a free, safe, and secure United States. The Hungarian people overwhelmingly view themselves as we do, as an integral part of the transatlantic community, and that shared conviction is something we have a vital interest in preserving.

No matter how difficult the issues we face, we will not lose sight of our common interest in restoring peace and security in Europe or of Hungary's role in that, and we will not equivocate in advancing the cause of liberty and human dignity.

If confirmed, I will do my utmost to bring us closer to each other and closer to democracy's promise.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be honored to answer your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Pressman follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. DAVID PRESSMAN

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, distinguished members of the committee, it is an honor to return to this committee as the President's nominee to represent the United States in Hungary. I am grateful to President Biden and Secretary Blinken for the opportunity, if confirmed, to join the exceptional team of public servants at Embassy Budapest at a time of enormous complexity and urgency.

As you know, we meet against a backdrop of rising authoritarianism and democratic backsliding around the world. Vladimir Putin has—once again—attacked a sovereign, democratic neighbor, flouting the rules-based international order and challenging the institutions that America and its partners stood up to protect it, including the United Nations Security Council, where I previously served as United States Ambassador. Even for someone who has spent much of my career focused on the worst humanity has to offer—national security threats, human rights abuses, and war crimes—the carnage Putin continues to wreak in Ukraine is staggering.

But where Putin expected weakness, he has found strength. The Ukrainian people's courage and determination has, to borrow the words of a former President, "lit a candle of hope and inspiration ... [reminding] the world that brave hearts still exist to challenge injustice."



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Hungary is a long-time friend, ally, and partner that makes significant contributions to common security objectives such as combating terrorism, transnational crime, and weapons proliferation. As a NATO Ally, Hungary supports efforts to defend NATO's eastern flank at this critical moment, and has been our partner in addressing challenges around the world, including in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Balkans. Hungary is also home to hundreds of U.S. companies, and the citizens of our nations take part in rich and growing cultural, educational, and scientific exchanges.

As both a NATO Ally and member of the European Union, Hungary joined the world in condemning Putin's unprovoked and brutal war in Ukraine, and ultimately supported European Union efforts to impose severe costs on Putin.

However, Hungary's reticence in that process, and the obvious influence of Russia and China in Hungary—and on its Government—are causes for serious concern. Not just for the United States' interests, or Europe's, but for the people of Hungary. If confirmed, combatting the malign influence of Moscow and Beijing, and preserving—and indeed, strengthening—our collective response to Putin's war of choice will be a top priority.

The threats to democracy in Hungary are real and merit our determined attention. Human rights, media freedom, and the rule of law, are not nice-to-haves in Hungary—or anywhere else. They are fundamental foundations for sustaining democracy and liberty—and for meeting people's most basic needs. Today in Hungary, we see deeply troubling trends in each of these areas. If confirmed, I will support efforts to advance and protect these fundamental rights and transatlantic values.

The opportunity to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Hungary is an opportunity to bring our countries closer together, and to deepen the ties between our economies and our people. And that is essential, because the fates of our nations are already very much linked. A free, safe, and secure Europe, of which Hungary is an integral part, is fundamental to a free, safe, and secure United States. The Hungarian people overwhelmingly view themselves as we do—as an integral part of the transatlantic community. That shared conviction is something we have a vital stake in preserving.

No matter how difficult the issues we face, we will not lose sight of our common interest in restoring peace and security to Europe, or of Hungary's role in that. And we will not equivocate in advancing the cause of liberty and human dignity.

If confirmed, I will do my utmost to bring us closer to each other, and closer to the ideals of democracy's promise.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be honored to answer any questions.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, Mr. Pressman, very much.

Now we will recognize Mr. Pyatt for your opening statement.

**STATEMENT OF HON. GEOFFREY R. PYATT OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, NOMINATED TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE [ENERGY RESOURCES]**

Mr. PYATT. Thank you very much, Chairman Markey, Ranking Member Portman, members of the committee, for the honor of appearing again before you as President Biden's nominee for Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources.

This is a pivotal time for the ENR Bureau, with headlines highlighting the importance of energy issues to our economy, daily lives

of Americans, and to our national security, and I am grateful for the confidence that President Biden and Secretary Blinken have placed in me with this nomination.

I would also like to introduce my wife, Mary, who has been my indispensable partner through a 33-year Foreign Service career and is joining me today.

I am grateful for the support that members of this committee and its staff have offered through my nine years as an American ambassador in Europe and, if confirmed, I am committed to continuing that collaboration.

Energy issues have been a major focus through the past two decades of my career. As U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, I saw every day how Russia weaponized energy to undermine European sovereignty and facilitate corruption.

Putin's brutal invasion has caused a global spike in energy prices and Americans are suffering at the pump as a result. Our government is working tirelessly to minimize this pain, including by leading historic coordinated releases from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve alongside our partners and allies, and if confirmed, I will continue ENR's efforts to bolster fuel supplies on the global market and thwart Russia's use of energy as a weapon of war.

Energy diversification is crucial to this effort. Over six years in Athens I was proud to partner with the Greek government to help that country become a leading ally promoting diversity of energy sources and routes in Europe.

Importantly, our embassy team also supported Greece to adopt one of the EU's most ambitious energy transition agendas, often partnering with American companies that are creating jobs here at home.

This committee has shown welcome interest in China's efforts to dominate the supply chain for inputs like critical minerals essential to the deployment of clean energy technologies.

If confirmed, I commit to collaborating with you and your colleagues to secure critical mineral supply chains. I would also seek to sustain momentum for the Department of State's recently announced Mineral Security Partnership to ensure U.S. access to minerals that go into clean tech like batteries. I would work with the ENR team to build robust responsible supply chains to support economic prosperity in the United States.

Putin's brutal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine has rewritten the global energy map, and the United States has worked with our allies and partners to address the severe impacts, especially on Europe's energy security.

Among Putin's many miscalculations in launching this war was his failure to anticipate how his actions would make our alliances stronger and accelerate energy transition.

Together, with the EU, member states, global allies and partners, and the private sector, we are redirecting energy supplies to Europe, increasing efficiency measures to reduce overall energy demand, and accelerating the deployment of renewable technologies.

My aim, if confirmed, will be to work with our allies and partners diplomatically and programmatically to free them from dependence on malign actors like Russia, to ensure that the United States and our partners benefit from the economic opportunities of

the clean energy revolution and expedite a low-carbon future that provides reliable and affordable energy to all segments of society.

Earlier in my State Department career I was honored to serve at the U.S. mission to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, where we worked intensively to advance clean nuclear power.

I was also part of the negotiating team for the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Agreement, which played a critical role in unlocking the relationship between our two democracies.

If confirmed, I will work closely with colleagues from the State Department's ISN Bureau and the Department of Energy to support American leadership in civil nuclear technology, including the new generation of small modular reactors that promise a reliable source of base load power while advancing urgent climate goals.

As a career economic officer, I take seriously the imperative to defend American commercial and technology leadership.

If confirmed, I will work with business leaders and entrepreneurs to promote investment in U.S.-led energy technologies across all sectors, especially those needed to realize a low-carbon future. I would look forward to working with ENR's energy transformation and programs offices to amplify this effort.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, energy security is front page news right now. But as Senator Lugar recognized in calling attention to these issues some two decades ago, our success requires persistent and strategically focused diplomacy to bolster our international energy partnerships. If confirmed, I would be honored to contribute to that task.

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

[The prepared statement of Mr. Pyatt follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. GEOFFREY R. PYATT

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member, for the honor of appearing again before this committee as President Biden's nominee for Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources. This is a pivotal time for the ENR bureau, with headlines highlighting the importance of energy issues to our economy, the daily lives of Americans, and our national security, and I am grateful for the confidence that President Biden and Secretary Blinken have placed in me with this nomination.

I would also like to introduce my wife Mary, who has been my indispensable partner through a 33-year Foreign Service career and is joining me today. I am grateful for the support that members of this committee and its staff have offered through my nine years as an Ambassador in Europe. If confirmed, I am committed to continuing that collaboration.

Energy issues have been a major focus through the past two decades of my career. As U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, I saw every day how Russia weaponized energy to undermine European sovereignty and facilitate corruption. Putin's brutal invasion has caused a global spike in energy prices and Americans are suffering at the pump as a result. Our Government is working tirelessly to minimize this pain, including by leading historic coordinated releases from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve alongside our partners and allies. If confirmed, I will continue ENR's efforts to bolster fuel supplies on the global market and thwart Russia's use of energy as a weapon of war.

Energy diversification is crucial to this effort. Over six years in Athens, I was proud to partner with the Greek Government to help that country become a leading ally promoting diversity of energy sources and routes in Europe. Importantly, our Embassy team also supported Greece to adopt one of the EU's most ambitious energy transition agendas, often partnering with American companies that are creating jobs here at home.

This committee has shown welcome interest in China's efforts to dominate the supply chain for inputs like critical minerals essential to the deployment of clean energy technologies. If confirmed, I commit to collaborating with you and your colleagues to secure critical mineral supply chains. I would also seek to sustain momentum for the Department of State's recently-announced Minerals Security Partnership to ensure U.S. access to minerals that go into cleantech like batteries. I would work with the ENR team to build robust, responsible supply chains to support economic prosperity in the United States.

Putin's brutal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine has rewritten the global energy map and the United States has worked with our allies and partners to address the severe impacts, especially on Europe's energy security. Among Putin's many miscalculations in launching this war was his failure to anticipate how his actions would make our alliances stronger and accelerate energy transition. Together with the EU, member states, global allies and partners, and the private sector, we are re-directing energy supplies to Europe, increasing efficiency measures to reduce overall energy demand, and accelerating the deployment of renewable technologies.

My aim, if confirmed, will be to work with our allies and partners diplomatically and programmatically to free them from dependence on malign actors like Russia, to ensure that the United States and our partners benefit from the economic opportunities of the clean energy revolution, and expedite a low-carbon future that provides reliable and affordable energy to all segments of society.

Earlier in my State Department career, I was honored to serve at the U.S. Mission to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, where we worked intensively to advance clean nuclear power. I was also a part of the negotiating team for the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Agreement, which played a critical role in unlocking the relationship between our two democracies. If confirmed, I will work closely with colleagues from the State Department's ISN bureau and the Department of Energy to support American leadership in civil nuclear technology, including the new generation of small modular reactors that promise a reliable source of baseload power while advancing our urgent climate goals.

As a career economic officer, I take seriously the imperative to defend American commercial and technology leadership. If confirmed, I will work with business leaders and entrepreneurs to promote investment in U.S.-led energy technologies across all sectors—especially those needed to realize a low carbon future. I would look forward to working with ENR's energy transformation and programs offices to amplify this effort.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, energy security is front page news right now, but as Senator Lugar recognized in calling attention to these issues some two decades ago, our success requires persistent and strategically focused diplomacy to bolster our international energy partnerships. If confirmed, I would be honored to contribute to that task.

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

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, Ambassador Pyatt, and I would also like to enter into the record this letter of support for Ambassador Pyatt's nomination from the American Jewish Committee and from the Hellenic American Leadership Council, without objection, be entered into the record.

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

Senator MARKEY. And finally, Ambassador Wood, your opening statement, please?

**STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT A. WOOD OF NEW YORK, NOMINATED TO BE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, AND TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS**

Mr. WOOD. Chairman Markey, Ranking Member Portman, distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to come before you today as you take up my nomination to serve as United States Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs at the United Nations in New York.

I am greatly honored by the confidence and trust President Biden and Secretary Blinken have placed in me through this nomination, and if confirmed by the Senate I will defend to the utmost of my ability the fundamental values and interests of the American people.

I also would like to thank my lovely wife, Gita, and son, Jonathan, for their love and support throughout our extraordinary Foreign Service journey. Without them, I would simply not be where I am today.

As you know from reviewing my body of work over 34 years of government service, I have a great deal of experience working on multilateral issues that spans leadership roles in our missions to the European Union, the U.N. in Vienna, and the Conference on Disarmament.

Multilateral diplomacy can be extremely challenging and frustrating, yet it is so vitally important to the defense and promotion of American values and national security interests.

During a previous assignment at the U.S. mission to the U.N. in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, I witnessed the great work the U.N. can do, for example, the passage of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1267, which mandated sanctions on the Taliban and al-Qaeda, and of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1373, establishing the U.N. Security Council Counterterrorism Committee.

The passage of these two critical measures exemplified what the founders of the U.N. had envisioned—a body whose members would take prompt and effective action against those forces that represent serious threats to international peace and security.

What also stood out for me at that time was just how essential U.S. leadership was to the passage of those two resolutions. U.S. leadership is especially crucial today as the international community confronts Russia's unprovoked and brutal war of aggression against the people and territory of Ukraine.

Because of Russia's war in Ukraine its international isolation is now profound. If confirmed, I will work with other nations at the U.N. to widen and deepen that isolation.

Russia must understand that its military and political leadership will be held accountable for the death and destruction it has perpetrated upon Ukraine. Let there be no mistake about that.

Mr. Chairman, there are, of course, other immense challenges around the globe that call out for urgent international action, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, the proliferation and use of weapons of mass destruction, growing anti-Semitism, and a rise in the number of autocratic regimes and the inherent threats they pose to freedom of expression.

No single state can or should be expected to tackle any of these issues by itself. It is only through collective action that we can hope to successfully address major threats.

In the Security Council and beyond, the relentless efforts of our adversaries to undermine the broader rules-based international order should be a call to action for all who believe in a transparent, open, and human rights-centric United Nations.

If confirmed, I will work vigorously to push back on Russian and Chinese efforts to reshape and undermine international law, institutions, and standards.

The U.N. needs reform. If confirmed, one of my priorities will be to pursue President Biden's reform agenda for the United Nations. I will work tirelessly to ensure that American taxpayers' money is being well spent at the U.N., that sexual exploitation and abuse are rooted out of U.N. peace operations, that the U.N. Secretary General is given the tools to better fight malign influence, that human rights remain at the core of the U.N.'s work, and that everything possible is done to put an end to anti-Israel bias throughout the entire U.N. system.

If confirmed, I would be honored to join Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield and her team at the U.S. mission in New York in pushing forward the President's robust agenda at the United Nations, which includes increasing the number of qualified Americans employed at the world body, something, Mr. Chairman, I know you and your colleagues on this distinguished committee want to see as well.

Again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to come before you. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Wood follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT A. WOOD

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to come before you today as you take up my nomination to serve as the United States' Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs at the United Nations in New York. I am greatly honored by the confidence and trust President Biden and Secretary Blinken have placed in me through this nomination; and if confirmed by the Senate, I will defend to the utmost of my ability the fundamental values and interests of the American people.

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Again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to come before you. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, Ambassador, very much and we thank each of the witnesses.

Before we go to questions and answers from the members of the committee, I have a few questions that speak to the importance that this committee places on responsiveness of all officials in the executive branch and that we expect and will be seeking from you. I would ask each of you to provide just a yes or no answer.

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

I ask each of you to say yes.

[All witnesses answer in the affirmative.]

Senator MARKEY. Thank you. Do you agree—do you commit to keep this committee fully and currently informed about the activities under your purview?

[All witnesses answer in the affirmative.]

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

[All witnesses answer in the affirmative.]

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

[All witnesses answer in the affirmative.]

Senator MARKEY. We thank you for that. Now we will turn to a question and answer period from the members.

Ms. Shortino, from your perspective, what role should the United States play in the conversations to ensure that the IMF and other international institutions guarantee that Ukraine gets the help that they need? Their economy is collapsing by 40 percent. What would you consider to be the correct plan for us to implement in the months and years ahead?

Ms. SHORTINO. Absolutely. Thank you for that very important question, Senator.

I think there is quite a lot that the Fund can do in terms of helping stabilize Ukraine's economy and help rebuild it. I do want to just say at the outset, like others here, I strongly condemn Russia's illegal war against Ukraine. This is a clear violation of rules and principles.

The IMF can really step forward. It already has stepped forward with \$1.4 billion in emergency financing to help stabilize and provide urgent needs to the Ukraine foreign exchange reserves.

The IMF can provide policy advice, going forward, in terms of what the Ukrainians can do to stabilize their economy and also help identify financing needs and gaps that need to be filled.

And as Ukraine moves into the reconstruction phase, we hope, at some point, IMF—the IMF will be a key player in terms of laying out the foundation for what a stable macro economy looks like and helping lay that foundation for other institutions, bilateral and multilateral, to step in.

If confirmed, I would be working very hard to make sure that the IMF is very forward leaning in terms of its engagement with Ukraine.

I would be working with other shareholders at the IMF and with management and staff to advance all of these issues.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you.

Ambassador Pressman, according to Freedom House, Hungary stands out in Europe for its unparalleled democratic erosion over the last decade, undergoing the largest decline over—ever measured in Freedom House's Report on Democracy in Europe or Eurasia.

As ambassador, how would you engage with government officials, like-minded partners, and members of civil society to support independent media, advance the rights of the LGBTQI community, and support democratic institutions?

Mr. PRESSMAN. Chairman Markey, thank you for the question.

You are absolutely correct with respect to the Freedom House ranking. In addition, I would say that, really, regardless of what political perspective you look at the indicators in Hungary, the American Enterprise Institute, the Cato Institute, the Heritage Foundation, the World Bank, and Freedom House have all looked at indicators in terms of democratic processes and institutions and



have seen decline in Hungary, and that should be a cause of enormous concern.

Hungary is our partner and our ally. But what we are seeing—we use the term democratic backsliding and that is a little bit of a euphemism. I mean, I use the term as well, but it is—it belies the fact that—it suggests that as we are climbing up Mount Olympus, so to speak, we are slipping back unintentionally, and in fact, what we see in Hungary are affirmative choices by our partner that are having the predictable consequence of limiting media freedom, of undermining the independence of the judiciary, of targeting vulnerable populations.

And so it is incumbent upon us, if I am confirmed, to engage unequivocally at the senior most political levels of the government to express our concerns but also to be engaging with civil society and the rich civil society that does exist in Hungary and that the space for which to operate has been limited to ensure that we are providing them with the most support we can to engage in the democratic process.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you.

And to you, Ambassador Pyatt, according to the Biden administration's review, the United States is 100 percent dependent on imports of 17 critical minerals and relies on China for refining and reprocessing.

For instance, China processes 90 percent of the world's rare earth elements, 55 percent of the world's lithium, 65 percent of the world's cobalt.

What is your plan for the United States to be able to respond to this challenge that our country has now been posed with?

Mr. PYATT. Thank you, Chairman Markey.

And let me start by saying that I think all of us as Americans should be concerned about the kind of monopoly that China has been able to achieve on these critical elements of the solar supply chain.

Similarly, it is extremely important that the United States works with our partners and allies in order to ensure transparency and reliability of critical mineral supply chains around the world and to develop diversity of sources.

In that regard, I am proud to say that the ENR Bureau has really been ahead of the curve in developing policy mechanisms and multilateral structures to work with like-minded countries on these issues through initiatives like the EITI—the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative—through the Mineral Security Partnership.

These are the industries of the future and, Mr. Chairman, if you will allow me a short comment about Massachusetts. A great example is an American company that I was able to work with as ambassador in Greece called Advent Technologies.

Advent is a path breaker on hydrogen fuel cell technology. It has an operation in Greece, and I was very proud to support Advent in their advocacy before the Greek government and they, just last week, received a positive signal.

They will be getting about a billion dollars of EU funding to deploy hydrogen fuel cell technologies in Western Macedonia, a region of Greece formerly dominated by coal mining.

It is a great example of the work our embassies can do but it is also a great example of how we need to build these international partnerships on these cutting-edge clean technologies. This is an area where we can prevail.

Thank you very much.

Senator MARKEY. Excellent. No, thank you, and thank you for singling out a Massachusetts company. Much appreciated.

Secretary—Senator Portman?

Senator PORTMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will take that promotion.

So I mentioned earlier that I have had the opportunity to work with you, Ambassador Pyatt, in your role in Ukraine. I thought you did a very good job there and, particularly, advocating a stronger position vis-a-vis Russia, and I am glad you are stepping up to do this.

I am going to put you on the spot here, though, a little bit. You said, “I have seen how Russia weaponized energy. We need to free Europeans of malign actors like Russia.”

That is good. I just wonder if we are doing that, and I think about Nord Stream 2, what we did there. I mean, what this administration thought, as I understand it, is that if they approved Nord Stream 2, which the previous administration had disapproved, that somehow that would make Russia a better partner.

What do you think about that? Do you think it made Russia a better partner?

Mr. PYATT. Senator, let me start by saying thank you to you and all the members of the committee for the tremendous support that I enjoyed as U.S. Ambassador in Ukraine. It made an extraordinary difference in the effectiveness of our diplomacy and our effort to support the choices of the Ukrainian people.

On the question of energy, I will say a couple of quick things. First, Nord Stream 2 was a bad deal. I wish it did not take this brutal war to make the rest of the world understand that so clearly.

Senator PORTMAN. Let me just—I have only got a few minutes here, but not just the rest of world. What I am asking you, really, is what lessons did you learn from that and what did the United States learn from it? Because I think we made a mistake.

I mean, some people say it gave Putin a green light. I do not go that far. I think he was seeing a green light everywhere he looked.

But that was one of the reasons, I think, he decided, well, this is an indication that Europe and the United States are not going to stand up to me because I have weaponized energy effectively. They have even now approved Nord Stream 2 to make them more dependent on Russian oil.

Is that the lesson you get from it?

Mr. PYATT. Senator, I would say Russia’s manipulation continues today. You see it in the reduction of energy supplies—

Senator PORTMAN. Forty percent reduction on Nord Stream 1.

Mr. PYATT [continuing]. Even now.

Senator PORTMAN. And let me ask you that because I—again, I do not see you are going to answer my first question directly. But do you think we should do something about Nord Stream 1?

Mr. PYATT. I think we need to make sure that we do everything possible to ensure that people in Europe and everywhere else remember the way they felt on the 25th of February; that is, to make sure that we make sure that nobody ever again says that Russia can be a reliable energy supplier, that we do everything possible to reduce Russian revenues from oil and gas while also avoiding further disruption of a highly disrupted global energy marketplace.

Senator PORTMAN. Let me just suggest that we are doing the opposite in some regards, not with regard to Nord Stream 2 anymore, although we did, thanks to the Germans finally deciding rightly so. That is not the issue.

But last week, the Biden administration Treasury Department announced an extension of HC licenses through December 5th. This is allowing energy transactions to continue to be exempted from sanctions.

It otherwise would have ended tomorrow, June 24th. We have extended that license. So these Russian banks are now able to transact energy deals and support the—again, the continued reliance on Russian energy.

I pushed Treasury on this and was told the decision was made based on Europe's phased in of the energy embargo—the oil embargo, in particular—and, again, \$870 million a day. That is what I am told is the average daily receipts that Russia is receiving with a nice margin and that is one reason you see the ruble gaining strength.

That is why you see the Russian economy not being nearly as debilitated as the Ukrainian economy and, frankly, they are not feeling the pressure.

What do you think about that? Should that license have been renewed that was set to expire tomorrow?

Mr. PYATT. Senator, I was not part of those policy deliberations. I do not have the benefit of all the perspectives so I cannot address that.

What I will say is that it is very clear to me that we are in the early stages of this campaign and that if you look at what is happening in the Russian oil and gas industry—the gradual European phase out, the European decision on insurance for seaborne Russian oil, the disengagement of international companies from the Russian oil and gas industry, which is taking away technology and will inevitably damage Russia's ability to produce oil and gas—all of these things will raise the cost for Vladimir Putin of the outrageous events that have unfolded since the 24th of February.

Senator PORTMAN. As you know, I think we should be more aggressive and I hope you will be, and despite all the things you are saying they are doing just fine. And it is not just China and India that is providing all these resources to fund the war machine. It is our allies in Europe and elsewhere.

I have lots more questions about Hungary and about the IMF. Hopefully, we will have a second round and, again, I am glad you are stepping up. I hope you will be as aggressive as I saw you in Ukraine where you actually helped push the administration policy toward a more realistic view of Russia. I want to see the same thing with regard to your new role with regard to our energy crisis we face.

Thank you.

Mr. PYATT. Thank you, Senator.

Senator MARKEY. Senator Kaine?

Senator KAINE. Thank you to my colleagues, and congratulations to the nominees. What a qualified panel.

I have questions for you, Ambassador Pyatt and Ms. Shortino.

Ambassador Pyatt, not a question, just an observation. Your position is really important and I think it is really important the coordination that you will do with other parts of the Government, the Department of Energy and others.

I am not an energy expert but I have been confused by the administration's kind of messaging around energy policy. I give the Biden administration very high praise for the degree to which they have snapped together a set of democratic allies, not just NATO members but others as well, to deal with the illegal invasion of Ukraine.

I think that a lot is going to be written about the prenegotiation of consequences if there should be an invasion—we agree that this has to be done.

The one piece, though, that I am confused about in the whole sort of comprehensive effort is the energy policy piece, and I get it that it is complicated because there are a number of goals we are trying to achieve at the same time.

We want to transition the United States and the world to a lower and no-carbon energy future to save the planet. We are worried about pricing effects on Americans who are paying too much for gas at the pump.

We want to help nations break free of reliance on petro dictators, both for the good of the planet but also because we do not want to have resources flowing to petro dictators that will embolden them.

These are difficult goals to accomplish at the same time and, occasionally, there is timing that makes me confused. We had a hearing a couple of weeks ago. It was an energy-related hearing in this committee where sort of on the same day news was breaking that the President was going to be going to Saudi Arabia to try to get them to produce more energy.

I have got major problems with any meeting with MBS because he is complicit in the murder of a Virginia journalist, Jamal Khashoggi, who was a Washington Post journalist whose family still lives in Virginia.

But at the same time as the news was coming out about the potential for this meeting there was also an announcement out of a different part of the U.S. Government that oil leases that some oil companies had in Alaska were being canceled.

Those leases, if they had not been canceled, they were not going to produce oil like this. But there was something odd about we are going to go to a dictator with blood on his hands and ask him to produce more energy and cancel leases at the same time.

But, again, there is multiple goals that we are trying to accomplish and it is hard. But what I really have not yet seen from the administration is sort of here is the near-term strategy that we are going to pursue to help backstop European allies and help wean them away from reliance on Russian energy.

Here is what U.S. productive capacity can help them do in the short term. But here is the long-term strategy where we are going to help our allies move toward the lower and no-carbon energy future.

That, obviously, is a tall order to have a strategy that has got this near-term and medium-term and long-term approach to it. But I think you are going to be in a unique position because of the work that you have already done and the credibility you have to in the kind of interagency dialogue, whether it is at the White House or DOE or State, to kind of balance these domestic policy imperatives with foreign policy imperatives.

I think you are just perfectly suited for this role. But I am just putting that marker down to say I would like to see a lot more clarity from the administration about how we are going to try to accomplish these goals. We cannot accomplish them all at once but we can have a phased effort to do so.

Ms. Shortino, I want to talk to you. I am very—I am focused on the Americas a lot. I am the chairman of the Subcommittee over the Americas, and a nation that we have some opportunities with but I am really worried about now is Argentina.

The IMF—I think the largest loan that the IMF ever did was a 2018 loan to Argentina that, frankly, was to stabilize their economy and it did not really work, and the IMF has studied, okay, why did we do it that way and why did it not work.

Argentina is, in some instances now, getting closer to China, invited to be part of the BRICS meetings. They are the latest addition to the Belt and Road Initiative with China. They are, I think, participating in the Shanghai—the alternate development bank that China is setting up as kind of a competitor to the IMF.

I would like you—now I have really filibustered. I have asked my question and I only have a few seconds left. Talk a little bit about what we might do with Argentina through the IMF to, hopefully, improve the relationships we have with them.

And I apologize, Mr. Chair, for taking five minutes to ask a question. But if you will let her answer I would really appreciate it.

Senator MARKEY. Absolutely.

Please, Ambassador.

Ms. SHORTINO. Absolutely.

And, Senator Kaine, I could not share your concerns any more. I mean, Argentina—it is a complicated case. This is a country that has seen economic issues for decades now. There are no easy answers, to be sure.

Can the IMF come in and bring this economy back to a place where it can be stable and it can eventually grow and reaccess markets? I, certainly, hope so. It is not going to be an easy task.

That said, this new IMF program that is in place it does have the ability, if executed, to lay the foundation by bringing inflation down, bringing down the fiscal deficit, restoring confidence in markets, that will actually move Argentina on the right path.

Is that path going to be quick? Absolutely not. But can we start nudging them in that direction? Yes, I think we can.

If confirmed, I would, really, be working to see is Argentina—are we holding Argentina's feet to the fire? Are they executing on what

they committed to do with the IMF? And if they are not we need to have the courage to stand up and say we do not support this.

If they are, I think we can work with other key members at the IMF to really push them in the right direction. It is going to take a lot of work but I think the IMF is uniquely placed in its role to actually get them headed in that direction.

Senator KAINE. Thank you so much. I appreciate my colleagues' patience.

Senator MARKEY. And I thank the Senator.

I know Senator Johnson had signed on to ask questions remotely. Are you there, Senator Johnson?

[No response.]

Senator MARKEY. If not, the Senator from New Hampshire, Senator Shaheen?

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And congratulations to each of you on your nominations and thank you for your willingness to continue to serve the country.

Ambassador Pyatt, I would like to begin with you because so much of our focus has been on how do we produce more energy—how do we replace what Russia is doing.

But there has not been much on the demand side on energy, and at some point before the Russian invasion a couple of years ago I remember seeing a report that showed that Ukraine was the most energy inefficient country in Europe.

I wonder if you could talk about how we can get some of these countries focused on using less energy. Most of that technology is off the shelf that can be put in very quickly.

But I think there are a lot of both residential consumers and businesses that do not understand what a difference it would make if they swap out all their light bulbs and light fixtures and do other measures that would ensure that they are more efficient.

Mr. PYATT. Thank you, Senator, and you are exactly right, and Mary will tell you that when we were living in Kyiv, because you had centralized heating every October the centralized heating system would turn on and then we would open all the windows because that is how you kept the temperature manageable before it got really cold outside.

Senator SHAHEEN. It is kind of like the Capitol here, that it is—the warmer it gets outside the colder it gets in here.

Mr. PYATT. And, Senator, the challenge is that in so much of Europe a major demand driver for natural gas is, in fact, home heating. And so while Europe is not having the debate we are having here in the United States over \$6 a gallon gasoline, what it is having is an enormous debate over home utility bills, which are going through the roof as gas prices have quadrupled, gone up over seven times since the start of the COVID pandemic.

Making these changes is critically important. Rewiring European energy infrastructure to electrify home heating, to introduce efficiency measures like smart thermostats, this is all going to take time, especially in developing countries, in the western Balkans, in places like Ukraine. There is an important role to be played by USAID, by the Department of Energy, by ENR.

And I will say, Senator, during my time in Kyiv I was really grateful for the interagency partnership that we had, largely, led

by ENR, by the way, but bringing together all these instruments of the U.S. government to help the Ukrainians reduce their dependence on Russia.

It was a major accomplishment that almost simultaneous with the invasion Ukraine switched its electricity grids over to the European grid.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank goodness.

Mr. PYATT. That was the fruit of resources that this committee helped to provide but work that started way back in 2014 in terms of modernizing the infrastructure.

You are exactly right and, certainly, if confirmed, this will be part of the agenda that I will bring to the office.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you. I appreciate that. I know it is longer term but I think it is very important to have that on the agenda.

Ms. Shortino, it is clear that part of what is happening in Ukraine with Russia is their effort to control the Black Sea to keep Ukraine from getting its grain out and the impact that that is having not just on Ukraine but on the rest of the world.

Can you talk about whether IMF has a role in trying to help put pressure on Russia?

Ms. SHORTINO. Absolutely, and I think you raise a very valid concern.

I mean, the IMF has quite a few roles to play in this whole broader crisis. The first is to assess and provide countries with policy advice around these spillover impacts. It will be bringing forward a program soon for Egypt. This is one of the countries that is significantly impacted by higher food prices.

It is also engaging in other countries as well. It is looking, more broadly, at the food crisis impact for all of these countries. Its surveillance and its lending, its capacity development, are very key in terms of supporting the policy response.

With regards to Russia, I think in this instance, really, if confirmed, my role would be to sort of minimize Russia's impact, Russia's voice at the Fund.

The Fund—they have a responsibility to do surveillance on the Russian economy. The Russians should allow them to do that because then we can see just how badly the economy is doing. Right now, Russia is not publishing a lot of that data.

If confirmed, I would really push for the IMF to be doing that sort of analysis so that we can have an accurate picture of this—what the effect has been on the Russian economy.

Senator SHAHEEN. I, certainly, hope that you and our other international institutions will voice the concern about what Russia is doing with respect to food stocks and the impact that that is having around the world, and take the position that that is not acceptable and that we need to stand up to Putin on that.

And my view is we should work through the U.N. and escort ships into the Black Sea and get that grain out because we should not let Vladimir Putin starve millions of people in Africa and Latin America.

I know that my time is up but I would just like to add, Ambassador Wood, the news reports yesterday and today have been about the devastating earthquake in Afghanistan and, obviously, given

the role of the Taliban it is—the kind of international aid that might be coming is more difficult under the current circumstances.

I hope you, at the U.N., will lobby the U.N. agencies that have continued to work in Afghanistan to ensure that we are doing everything possible to respond and also to address what is happening with women and girls in the country.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator MARKEY. Senator Cardin?

Senator CARDIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator MARKEY. Excuse me. I have been told that Senator Booker has been waiting in line—I apologize to you—on video.

If you do not mind, Senator Cardin.

Senator CARDIN. Not a problem.

Senator MARKEY. Senator Booker, if you are there you are recognized.

Senator BOOKER. I am here. I just want to mark for history that this may be the only time in my life that I get to cut ahead of a man with such seniority and stature as Senator Cardin. Thank you for your graciousness.

Senator CARDIN. As long as Senator Booker does not use physical force to get in between me, as he did with Senator Tester.

[Laughter.]

Senator BOOKER. I appreciate that.

I am really excited that this is, really, in my opinion, a very important Pride Month here in the United States of America with a lot of the challenges we are seeing that the LGBTQ community persists to face.

But I want to talk, Mr. Pressman, if I can, about LGBTQ issues on an international stage but more specifically in Hungary.

Since Viktor Orban's rise to power over a decade ago, the Hungarian Government has rolled back a lot of democratic norms, as the chairman mentioned in his comments earlier.

It has diminished the independence of governing institutions meant to provide the necessary checks and balances, limiting space for civil society and has been openly hostile towards vulnerable populations and, specifically, the LGBTQ+ population.

Orban's government has rescinded legal recognition of transgender people and passed a law banning the use of materials seen as, "promoting homosexuality and gender fluidity at schools."

If confirmed, how will you press the Hungarian Government to respect the rights of all of her citizens, especially vulnerable, discriminated against groups like the LGBTQ+ population?

And then I just want to add to that, how can the U.S. work with the EU to ensure that the Hungarian Government is held accountable for any violations of human rights in its crackdown on civil society in general and LGBTQ groups specifically?

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

And I cannot emphasize enough how important the issues you raise are and they would be the crackdown on civil society, generally, but the use of anti-LGBT rhetoric and policies in a way that is about, fundamentally, trying to exclude a population from the democratic process.

And so whether the rhetoric is anti-LGBT, anti-Semitic, anti-Roma, to the extent that it has the impact of trying to remove a



population from its ability to engage in democracy it is a corrosive. It is dangerous and merits a unequivocal and immediate response from people across society, including at the senior most levels of government.

And so, Senator, if confirmed, you have my commitment that I would engage directly at all levels with the Hungarian government—thank you—at all levels with the Hungarian Government but, in addition, would work very much with civil society, who is operating in a limited space, to try to make progress on this important set of issues.

Senator BOOKER. And while I have you—and by the way, that assurance gives me great confidence in my support for you on the floor in the United States Senate as well as in committee.

But you know the challenges we are facing, obviously, in Ukraine. I was in Poland and just recently in Germany, but Hungary has taken 700,000 Ukrainian refugees, which is a good thing.

But I am worried about Hungary's increasing nationalism and the backsliding and, frankly, their cozy relationship with Russia and their dependence on Russia for natural gas and oil.

I am skeptical, really, of Hungary's continued actions regarding the war in Ukraine and so, just really quickly, because I still want to get one more question in, if confirmed, how will you work with the Orban government regarding Hungary's approach and response to the war in Ukraine?

And if you can do that in 20 seconds I would appreciate it.

Mr. PRESSMAN. I will try my best, Senator.

Let me just say I share your concern. I think that in terms of engaging on this issue we have to tackle the problem of Russian influence on the government of Hungary and to do that it requires being direct with our concerns.

It requires investing in civil society's capacity to render more transparent what those relationships are, including independent media, and it requires supporting the European Union in tackling some of the corruption challenges as well.

Senator BOOKER. That was an impressive 20 seconds, sir. You have a—

Mr. PRESSMAN. I tried.

Senator BOOKER [continuing]. You have a talent and a gift in diplomacy that many Senators do not share.

Really quick, Ms. Shortino, can you just talk to me? One of my biggest concerns in the Senate right now is the global food crisis and we have been working very hard, my office along with others on this committee, to try to get that addressed.

And so what role can the IMF play in helping countries hit by high food prices and what kind of financial assistance can the IMF provide to the worst affected nations? If you could just give me that answer.

And, Mr. Chairman, thank you for your indulgence.

Ms. SHORTINO. Absolutely, and that is a huge concern right now. I mean, this is a crisis that is really facing a lot of countries and low income countries in particular, who already have very high debt levels and very limited fiscal space.

It is really incumbent upon the IMF to come in and provide support. Briefly, they can provide policy advice to these countries in

terms of how to address their fiscal structure, how to strengthen their external position so that they are able to import higher priced goods.

They can also provide lending, and as I had mentioned earlier, there is going to be a large program coming up for Egypt. There are several other lending programs in the works that will address—in a good way will provide near-term financing but will also include conditions that address some of the underlying vulnerabilities that have gotten these countries into this position in the context of the higher food prices.

And, of course, capacity development. The IMF has very strong capacity development, particularly in the area of fiscal and monetary policy, and can help build up these countries' ability to manage higher debt, to manage, fiscal transparency.

All of these things, in the end, will help make these economies more stable and able to respond to crises such as these.

Senator BOOKER. Thank you. I look forward to working with you on this issue. I look forward to supporting you on the floor and in committee.

And, Senator Cardin and Chairman, thank you for the indulgence of the extra one minute and 45 seconds.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, Senator Booker.

Senator Cardin?

Senator CARDIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

What I think I will do—we have a business meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that will take place at 11:00. I know we have a limited amount of time.

I am going to ask most of my questions for the record in respect for the time that we have available. I just want to thank all of our nominees for their willingness to serve.

Mr. Pressman, I enjoyed our conversation, and just to further enlighten our members, I think your background in regards to war crimes is something that could be extremely helpful to us as we look at the challenges that we have in regards to holding Russia accountable for its activities in Ukraine.

I do want to just underscore also the point of your background as co-chair of the International Bar Association's Human Rights Law Committee. It will serve you well as our representative in Hungary.

I just really want to underscore the importance for the U.S. Embassy to be a refuge for the human rights defenders within Hungary.

Hungary presents challenges for us as a NATO ally and as a member of the European Union. The Orban government has not only violated the commitments of the Helsinki Final Act—I chair the U.S. Helsinki Commission—but also represents a challenge for Europe in violating its commitments in regards to the rights in the law that they pass affecting the LGBTQ community.

You are going to have your hands full in Hungary. But I think you are the right person to do that and I thank you for your willingness to serve.

Mr. Chairman, I will ask my questions for the record.

Thank you.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, Senator.

And we thank all of our witnesses for your answering of our questions today. We are looking forward to seeing all of the good work which you are going to be doing in your new post.

Members of the committee will have until the close of business tomorrow, Friday, June 24th, to revise and extend their remarks and submit questions for the record with a prompt response from witnesses to those questions.

We thank everyone for their participation today.

With that, this hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:28 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

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**Additional Material Submitted for the Record**  
**Communication Urging the Confirmation of Hon. Geoffrey R. Pyatt**  
**to be an Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources**



June 22, 2022

Esteemed Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and the Hellenic American Leadership Council (HALC), we are writing to support the nomination of Ambassador Geoffrey R. Pyatt to be an Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources.

Our organizations have worked closely with Ambassador Pyatt – both while he served as U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine and especially during his tenure as U.S. Ambassador to Greece. During his tenure as Ambassador to Greece, he, along with AJC and HALC, worked to advance cooperation and integration in the Eastern Mediterranean. Given that many key diplomatic developments and regional institutions – the U.S., Greece, Cyprus, Israel “3+1”, the East Mediterranean Gas Forum, etc. – are related to energy, Ambassador Pyatt’s insight, experience, and relationships are critical. He has been a crucial part of regional projects focusing on natural gas and sustainable energy.

His last two postings put him on the front lines of some of the most pressing energy diplomacy issues we face today, providing the experience needed to assume the role of Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources. At a time when energy diplomacy is so vital, and the regions in which Ambassador Pyatt served are playing an outsized role, we cannot think of anyone more capable and ready to assume this role.

We enthusiastically support Ambassador Pyatt’s nomination and urge his speedy confirmation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for the consideration of our views.

Respectfully,

Julie Rayman  
Senior Director of Policy and Political Affairs  
American Jewish Committee

Endy Zemenides  
Executive Director  
Hellenic American Leadership Council

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD  
 SUBMITTED TO ELIZABETH SHORTINO BY SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ

*Fiscal Consolidation Measures*

*Question.* The compounding crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine have exacerbated significant challenges faced by many countries that were already facing rising debt distress prior to the pandemic, as well as a widening financing gap to achieve their development goals. The IMF provided critical emergency support for many countries during the pandemic, which came with few strings attached. However, it has recently returned to including fiscal consolidation measures as conditions to its programs, such as cuts to social spending and regressive tax measures, that can exacerbate both economic and gender inequality. These measures threaten to undermine efforts to achieve an equitable and sustainable recovery. A report released in 2021 by the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the IMF has called on the institution to strengthen its monitoring and reporting of the social and distributional impacts of its programs and policies to protect vulnerable groups.

- Would you support a policy at the IMF that would require measures such as the systematic use of robust poverty and distributional impact assessments, that evaluate the possible and actual effects of programs on wages, health and social protection programs, vulnerable populations, and inequality?

*Answer.* Since the onset of the COVID crisis, the IMF has provided over \$200 billion in financing to countries in need, more than \$33 billion of this total as fast-disbursing emergency financing. More recently, as countries have begun to transition toward establishing longer-term recovery plans, the IMF has supported this shift through traditional financing programs grounded in an agreed framework of critical macroeconomic and structural reforms. These frameworks are essential to help cement sustainable recoveries and build the confidence of citizens and external lenders in the credibility of the borrower's policy framework. Policy conditionality is also essential to ensure that IMF resources are appropriately safeguarded.

In this context, IMF staff have increasingly incorporated assessments of the poverty and distributional impacts of any proposed policy changes, and have worked to design conditionality such that it supports the most vulnerable while addressing macroeconomic imbalances. For instance, many IMF programs include minimum targets that countries must maintain on social safety net spending, or couple reforms to ill-targeted or regressive price controls with enhancement of programs that provide support to the poorest households. If confirmed, I will continue to press the need to incorporate this type of analysis into the IMF's policy engagement with countries, especially those in IMF financing programs, and to work to ensure that policy conditionality takes into account the impacts on the most vulnerable.

*Special Drawing Rights*

*Question.* As the largest shareholder at the IMF, the U.S. is in a unique position to advance or block progress on key issues, as we saw with the Special Drawing Rights issuance that was finally approved more than a year into the pandemic because the former administration held up the release of these critical resources. Many countries have now used the majority or even all of the SDRs they received in the recent issuance, in large part because the distribution of SDRs was incredibly uneven. The vast majority went to countries like the U.S. that don't need them because the issuance has not been based on need but on quota.

- What is your position on the U.S. reallocating some of its SDRs and would you support alternative channeling vehicles outside of the IMF?

*Answer.* Domestic legal requirements limit the ability of the United States to "re-allocate" SDRs. Treasury is seeking, and requires, Congressional authorization to lend up to \$21 billion to the IMF for the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust and the Resilience and Sustainability Trust. The G20 is exploring viable alternative vehicles for channeling SDRs at the multilateral development banks, but many central banks face constraints on the use of their reserves, which include SDRs, outside of the IMF.

*Question.* Secondly, do you think that the problem of uneven distribution of SDRs and that they have now been used in 2 recent crisis contexts (including in 2009 during the Global Financial Crisis) means that the IMF should reform the rules around SDR issuances?

*Answer.* The IMF issues SDRs to meet the long-term global demand for reserves. Under a general allocation of new SDRs, the IMF allocates SDRs in proportion to members' quota shares, which are broadly linked to their share of the global econ-

omy. Changing the rules regarding SDR issuance would require an amendment to the IMF's Articles of Agreement.

While an SDR allocation does result in advanced economies receiving SDRs, the most recent allocation was part of a broader strategy to help hard-hit countries respond to the economic impacts of the COVID crisis and has allowed some major economies to lend their new SDRs in support of low-income countries through the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust and the Resilience and Sustainability Trust. Low-income countries received about \$21 billion in SDRs through the allocation, which represents approximately 2.8 percent of their GDP.

#### *Quota Reform Agenda*

*Question.* Next year the IMF will be undergoing its 16th General Review of Quotas. The Board has requested that this Quota Reform revisit the adequacy of quotas, and continue the process of IMF governance reform—including a proposed new quota formula as a guide. Any adjustment in quota shares would likely result in an increase in the share of emerging market and developing countries as a whole, while protecting the voice and representation of the poorest members.

Under the Resolution, the 16th Review should be completed no later than December 15, 2023.

- What will you prioritize in this reform agenda?

*Answer.* Treasury has not yet begun detailed discussions around the 16th General Review of Quotas. If confirmed, I look forward to engaging as appropriate with Congress to help ensure this review advances key U.S. interests at the IMF.

*Question.* Do you think the U.S. should maintain its veto power or is it time to move on, and if so, why or why not?

*Answer.* U.S. leadership at the international financial institutions remains indispensable, including at the IMF. The United States remains the world's largest economy accounting for nearly 25 percent of global GDP. The United States should maintain its veto power over major policy decisions at the IMF. If confirmed, I will strongly oppose any change in IMF governance that would remove or threaten the U.S. veto.

*Question.* How would you balance the clear need for more democratic decision making at the IMF with the leadership role of the U.S.?

*Answer.* The IMF has strong governance structures underpinned by U.S. leadership, and governance systems that reflects the need for members to take on appropriate roles and responsibilities in the global economy. The IMF should remain a quota-based institution with votes linked to quota shares, and the United States should retain its leadership role, including its veto over major policy decisions.

At the same time, most decisions taken by the Executive Board are based on majority decisions and reflect the broad views of the IMF's membership. Countries whose economic weight has expanded rapidly have a growing expectation that their influence over these decisions should increase as well. For this to happen, I believe it is important that these countries demonstrate their willingness and ability to act in ways that support and strengthen the global institutional framework that the IMF and other organizations comprise. If confirmed, I will press for beneficiaries of governance reform to act as responsible stewards of the IMF and the global economy.

*Question.* As part of governance reform, a strong case could be made that it is important to have more space for civil society to inform IMF programs in their countries and to have opportunities to hold the IMF more accountable when harm occurs. The MDBs have such policies but the IMF does not.

- Would you support a policy to mandate CSO consultation in IMF operations and a system of accountability?

*Answer.* I support IMF country teams engaging robustly with groups that represent key economic stakeholders in respective countries, which is important to enhance IMF staff's understanding of the political and economic realities in each country and to underpin the credibility of IMF policy engagement. Discussions with CSOs already form a regular component of many country teams' economic surveillance and program development processes. Additionally, the IMF Executive Board generally meets with CSOs from around the world to discuss broad global issues and IMF policies twice a year

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD  
 SUBMITTED TO ELIZABETH SHORTINO BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

*Management*

*Question.* Many U.S. missions have been under enormous stress over the last few years, in large part due to COVID. What is your understanding of morale throughout your post?

*Answer.* Morale is generally high within the Office of the U.S. Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as the post is staffed with experienced Treasury personnel who are rotating into these positions through a competitive process. That said, due to the COVID-19 crisis, the workload at the office has never been higher, and opportunities for in-person interaction remain limited by COVID policies and restrictions, both of which have created new stress for staff.

*Question.* How do you intend to improve morale at your post?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I intend to work closely with staff within Office of the U.S. Executive Director to ensure the office is meeting their personal and professional needs. This includes providing flexible work schedules where feasible; regularly adjusting workload across the office; providing opportunities for training, staff development, and leadership; and regularly seeking out and incorporating feedback from staff on the operations of the office. I also intend to work closely with the Senior Advisor to the U.S. Executive Director, a seasoned Treasury civil servant, to provide day-to-day guidance and support to staff.

*Question.* How do you intend to create a unified mission and vision at your post?

*Answer.* The mission of the U.S. Executive Director and its office is to advance U.S. priorities and interests at the International Monetary Fund. If confirmed, I will work closely with the Treasury Department and staff within the U.S. Executive Director's office to confirm we have a shared understanding of this mission and develop a vision for how the office can effectively execute this mission. This includes identifying key policy priorities and issue areas, developing strategies for engagement, and monitoring progress. I would hold regular, quarterly sessions with Treasury and office staff to discuss these topics, in addition to ad hoc engagement on specific issues as they arise. I would also hold regular strategy sessions with staff in the office to discuss how the office can operate most effectively in executing this mission.

*Question.* Management is a key responsibility for senior officials. How would you describe your management style?

*Answer.* I would describe myself as a manager who likes to empower and develop staff. I delegate many tasks to staff and provide oversight, guidance, and direction. I support staff efforts to seek out training or take on new challenges. I also hire people with a diverse set of skills and backgrounds so that the office has a range of views and perspectives. I believe a more diverse team is critical to enhancing the effectiveness of the office. Finally, I try accommodating staff personal and professional needs in my management approach, allowing for flexibility wherever feasible.

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

*Answer.* Absolutely not, and I have never done so. It is important for a manager to create an environment of trust, including by supporting staff and developing strong working relationships.

*Question.* How do you envision your leadership relationship with your deputy?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I envision relying upon my deputy for day-to-day management responsibilities of the office so that I can take a more strategic approach to executing the mission of the office. I also plan to seek regular advice from my deputy on a range of issues and to delegate topics that do not require my direct engagement. I plan to discuss the division of labor with my deputy to ensure we are both in agreement on how to run the office most effectively.

*Question.* If confirmed, what leadership responsibilities do you intend to entrust to your deputy?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I would entrust the day-to-day management of staff and workload within the Office of the U.S. Executive Director to my deputy. I would also rely upon my deputy to form relationships with other offices within the IMF, as well as to represent the United States in certain Executive Board meetings of the IMF.

*Human Rights, Democracy, and International Organizations*

*Question.* If confirmed, how will you work with interlocutors and policy-makers at the IMF to encourage the inclusion of a counter-trafficking strategy, including risk assessment and mitigation efforts as need, in proposed IMF projects in countries listed on Tier 2 Watch List and Tier 3 of the State Department's most recent Trafficking in Persons report?

*Answer.* I share your deep concern over the terrible human toll of Trafficking in Persons (TIP), and if confirmed I will work to incorporate consideration of TIP into the IMF's activities at every opportunity, consistent with the scope of the IMF's mandate. I will continue to implement our mandate from Congress to vote against funding for any countries listed on Tier 3 of the TIP Report, absent relevant waivers or legislative exceptions. More broadly, improving economic governance and reducing channels for corruption is a key tool for fighting human trafficking, and to that end I will work with other Board members and with IMF staff and management to incorporate consideration of TIP issues into the IMF's framework for addressing governance and corruption, which is set for Executive Board review later this year.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO ELIZABETH SHORTINO BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

*Ukraine and Russia*

*Question.* If confirmed, what direction would you provide for the IMF related to support for Ukraine and restrictions on Russia?

*Answer.* Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine is horrific and unjustifiable. I am committed to continuing to work with Treasury, IMF management, and U.S. partners at the IMF to prevent Russia from obtaining financing, loans, or other benefits from its membership at the IMF. Likewise, if confirmed, I will press for the IMF to use every available tool to support Ukraine as it contends with the economic fallout of Russia's brutal invasion. This includes engagement by the IMF country team to help Ukraine's authorities understand and evaluate policy options, and financial support consistent with IMF policies.

*China*

*Question.* In your view, how should the United States seek to influence the IMF's engagement with China as China's role in the global economy continues to widen?

*Answer.* It is essential that the IMF engages with China across a broad scope of issues as its global role widens. On debt issues, China is the world's largest bilateral official creditor, and the IMF must be willing to press PRC authorities, including publicly if necessary, to take appropriate actions to deal with growing debt risks, including by fulfilling China's commitments under the Common Framework. In country surveillance, the IMF must credibly address the policies that sustain China's chronic external imbalances and identify and assess the risks to its economic and financial sustainability, as the potential for spillovers from these channels to the global economy increases. If confirmed, I will work closely with IMF management and like-minded Board members to press for these steps.

*Question.* How do U.S. actions at the IMF and other international institutions affect China's interest in establishing Chinese-led institutions, such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?

*Answer.* The United States plays an indispensable role in helping to ensure that international institutions in which we participate uphold the highest standards of integrity and credibility and work to achieve the broad goals of the international community. In some cases, our insistence on high levels of transparency and accountability, and the implementation of policy reforms as a condition for financing, has led some countries to seek alternative lending options that do not uphold these high standards. Although I cannot speak for China's motives in establishing the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, I believe it is in the interest of the United States to support the international institutions that we helped to establish, and we should work to maintain their effectiveness and ability to respond to members' needs. As part of this effort, the United States should work with emerging market economies to ensure their responsible engagement in these important institutions.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD  
 SUBMITTED TO ELIZABETH SHORTINO BY SENATOR MARCO RUBIO

*Question.* Last year, the IMF agreed to distribute more than \$650 billion worth of “special drawing rights” or “SDRs” to all of its member states. Countries can exchange SDRs for cash in the event they need money, or to supplement their foreign currency reserves. Through the distribution, the People’s Republic of China received more than \$30 billion in free cash from the IMF. More than that, since 2016, countries can exchange SDRs for the PRC’s currency, the yuan. Countries indebted to the CCP can exchange these SDRs for yuan to pay off their Belt and Road Initiative debts, which funnels even more money to a genocidal regime.

- Which countries have exchanged their SDRs for yuan since 2021?

*Answer.* As of end-May 2022, China’s SDR holdings have increased by about \$2.3 billion, meaning China has purchased additional SDRs, though it may not have provided RMB in all of these exchanges. The IMF does not publish information on specific transaction parties or the currencies for which SDRs are exchanged.

*Question.* How does the IMF monitor the use of funds provided by SDRs to the CCP?

*Answer.* China’s SDRs are held by its central bank as reserve assets. Broadly, China has no need to “use” its SDRs—i.e., exchange its SDRs for hard currency or use them to service IMF obligations—as its central bank already holds very ample foreign exchange reserves. Since the 2021 SDR allocation, China has purchased additional SDRs, which continue to be held by its central bank. Additionally, in 2021, China agreed to loan 1 billion SDRs to the IMF’s Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust, and has pledged to lend additional SDRs to the IMF’s newly approved Resilience and Sustainability Trust. If confirmed, I will continue to push for the IMF to enhance transparency around members’ use of SDRs.

*Question.* How much of it is being utilized, or in contribution, to commit genocide, steal American technology, or fund the modernization of China’s military?

*Answer.* SDRs are not currency; rather they are a reserve asset that can only be exchanged by a holder for useable currency in transactions recorded by the IMF’s SDR Department. Accordingly, China holds its SDRs as a reserve asset at its central bank. China’s central bank has not used its SDRs, but rather has purchased additional SDRs (i.e., provided hard currency to other IMF members in exchange for SDRs).

*Question.* If confirmed, will you commit to opposing future SDR allocations until the CCP agrees to an audit of its use of SDR funds, or the IMF implements restrictions on the CCP’s use of those funds?

*Answer.* China has not used its SDRs; it holds more SDRs than its allocation and has not gained additional usable currency as a result of any SDR exchanges.

*Question.* The IMF plays a critical role in the global economy by providing sovereign lending to countries experiencing fiscal problems and improving these countries’ financial practices. Most prominently, it has provided sorely needed loans to Ukraine, which is defending itself against Putin’s unprovoked and unjustified invasion. The IMF can and should play a role in helping countries resist the less dramatic, but no less dangerous, influence of the Chinese Communist Party, which has ensnared countries like Sri Lanka, Uganda, and Ecuador in hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth of predatory loans. In return for debt relief, the CCP extracts enormous concessions out of these countries that reduces their independence and expands the military presence of the People’s Liberation Army. In Cambodia, the Hun Sen regime’s external debt is estimated to be \$9 billion, with China accounting for 40 percent. As was reported a few weeks ago, the PLA Navy opened a naval base in Ream, and some believe the PLA Air Force is setting up a facility at Dara Sakor. These installations would significantly improve the PLA’s power projection abilities in the region.

- Should the IMF support countries suffering from the Chinese Communist Party’s predatory lending practices?

*Answer.* Yes. The IMF must continue to engage robustly with countries for whom debt vulnerabilities—including from unfair and opaque PRC official lending—is an increasing problem. The IMF can provide technical assistance and policy engagement to help countries better understand the scope of their debt issues and to identify policy options for addressing them. It can also provide critical visibility into the impact of PRC debt on its members’ macroeconomic vulnerabilities, to enable more effective bilateral and multilateral engagement by other countries. Finally, where

appropriate, IMF lending can help support countries' economic reform efforts when they are underpinned by a credible macroeconomic framework, which may include debt restructuring or forgiveness where debt has become unsustainable. If confirmed, I commit to working to ensure that the IMF's engagement in these areas strengthens the ability of borrowing countries to resist and respond to the negative effects of predatory lending practices, including by the PRC.

*Question.* How would this priority fit with President Biden's January 2021 Executive Order that U.S. representatives to international financial institutions only support lending and investment to projects "in alignment with the Paris Climate Accords"?

*Answer.* I agree that the IMF plays a critical role in the global economy by supporting countries experiencing economic and financial crises. Regarding aligning the IMF's operations with the goals of the Paris Agreement, the IMF provides financing to support members' balance-of-payments needs; it does not provide project-based lending. Under the IMF's climate strategy, country engagements, including for lending, will incorporate assessment of the climate impacts of key policies to help ensure consistency with countries' targets pursuant to the Paris Agreement.

*Question.* To your knowledge, has the IMF offered loans to countries currently indebted to CCP, such as Sri Lanka, Uganda, and Ecuador?

*Answer.* The IMF currently has ongoing financing programs with Ecuador and Uganda. In IMF programs where debt is deemed unsustainable, the IMF works with countries to incorporate appropriate debt restructuring to regain sustainability, and to ensure that all creditors, including China, are treated on comparable terms that achieve fair burden sharing. IMF country staff remain deeply engaged with the Sri Lankan authorities. Due to the country's current debt situation, we expect that a significant debt restructuring will be an important part of any IMF-backed program of reforms and adjustment.

*Question.* If confirmed, will you support lending to these countries?

*Answer.* I support the IMF's continued robust engagement with member countries experiencing balance of payments needs. Any full-fledged IMF financing program must incorporate a credible macroeconomic framework that could include, where necessary, debt restructuring. In such cases, if confirmed, I will continue to press for IMF engagement that prioritizes the participation of all parties, including bilateral creditors, on an equal basis to ensure that the burden of debt restructuring is borne fairly, and I will press the IMF to play its critical role in ensuring that members, both debtors and creditors, engage appropriately to achieve effective and timely debt restructuring outcomes.

*Question.* What steps will you take to ensure these countries are properly supported by the international community in confronting the CCP?

*Answer.* I am deeply committed to ensuring that the IMF plays its appropriate role in helping member countries respond to their economic stability risks, including those stemming from China's irresponsible lending practices. If confirmed, I will work closely with Treasury, IMF leadership, and like-minded members of the Executive Board to press for robust IMF engagement and support to help enable these countries' effective recoveries. This will require IMF teams working closely with governments to identify and address vulnerabilities. I will also seek to require the IMF to hold China to account for past and present behavior that undercuts the ability of these countries to establish and maintain sustainable economic recoveries.

*Question.* At the beginning of this year, the IMF proposed the creation of a Resilience and Sustainability Fund, which would grant loans to countries contingent on them agreeing to reduce emissions. This is just the latest step in a single-minded focus at the IMF and other international financial institutions, like the World Bank, to prioritize emissions reductions in the face of other, more urgent, priorities. Many of the countries most in need of lending to bring electricity to their populations, distribute lifesaving medicine, and build critical infrastructure to lift their people out of poverty are also the lowest emitters. Requiring these countries to cut their already low emissions risks needlessly keeping their people poor and their governments eager to turn to China for the investment they seek.

- Should the U.S., though the IMF, support making loans to developing countries contingent on their promises to cut current and future emissions? Is this a priority of yours, if confirmed?

*Answer.* The Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) will provide transparent, affordable, longer-term loans to poor and developing countries alongside policy reforms to reduce the macroeconomic risks posed by pandemics and climate change.

Crucially, loans from the RST will not be contingent on promises to cut current and future emissions. Such loans will be used to help countries strengthen pandemic preparedness and support their efforts to respond to a range of macroeconomic issues posed by climate change, including reducing their vulnerabilities to shocks from dependence on energy supplied by malign actors.

*Question.* Would the administration prefer crippling a country's economic development and keeping its people poor if it meant keeping future emissions in check?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I will work to ensure that the IMF retains its core focus on helping members build stable and robust frameworks for economic growth and stability, which includes incorporating the economically critical impacts of climate and climate-related policies.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD  
SUBMITTED TO ELIZABETH SHORTINO BY SENATOR JOHN BARRASSO

*Question.* If confirmed, will you commit to ensuring the International Monetary Fund (IMF) provides lending for traditional energy projects across the globe, including oil, gas, nuclear and coal?

*Answer.* The IMF is not a development bank and does not provide project-based lending. The IMF provides financing to countries to address their balance of payments problems, and IMF loans are typically used to address reserve needs of the central bank or, in limited cases, budgetary support. If confirmed, I will support IMF lending that is underpinned by credible, country-specific macroeconomic frameworks that address its members' energy needs, reflect their economic priorities, and incorporate pandemic, climate and other risks where they are macro-critical and important for the program's success.

*Question.* In August 2021, the IMF with the approval of the Biden administration issued \$650 billion in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)—the largest in history. The majority of the allocations ended up going to those countries that need it the least.

- What was your involvement in the design of the Special Drawing Rights?

*Answer.* Secretary Yellen supported the 2021 SDR allocation to help address the long-term global need for reserves. In considering the 2021 allocation, I provided technical-level input to Secretary Yellen in my role as Acting Executive Director.

*Question.* How much did the United States receive from the \$650 billion in SDR? How did the United States use our SDR?

*Answer.* The United States received about \$113 billion worth of SDRs from the 2021 allocation. Those SDRs, along with all of our previously held SDRs and those exchanged with other IMF members, are held in the Exchange Stabilization Fund as reserve assets. Since the dollar is the world's leading reserve currency, we do not need to "use" our SDRs.

*Question.* How much did Russia receive from the SDR?

*Answer.* In accordance with the IMF's Articles of Agreement, the SDR allocation was distributed to all IMF members in proportion to their respective IMF quota shares. As such, Russia received approximately \$17.5 billion in SDRs. Russia has not exchanged any of these SDRs for usable currency.

*Question.* How much did China receive from the SDR?

*Answer.* The SDR allocation was distributed to all IMF members in proportion to their respective IMF quota shares. China received approximately \$42 billion worth of SDRs. China has not exchanged any of these SDRs for usable currency.

*Question.* How much total funding did developing countries receive from the SDR?

*Answer.* The SDR allocation was distributed to all IMF members in proportion to their respective IMF quota shares. Developing and emerging market countries, excluding China, received about \$232 billion worth of SDRs from the 2021 SDR allocation.

*Question.* Why were you unable to get enhanced transparency and accountability measures attached to any reallocation effort?

*Answer.* As part of the SDR allocation, Treasury successfully pressed IMF staff to enhance the details it reports on members' SDR holdings and transactions by breaking out transactions into the aggregate categories of IMF operations and SDR trading. IMF staff also agreed to publish a note on best practices for SDR use to

guide their country teams and authorities—this note was published in August 2021 on the IMF’s website.<sup>1</sup> The IMF publishes members’ SDR holdings on a monthly<sup>2</sup> and quarterly<sup>3</sup> basis. In addition, at Treasury’s request, the IMF started publishing an annual summary update on SDR transactions<sup>4</sup> and has committed to undertaking an ex-post report on members’ use of SDRs, which it will publish two years after the allocation.

*Question.* The Biden administration is attempting to turn the IMF into a climate change bank. The original intended purpose of the \$650 billion SDR was to help support economic stability. Now, it appears it is using those funds to support climate change. On April 13, 2022, the Executive Board of the IMF approved the establishment of the Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST).

- Do you support the establishment of the RST?

*Answer.* Treasury has engaged extensively with partners in the G7 and G20 around the need to increase IMF support for countries to address certain longer-term economic risks that can affect global economic and financial stability. The Resiliency and Sustainability Trust (RST) represents the product of that intensive engagement, and will help middle- and lower- income countries address the macroeconomic risks of pandemics and climate change, including from energy insecurity. If confirmed, I will work with IMF management and like-minded partners to ensure that the RST remains tied to the IMF’s core mandate of economic and financial stability.

*Question.* Why should we allow these funds, originally meant to help support economic stability due to the global pandemic, to be used for climate change?

*Answer.* As research from the IMF and many other institutions has conclusively demonstrated, pandemics, and climate change pose substantial and increasing risks to many countries’ macroeconomic and financial stability. The RST is designed to help countries address these risks by including policy conditionality that increases resilience to the macroeconomic impacts of pandemics, and climate shocks, including from energy insecurity. The RST will be subject to the same strong safeguards as traditional IMF lending with IMF Executive Board oversight for every RST disbursement.

*Question.* Would China be eligible to receive funds under the RST?

*Answer.* China has no need for IMF financing; but it has committed to lend its SDRs to support the RST. Moreover, even if China did want to borrow from the RST it would be unlikely to agree to a regular IMF program engagement, which is a precondition for RST eligibility.

*Question.* What climate changes policies have you supported while serving at the International Monetary Fund?

*Answer.* While serving as Acting U.S. Executive Director to the IMF, I voted to support the IMF’s Strategy to Help Members Address Climate Change, which became effective in July 2021. The strategy directs the IMF to support members in assessing the macroeconomic impacts of climate and climate- related policies, including their impacts on financial markets, through its surveillance and technical assistance.

*Question.* In a report released in April 2021, the IMF stated “At \$1.9 trillion, the Biden administration’s new fiscal package is expected to deliver a strong boost to growth in the United States in 2021 and provide sizable positive spillovers to trading partners.” Managing Director of the IMF, Kristalina Georgieva, explained that since the IMF’s most recent forecast the “horizon has darkened.”

- Why did the IMF get it so wrong?

*Answer.* The United States experienced the fastest GDP growth in 40 years in 2021 and the fastest calendar year decline in the unemployment rate on record, consistent with the IMF’s forecast. U.S. growth would inevitably slow once the economy was back to full employment, but Russia’s unprovoked and unjustified war against Ukraine has added further headwinds that are slowing growth. The most recent

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Policy-Papers/Issues/2021/08/19/Guidance-Note-for-Fund-Staff-on-the-Treatment-and-Use-of-SDR-Allocations-464319>

<sup>2</sup> Guidance Note for Fund Staff on the Treatment and Use of SDR Allocations (imf.org)

<sup>3</sup> International Monetary Fund’s Financial Statements and the Quarterly Reports on IMF Finances

<sup>4</sup> First year of publication: <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Policy-Papers/Issues/2021/10/26/Annual-Update-on-SDR-Trading-Operations-498096>

IMF forecast has lowered estimates of U.S. and global growth based on those headwinds.

*Question.* Is the U.S. in a recession?

*Answer.* U.S. recessions are determined by National Bureau of Economic Research's Business Cycle Dating Committee, so I would defer to that committee for a full assessment.

*Question.* What is the main reason for the decrease in U.S. growth?

*Answer.* U.S. growth has slowed in 2021 as the United States returned to full employment, and Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war against Ukraine has generated a large negative supply shock, raising food and energy prices, which has reduced household income and may limit households' ability to spend on other goods and services, slowing the economy.

*Question.* Do you believe the \$1.9 trillion Biden spending package contributed to inflation?

*Answer.* Inflation has risen to high levels in both the United States and across nearly all advanced economies. More than half of inflation experienced in the United States in 2022 is the result of high energy and food prices, exacerbated by Russia's war against Ukraine. The United States had high inflation in 2021 due in large measure to global supply chain disruptions generated by the ongoing pandemic.

*Question.* The IMF suspended engagement with Afghanistan until there is clarity within the international community of the recognition of the Government.

- Under what conditions, if any, would you recommend the United States support the IMF providing special drawing rights or access to resources by the Taliban?

*Answer.* The IMF has stated publicly that Afghanistan's access to IMF resources and SDRs remains on hold as a consequence of a lack of clarity among IMF members regarding recognition of the Government of Afghanistan. If confirmed, I will continue to work closely with Treasury and the State Department to convey our policy stance with respect to Afghanistan, and will engage robustly with IMF management and staff to help safeguard Afghanistan's resources for its people.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD  
SUBMITTED TO HON. DAVID PRESSMAN BY SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ

*Question.* How will you balance encouraging unprecedented behavior by the Hungarian Government in allowing so many refugees to enter Hungary, while also pushing the government to live up to its international obligations in supporting them once there?

*Answer.* The Government and the people of Hungary have responded in an unprecedented way to the Ukrainian refugee crisis. Over 800,000 people have crossed the border directly from Ukraine to Hungary and many thousands more by way of Romania as well. The country mobilized to set up reception centers and shelters to meet basic needs of refugee families and to provide health care and integration services. Hungary's capacity to accommodate a surge of refugees of this magnitude during the current crisis was surely tested. Hungary and its generous people should be recognized for that effort.

Hungary, of course, has been controversial in recent years due to its refugee policies, including the criminalization of NGOs for providing aid to refugees and limiting access to asylum procedures. These policies have likely affected Hungary's ability to respond to the current Ukrainian refugee crisis. The slower processing time of requests for temporary protective status in Hungary may have contributed to lower numbers of Ukrainians receiving that status in Hungary than in neighboring countries.

If confirmed, I would seek to cooperate with the Hungarian Government as well as local NGOs and international organizations to help build capacity. I would also advocate for the fair and equitable treatment of all refugees and asylum seekers and encourage the Hungarian Government to meet its international obligations with respect to refugees, both from Ukraine or otherwise.

*Question.* How will you use your position to advocate for independent media in Hungary, and ensure that Hungarians have access to accurate and unbiased journalism?

*Answer.* I am concerned about declining media pluralism in Hungary, as are the leading international press freedom advocates and many Hungarians. A diversity of

independent voices and opinions is essential to democracy, and if I am confirmed I will urge the Government of Hungary to promote an open media environment, an environment that is in line with EU law. In addition, I would support regional programs to build the capacity of independent media. Finally, I would call attention to actions that further erode the space for an independent media or that fuel disinformation, which threaten the availability of accurate information in the public square. Freedom of expression and a thriving independent press are vital for the functioning of a pluralistic democracy, and the U.S. Government will continue to emphasize the importance of media freedom.

*Question.* What would be your approach to supporting the LGBT, Roma, and other vulnerable communities that face discrimination and abuse in Hungarian society?

*Answer.* The United States has made advocacy for human rights an important element of its foreign policy. If confirmed, I would engage vulnerable communities in Hungary directly to learn about their experiences first-hand.

The United States provides support to human rights defenders and non-governmental organizations around the world, including in Hungary. If confirmed, I would work to strengthen these partnerships in Hungary and determine how the United States can optimally support vulnerable groups. It is critical that we partner with the Government of Hungary on areas of common values to ensure that all people are treated with dignity and that their basic human rights are respected.

#### *Anomalous Health Incidents*

*Question.* I am very concerned about directed energy attacks on U.S. Government personnel (so-called Anomalous Health Incidents). Ensuring the safety and security of our personnel abroad falls largely on individual Chiefs of Mission and the response of officers at post. It is imperative that any individual who reports a suspected incident be responded to promptly, equitably, and compassionately.

- Do you agree these incidents must be taken seriously, and pose a threat to the health of U.S. personnel?

*Answer.* The issue of Anomalous Health Incidents—including the interagency effort to protect and care for our personnel and uncover the cause of these incidents—is an absolute priority for the Department, and it would be an absolute priority for me if I am confirmed.

As the President has said, the health and well-being of American public servants is of paramount importance to the administration. On a personal level, I have no higher priority than the safety of the members of the Embassy team and their family members.

*Question.* If confirmed, do you commit to ensuring that any reported incident is treated seriously and reported quickly through the appropriate channels, and that any affected individuals receive prompt access to medical care?

*Answer.* Yes. Protecting Americans and all those who serve our country is our first duty, and I will do everything I can to care for our personnel and their families in Hungary.

The administration has developed and deployed a standardized medical evaluation process for U.S. medical staff who respond to AHI reports.

Embassies around the world have trained their medical staff on how to respond to an incident, evaluate affected individuals, and report evaluation results to the appropriate medical and security elements across the U.S. Government to initiate a holistic response to the incident.

*Question.* Do you commit to meeting with medical staff and the RSO at post to discuss any past reported incidents and ensure that all protocols are being followed?

*Answer.* Yes. This issue is a top priority, and I would consult with the RSO and the Embassy's Health Unit, as well as relevant offices in Washington as soon as possible after I arrive to make sure we provide maximum support to our personnel and their families in Hungary.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD  
SUBMITTED TO HON. DAVID PRESSMAN BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

#### *State Department Management and Public Diplomacy*

*Question.* Many U.S. missions have been under enormous stress over the last few years, in large part due to COVID. What is your understanding of morale throughout Mission Budapest?

*Answer.* My understanding from the State Department is that morale is strong, and the Mission is well-run. The one area in this regard that has been flagged as needing attention is the salaries of the Locally Employed Staff, which have not kept up with the local cost of labor.

*Question.* How do you intend to improve morale at Mission Budapest?

*Answer.* High morale in a workforce is of the utmost importance, both because I am committed to staff being satisfied and fulfilled, and because it leads to better performance. If confirmed, I will seek to foster a culture of empowerment and open, transparent communication, and I will work to create an environment in which all members of the team understand the importance of their contribution to advancing U.S. foreign policy goals.

*Question.* How do you intend to create a unified mission and vision at Mission Budapest?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I will ensure all team members at all levels of the Mission understand the strategic priorities of the Mission, understand their role in advancing those priorities, and receive sufficient support in carrying out those responsibilities.

*Question.* Management is a key responsibility for chiefs of mission. How would you describe your management style?

*Answer.* My management style is collaborative, inclusive and empowering. I believe in creating a work environment in which all members of the team are encouraged to think rigorously and creatively about challenges we are confronting. I am also a strong proponent of open communication and ensuring that people are recognized for the important work they do. This includes ensuring that members of the team have opportunities to grow and further develop skills in order to advance their careers.

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

*Answer.* No. Berating subordinates is counterproductive and is never acceptable. If confirmed, I will treat employees with the utmost respect and expect all within the Embassy's leadership to do the same.

*Question.* How do you envision your leadership relationship with your deputy chief of mission?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I will work to build a relationship of deep trust and mutual respect with the deputy chief of mission, delegating when appropriate and empowering him or her to ensure he or she can step in for me if I am not available. At the same time, I will remain personally accountable for our Mission's success.

*Question.* If confirmed, what leadership responsibilities do you intend to entrust to your deputy chief of mission?

*Answer.* While the exact division of labor will be determined based on the interests and skills of the incoming deputy chief of mission, I see the role of the deputy chief of mission as both a chief operating officer and the right hand and alter ego of the ambassador.

*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.* Absolutely. Candid and comprehensive performance reviews are essential for employees to know where they stand and for them to understand where they need to improve. Beyond the annual reviews, it is also important for supervisors to make clear what the expectations are and to give continuous constructive feedback.

*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. This kind of communication and feedback is fundamental to a high functioning and healthy work environment.

*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 fellow foreign diplomats stationed in Hungary.

- In your opinion, do U.S. diplomats get outside of our embassy walls enough to accomplish fully their missions?

Answer. I strongly believe that diplomats need to get outside of the embassy in order to effectively advance our interests. It is important that our diplomats are doing all that we can to safely engage with the broadest cross-section of the countries in which we are deployed. Hungary is an environment where this kind of engagement is possible and, if confirmed, I would view broad and frequent engagement throughout the country as an essential component of our Embassy's work.

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

Answer. If confirmed, I will make clear that this kind of outreach is a core component of our responsibilities. I will encourage our diplomats to engage with and reach into the broadest cross-section of communities across Hungary, and will ensure that U.S. diplomats under my authority can do so safely.

*Question.* Public diplomacy is an important aspect of U.S. foreign policy efforts. What is the public diplomacy environment like in the Hungary?

Answer. The majority of Hungarians have a favorable opinion toward the United States and support a stronger relationship with the United States. In addition, the Hungarian public generally has a positive opinion of the United States and NATO in terms of Hungary's national security.

Consolidation of media under government-aligned or state-funded control has created a difficult environment, both for the Hungarian public to get reliable, unbiased information, and for the U.S. embassy to reach all audiences.

*Question.* What public diplomacy challenges do U.S. diplomats face there?

Answer. Prevalent disinformation and a shrinking space for independent media in Hungary is a challenge to our public diplomacy efforts. COVID-19 has also been a significant challenge and had a negative impact on in-person public diplomacy and exchange programming in Hungary, as it has everywhere.

*Question.* How do you balance the importance of Main State versus the in-country mission when it comes to tailoring public diplomacy messages for foreign audiences?

Answer. Public diplomacy is most effective if it is tailored and crafted by those present in a particular country. If confirmed, I will work with the Embassy's Public Diplomacy Section to closely coordinate the efforts of public diplomacy professionals in both Washington and Budapest to ensure that there is a unified, informed, and effective approach to advancing our interests through public diplomacy in Hungary. The Public Diplomacy Section engages on a variety of different social media platforms in both English and Hungarian to deliver tailored messages on U.S. foreign policy priorities; promote Embassy activities and events; provide information on security, voting, and other topics of interest to U.S. citizens; and communicate with the Hungarian public.

*Question.* "Anomalous health incidents," commonly referred to as "Havana Syndrome," have been debilitating and sidelining U.S. diplomats around the world for years. They have caused serious, negative consequences for U.S. diplomacy, yet many believe that the Department is not doing enough to care for, protect, and communicate to its personnel.

- If confirmed, do you commit to taking this threat seriously?

Answer. The issue of Anomalous Health Incidents—including the interagency effort to protect and care for our personnel and uncover the cause of these incidents—is an absolute priority for the Department, and it would be an absolute priority for me if I am confirmed.

As the President has said, the health and well-being of American public servants is of paramount importance to the administration. On a personal level, if confirmed, I will have no higher priority than the safety of the members of the Embassy team and their family members.

*Question.* If confirmed, do you commit to talking as openly as you can to Mission Budapest personnel?

Answer. Absolutely. I believe open and transparent communication is critical for a workplace to function well, and leadership should set the example for that. This is particularly true in the context of anomalous health incidents

#### *Human Rights, Democracy, and International Organizations*

*Question.* In the State Department's 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report, Hungary remained on Tier 2 for its ongoing efforts to meet the minimum standards to elimi-



nate trafficking but did not adequately do so in a few key areas, including failing to appropriately screen third country nationals for trafficking indicators, and a failure to implement a specialized framework for child victims services. How will you work with the Hungarian Government to address these issues if you are confirmed as Ambassador?

Answer. If confirmed, I will ensure Hungarian interlocutors understand the United States is committed to combating trafficking in persons in Hungary and beyond. While the Hungarian Government is making efforts to address this issue, more needs to be done. If confirmed, I will encourage the Hungarian Government to increase proactive identification and assistance for victims, particularly among vulnerable groups to include third-country nationals, and encourage consistent and sufficient funding for victim services, including for child victims. If confirmed, I will lead Mission Budapest to develop and implement both short- and long-term strategies of engagement with government officials, business leaders, and civil society in Hungary.

*Question.* The office to monitor and combat trafficking in persons plays a key role in assisting Ambassadors in promoting anti-trafficking work.

- Please describe how you can work with the Ambassador-at-Large to improve Hungary's anti-trafficking work in country.

Answer. Fighting human trafficking is a priority and, if confirmed, I will work closely with the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and its Ambassador at Large to draw on their expertise in order to develop plans and programs to work with the Hungarian Government to make improvements. I understand that the Office sometimes sends its experts to the field for fact-finding and consulting with embassies and host governments, which, if confirmed, I would welcome.

*Question.* What concrete steps can you, if confirmed, take with your mission to help Hungary improve its anti-trafficking efforts?

Answer. As an initial matter, if confirmed, I will make clear this is a priority and ensure Hungarian interlocutors understand the United States is committed to combating trafficking in persons in Hungary and beyond. If confirmed, I will lead Mission Budapest to develop and implement strategies of consistent engagement with government officials, private sector leaders, civil society, and the faith-based community in order to combat trafficking in Hungary.

*Question.* In the State Department's 2021 International Religious Freedom report, societal respect for religious freedom in Hungary was generally lacking, including noted anti-Semitic incidents and casual verbal insults directed at Muslim minorities. What is your assessment of this particular issue and if confirmed, how will you work with the Ambassador At Large to bolster religious freedom in-country?

Answer. Increasing societal respect for religious freedom and religious minorities in Hungary is deeply important. If confirmed, I will work closely with the faith-based community, civil society organizations, religious minorities, and government entities to facilitate dialogue on this issue and identify ways to address it. Hungary has a rich faith-based community, and I will strongly promote inter-faith dialogue among religious groups in Hungary about this challenge. If confirmed, I will work with both the Office of International Religious Freedom and the Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism to ensure Mission Hungary identifies creative and effective strategies to combat discrimination and promote tolerance.

*Question.* In the State Department's 2021 Human Rights Report, Hungary was noted as having several significant human rights abuses, including infringement on independence of the judiciary, restrictions on free speech and media, refoulement of refugees, and more. It was noted the Government did take some steps to address these issues.

- If confirmed, what steps will you take to continue to address these instances with the host government?

Answer. The United States consistently encourages our Allies and partners to continually strengthen democratic processes and institutions, including safeguarding the rule of law, judicial independence, media freedom, and transparent and accountable governance. We hold ourselves to these same standards.

If confirmed, I will unequivocally engage the Government of Hungary about our concerns on these issues. As a member of NATO, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Hungary has made commitments and undertaken obligations to democratic processes, human rights, and fundamental freedoms. The United States and other members of the transatlantic fam-

ily of nations have called on Hungary to uphold those obligations and commitments. If confirmed, I will do so as well.

*Question.* How will you direct your Embassy to work with civil society organizations to improve the human rights situation on the ground?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I will ensure we strengthen our engagement with civil society organizations across Hungary. Civil society has a special role to play in holding democracies accountable. If confirmed, I will work closely with civil society organizations, as well as government entities, to bolster respect for human rights. I will also encourage the Government to pursue greater consultation with civil society actors and to broaden the space for their activities. We will leverage the strength of our civil society partnerships and the depth of our public diplomacy tools to engage with Hungarians to defend and promote human rights in Hungary and the region.

*Question.* If confirmed, do you commit to personally raising human rights issues with the Hungarian Government?

*Answer.* Yes. Human rights are a core element of U.S. foreign policy, and if confirmed, I will directly and unequivocally engage the Government of Hungary on these issues.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO HON. DAVID PRESSMAN BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

*Question.* Do you agree with the assessment of many analysts that Hungary has devolved to be an authoritarian country or an “illiberal democracy?”

*Answer.* Several independent organizations that assess and rank countries’ democratic standing have downgraded Hungary in recent years, including Freedom House. Hungary is a long-time friend, ally, and partner of the United States. The United States remains committed to strengthening our partnership with Hungary, where we believe the threats to democracy are real and merit our determined attention.

The United States consistently encourages our Allies and partners to promote democratic values, including safeguarding the rule of law, judicial independence, media freedom, human rights, and transparency. We hold ourselves to these same standards.

Hungary has undertaken commitments to democratic values and governance as a member of NATO, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The United States and other members of the transatlantic family of nations have called on Hungary to uphold those obligations and commitments. If confirmed, I will do so as well.

*Question.* If confirmed as Ambassador, how would you encourage Hungary to play a more constructive role as a member of NATO and the EU, particularly where the Russian invasion of Ukraine is concerned?

*Answer.* Hungary is a valued NATO partner making critical contributions to our shared defense. As a NATO Ally, Hungary has publicly condemned Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, including supporting the March 2022 Extraordinary Leaders’ Statement calling Russia’s aggression against Ukraine the gravest threat to Euro-Atlantic security in decades and condemning the full-scale invasion. Hungary hosts and commands a NATO Enhanced Vigilance Activities Battle Group, and it has regularly participated in other NATO activities to deter Russia, including the NATO Baltic Air Policing Mission. Our joint training and exercises are a visible example of our cooperation and part of a longstanding partnership between our armed forces. We were pleased to see U.S. and Hungarian soldiers conducting joint training near the Hungary-Ukraine border earlier this month.

If confirmed, I will continue to work with Hungary to maintain a unified response to Putin’s aggression. However, there are valid concerns among Allies that Hungary hopes to maintain strong ties to Russia, primarily due to its dependence on Russian energy. Hungary also seeks to maintain connections in other ways as well, including through the Budapest-based International Investment Bank. Furthermore, Hungary’s recent reticence in adopting additional EU sanctions on Russia suggests a high degree of influence by Russia on the Hungarian government. If confirmed, I would work to tackle Russia’s malign influence in Hungary and, in addition, encourage Hungary to stop impeding high-level meetings of the NATO-Ukraine Commission, to allow closer consultation between NATO and Ukrainian leaders at this critical moment.

*Question.* How would you describe the condition of Hungary’s media sector?

Answer. I share the concerns of the leading global press freedom advocates, multi-lateral organizations, and Hungarian citizens, over the steady decline of media freedom in Hungary. A diversity of independent voices and opinions is essential to democracy. The diversity of the media landscape in Hungary has been negatively affected by an advertising market highly dependent on government-sponsored advertising that has facilitated the concentration of media ownership in the hands of a few government-aligned businesspersons, resulting in a lack of editorial independence for some outlets.

Independent media outlets continue to function in Budapest and online, and maintain some presence on television, but their reach has shrunk considerably. The largest independent radio station was forced off the airwaves in 2021, the largest independent daily newspaper shut down in 2016, and a government-aligned media group took over the largest online news outlet in 2020.

In March 2020, the government permanently amended the criminal code to increase the penalty for spreading a “falsehood” or “distorted truth” (“scaremongering”) that could obstruct “successful protection” of the public under a declared state of emergency related to the COVID–19 pandemic to imprisonment of up to five years. Watchdog groups have also expressed concern about less access to government by independent media and delays in responding to freedom of information requests.

*Question.* If confirmed as Ambassador, how would you work to support independent media and strengthen freedom of the press?

Answer. I am concerned about declining media pluralism in Hungary, as are the leading international press freedom organizations and many Hungarians. A diversity of independent voices and opinions is essential to democracy, and if I am confirmed I will urge the Government of Hungary to promote an open media environment, an environment that is in line with EU law. In addition, I would support regional programs to build the capacity of independent media. Finally, I would call attention to actions that further erode the space for an independent media or that fuel disinformation, which threatens the space for accurate information in the public square. Freedom of expression and a thriving independent press are vital for the functioning of a pluralistic democracy, and the U.S. Government will continue to emphasize the importance of media freedom.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO HON. DAVID PRESSMAN BY SENATOR MARCO RUBIO

*Question.* How do you characterize Hungary’s relations with the U.S. today?

Answer. Hungary is a long-time friend, ally, and partner. Last year marked 100 years of bilateral relations between the United States and Hungary. We greatly value our partnership with Hungary and all we have undertaken together to strengthen global security and grow our trade and investment relationship.

While we have concerns about the malign influence of Russia and China in Hungary, Hungary continues to make significant contributions to common security objectives such as combating terrorism, transnational crime, and weapons proliferation. As a NATO Ally, Hungary supports efforts to defend NATO’s Eastern Flank at this critical moment and has been our partner in addressing challenges around the world, including in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Balkans. Hungary is home to hundreds of U.S. companies and the citizens of our nations take part in rich and growing cultural, education, and scientific exchanges.

*Question.* Do you think lecturing Hungary on divisive progressive priorities serves U.S. interests or does it push them closer to Russia and China?

Answer. We need to pull Hungary closer to us, not push it away. As NATO Allies, the United States and Hungary are connected through our commitments to democracy, and we continue to support the Hungarian people’s pursuit of a democratic future based on respect for human rights. There are threats to democracy in Hungary that merit our attention. These threats are to democratic institutions and transcend political ideology; as allies we should be candid about our concerns and collaborate to address them.

Russia and China’s influence has had a corrosive effect on democratic institutions in Hungary—and around the world. Moscow and Beijing seek to reshape the international order in ways that fortify their authoritarian regimes and divide the rest of us. The United States, Europe, and democracies everywhere are stronger when

we work together to advance our shared values. Efforts to advance fair competition and transparency, and to protect fundamental rights and transatlantic values such as media freedom, rule of law, and human rights in Hungary strengthen its government and people to resist the corrosive influence of authoritarian regimes like Russia and China.

*Question.* How do you describe the Orban Government's view of Putin's Russia?

Answer. Prime Minister Orban has long said he pursues "pragmatic" cooperation with Russia and has held more bilateral meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin since Russia's 2014 invasion of Ukraine than any EU leader, including a February meeting with Putin in Moscow just three weeks before Putin launched his full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Hungarian leaders have stated they still consider Russia a reliable economic partner providing cheap energy, investment opportunities, and an export market. I have a different view.

Hungary's leaders and some media outlets have also provided a platform for repeating the Kremlin's narratives on international issues while ignoring or downplaying Russia's destabilizing actions in Europe—views, I might add, at odds with the majority of Hungarians, who continue to view the United States and Europe as Hungary's most important partners.

At the same time, since February 24, Prime Minister Orban and Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto have emphasized Hungary's commitments to NATO and the EU, going along with six successive EU sanctions packages; agreeing to the establishment of a NATO Enhanced Vigilance Activities Battle Group in Hungary; and publicly condemning Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

*Question.* What is your assessment of Hungary's views of the EU's sanctions against Russia?

Answer. Despite Hungary's close relationship with Russia, Hungary ultimately supported the EU's anti-Russia sanctions packages (six to date) introduced after Russia's most recent invasion of Ukraine. Hungary also agreed to and enforced earlier sanctions that followed Russia's 2014 invasion. The Government has publicly said that sanctions on Russian energy would severely harm Hungary's economy, given its dependence on Russian gas and oil, and the EU's sixth sanctions package includes significant exemptions for oil imports to landlocked countries like Hungary. The Government's public messaging on sanctions often seeks to blame sanctions, rather than Russia, for the negative economic consequences of Russia's war.

*Question.* To what extent does the Hungarian Government view Russia as a security threat?

Answer. As a NATO member, Hungary has supported the Alliance view on Russia, including the March 2022 Extraordinary Leaders' Statement calling Russia's aggression the gravest threat to Euro-Atlantic security in decades and condemning the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Hungary hosts and commands a NATO Enhanced Vigilance Activities Battle Group, and it has regularly participated in other NATO activities to deter Russia, including the NATO Baltic Air Policing Mission. Our close intelligence sharing ahead of Russia's full-scale invasion has helped reveal the true nature of the Kremlin's threat to European security to Allies and the world.

However, there are valid concerns among Allies that Hungary hopes to maintain strong ties to Russia, primarily due to its dependence on Russian energy. It seeks to maintain connections in other ways as well. For example, the Budapest-based International Investment Bank (IIB) may provide the Kremlin with opportunities to evade the crippling sanctions it must now deal with as the result of its unprovoked and brutal invasion of Ukraine. We think the bank is a vulnerability for Hungary and the Alliance. I should also note that every other EU member state that had participated as a shareholder in the IIB has announced its intention to withdraw from it.

*Question.* How do you assess Hungary's relationship with China?

Answer. Hungary's efforts to forge closer ties with the People's Republic of China is a key element of the Orban administration's "Eastern opening" strategy that it has pursued since returning to power in 2010. Hungary was one of the first European Union countries to join China's Belt and Road Initiative, and the only European Union country to not participate in the Trump administration's "clean network" initiative. As an ally and friend, it is important that we work with Hungary to highlight the risks posed by Beijing's influence and investments.

Additionally, Hungary has taken steps to block or weaken multilateral statements about the People's Republic of China's conduct in Hong Kong and its treatment of the Uyghurs, among other issues. If confirmed, I would continue to engage with our Hungarian partners to join us in holding Beijing accountable for its actions.

*Question.* How does the Hungarian Government view the conflict in Ukraine?

Answer. Hungary has generally supported the Alliance view on Russia, including the March 2022 Extraordinary Leaders' Statement calling Russia's aggression the gravest threat to Euro-Atlantic security in decades and condemning the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The Government recognizes that Russia's aggression has destabilized European security, caused enormous human suffering, and prompted the flight of hundreds of thousands of people across Hungarian territory.

*Question.* How do you assess Hungary's response to the war in Ukraine?

Answer. Hungary has agreed to six successive EU sanctions packages, the establishment of a NATO Enhanced Vigilance Activities Battle Group in Hungary, and EU funding for weapons for Ukraine. Hungary has provided humanitarian assistance to hundreds of thousands of refugees entering Hungary and to displaced persons in Ukraine and publicly condemned Russia's aggression against Ukraine. At the same time, Prime Minister Orban has prohibited the delivery of lethal weapons to Ukraine through Hungary; resisted stronger EU sanctions against Russia; and publicly criticized President Zelenskyy as a political adversary. Hungary cannot be neutral in this larger struggle—Hungary is a NATO Ally and EU member state. If confirmed, I will continue to work with Hungary to maintain a unified response to Putin's aggression.

*Question.* How do you assess Hungary's contributions to NATO and its role as a U.S. security partner?

Answer. In the security sphere, Hungary is a NATO partner making significant contributions to our shared defense. After Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, Hungary was one of the first countries to become a framework nation for a NATO Enhanced Vigilance Activities battlegroup. The Government has reaffirmed its intention to spend at least two percent of GDP on defense by 2024. Hungary has roughly 900 troops deployed in support of NATO, EU, UN, and U.S.-led missions, including about 160 troops in Iraq. In October 2021, Hungary took command of NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR), the country's (and NATO's) largest foreign troop deployment and a reflection of Hungary's willingness to assume responsibility in a region of critical importance to Hungary and to European security. Hungary will take over the NATO Baltic Air Policing Mission in August. Hungary also hosts the NATO Multinational Division-Center in Szekesfehervar, a Hungarian initiative led by framework nations Hungary, Croatia, and Slovakia that eventually will fit into the NATO Force. We also thank Hungary for its assistance to 540 Afghans and 61 U.S. citizens and legal residents during the August 2021 evacuation effort, in which Hungary used its own military aircraft.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD  
SUBMITTED TO HON. GEOFFREY R. PYATT BY SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ

*Timely Briefings*

*Question.* It is my expectations that the State Department provides briefings to me and my staff in an expeditious manner.

- Do you commit to being responsive and expeditious in responding to requests for information from the committee and Congress as a whole?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to being responsive and expeditious in responding to requests for information from the committee and Congress as a whole.

*All-of-the-Above Energy Strategy*

*Question.* This seemingly innocuous term that is casually spoken by both Democrats and Republicans may sound simple and common sense, but in reality is highly problematic, especially with respect to foreign energy development. "All-of-the-Above" literally suggests the U.S. should continue to support (i.e. provide foreign assistance or development finance for) things like: unmitigated coal, waste incineration for energy (also without mitigating emissions), and heavy fuel oil for electricity generation. This cannot be U.S. foreign policy. In fact, I'm pretty sure it isn't, and as such I think we need to stop saying it. I have to imagine many, if not most, of my Republican colleagues if asked "do you believe the U.S. should support building highly polluting energy projects in developing countries?" would answer "NO!"

- Do you believe an "All-of-the-Above" energy strategy should include ALL sources of power production, including highly polluting and highly inefficient sources of power?

Answer. On day one President Biden took executive actions to ensure we tackle the climate crisis at home and abroad through a whole-of-government approach. I believe that an “All-of-the-Above” energy strategy takes heed of underlying climate concerns, and therefore does not include highly polluting and highly inefficient sources of power. U.S. energy security and geostrategic concerns necessitate considering all energy options, but environmental concerns should be factored in throughout. If confirmed, I will work with my ENR team and other members of the interagency to implement an energy strategy in line with administration priorities.

*Question.* If “we”—members of Congress, administration officials, talking heads in the media—are going to continue to use this term, will you commit to working with Congress to transparently clarify the term to have a socially and environmentally responsible meaning?

Answer. If I am confirmed, I commit to ensuring the term “all of the above” continues to have a socially and environmentally responsible meaning.

#### *The Global Nature of the Energy Crisis*

*Question.* The impact of Putin’s war on Ukraine is reverberating throughout the world and is affecting global energy supplies. Yes, our allies in Europe are hurting, but the energy crisis is also impacting vulnerable populations everywhere in Haiti, The Pacific Islands, the Horn of Africa, Central America.

- What are we doing to help other countries, more vulnerable countries, weather the effects of this energy crisis?

Answer. The Department of State is committed to working with allies and partners, including the most vulnerable countries, to weather the energy crisis and meet their energy security needs. The Bureau of Energy Resources’ technical assistance programs promote energy diversification and decarbonization, including adoption of clean energy sources. This work enables vulnerable countries to better mitigate the effects of this energy crisis and help meet their energy security needs. If I am confirmed, I will continue to support efforts that help countries increase their access to affordable, clean, sustainable, secure, and reliable energy, recognizing that renewable energy options will often be the surest route to address these multiple goals.

*Question.* Are the optics of the U.S. focus on helping Europe through the energy crisis, and its majority White populations and High-Income Countries, concerning to the administration?

Answer. The administration is working tirelessly with partners and allies around the world to mitigate the consequences of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine. The Department of State and its partners coordinate efforts to promote energy diversification and decarbonization globally, including accelerating the adoption of clean energy sources in vulnerable countries outside of Europe to better mitigate the impacts future energy crises. If confirmed, I will support expanding the visibility of U.S.-led global energy initiatives, including ENR’s work around the world to build reliable, sustainable, and transparent supply chains for the critical minerals essential to the clean energy transition.

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#### RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED TO HON. GEOFFREY R. PYATT BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

*Question.* Many U.S. offices have been under enormous stress over the last few years, in large part due to COVID. What is your understanding of morale throughout the Bureau of Energy Resources?

Answer. I worked closely with Bureau of Energy Resources team members during my previous assignments and during this confirmation process. I am extremely impressed by their dedication to service, their incredible level of regional and technical expertise, and their ability to perform under the adverse conditions of COVID-19. If confirmed, it will be an honor to lead such a tremendous team.

Bureau team members are working to address the difficult challenges of energy security, energy access, and decarbonization. Energy market imbalances, Putin’s unjustified war in Ukraine, and his weaponization of energy, have combined to make this an unprecedented and stressful time to work in the energy space. The staff have worked tirelessly with their State Department, interagency, and international counterparts on these front-page issues, at some personal risk of illness.

While I am inspired by ENR’s adaptability and ability to perform under competing pressures, I am cognizant of the morale challenges the current situation

places upon staff. If confirmed, I will work to ensure they have all the resources they need to do their jobs, and to do them safely.

*Question.* Many U.S. offices have been under enormous stress over the last few years, in large part due to COVID. How do you intend to improve morale at the Bureau of Energy Resources?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I pledge to lead the Bureau of Energy Resources (ENR) team through example, to recognize their outstanding work, and to provide these dedicated public servants the support, guidance, and resources they need so that our shared diplomatic mission succeeds. Given the depth of Civil Service expertise in the Bureau, it will be particularly important to ensure that these talented officers have opportunities for long-term career growth and advancement. If confirmed, I will prioritize communicating with all Bureau team members and strive to achieve the highest possible team spirit and morale.

The State Department is now administering the 2022 Office of Personnel Management Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey. I will work closely with team members to address any opportunities for improvement that ENR survey results identify, as well as work to further amplify ENR's strengths.

If confirmed, I will work to ensure that ENR team members have the resources to do their jobs, to ensure their viewpoints are heard and included in the policy process, and to make them full partners in the work of energy diplomacy.

*Question.* Many U.S. offices have been under enormous stress over the last few years, in large part due to COVID. How do you intend to create a unified mission and vision at the Bureau of Energy Resources?

*Answer.* A unified vision and clear communication are vital to successful diplomatic outcomes. The administration has laid out the important policy goals of energy security, energy access, and decarbonization, and I agree that these goals are both overlapping and reinforcing. Advancing these objectives by leveraging the expertise of the staff remains the core guiding focus of the Bureau, and I would work to put specific goals into concrete lines of effort. If confirmed, I will work with State Department and international counterparts to advance these goals, and to ensure we do so in a coordinated, deliberate manner that takes into consideration all relevant information, including any underlying stressors. The cooperation of allies and partners is critical, as is fostering partnerships with international institutions.

As I said in my prepared statement, energy is front page news right now. Senator Lugar recognized, in calling attention to these issues some two decades ago, that our success requires persistent and strategically focused diplomacy to bolster our international energy partnerships. If confirmed, I would be honored to contribute to that task, in partnership with the Congress.

*Question.* Management is a key responsibility for senior officials. How would you describe your management style?

*Answer.* I think those who have worked with me would describe my leadership and management style as visionary. In my roles as Ambassador and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, I have aimed to empower my teams and help them advance the most ambitious possible future for themselves and for U.S. interests. In my experience, a key element of organizational leadership is translating big strategic objectives into concrete lines of effort. If confirmed, I would seek to draw on the best of ENR's exceptional team of Civil Service and Foreign Service experts to provide the strongest possible policy inputs on international energy security, strategic resource, and energy transition issues.

*Question.* Management is a key responsibility for senior officials. Do you believe it is ever acceptable or constructive to berate subordinates, either in public or private?

*Answer.* No. I believe it is always more productive and effective to deliver praise in public, and to provide constructive feedback in private, in a respectful and helpful manner so that core competencies can improve.

*Question.* Management is a key responsibility for senior officials. How do you envision your leadership relationship with your deputy assistant secretary?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I look forward to working collaboratively in full partnership with the Bureau principal deputy assistant secretary and deputy assistant secretaries (DASes). I think it is important to give specific lines of effort to the DASes, and to inspire them to achieve those goals as one team. It will be vital that we work closely together and coordinate as we represent the United States in international organizations, like the International Energy Agency, and the International Renew-

able Energy Agency, as well as at bilateral and strategic dialogues and partnerships, such as the

*Minerals Security Partnership*

*Question.* Management is a key responsibility for senior officials. If confirmed, what leadership responsibilities do you intend to entrust to your deputy assistant secretary?

*Answer.* I have had the opportunity to serve as a principal deputy assistant secretary (PDAS) in a regional Bureau. In that role, I was able to handle specific issues for the Bureau and am grateful I was empowered to do so. If confirmed, I will seek to empower the ENR PDAS and DASes with clear functional and regional specific responsibilities and initiatives, so that they can collectively advance overall Bureau goals as part of a team. ENR advances clean energy and climate goals while representing the United States at important international organizations, in regional and bilateral dialogues, and State-led initiatives like the Minerals Security Partnership. I will work with the ENR DASes to further U.S. goals in all these endeavors.

*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.* Yes. I view the EER process not as something to address on April 15, but every day. It is important to maintain a candid dialogue with rated and reviewed colleagues throughout the rating period, to have honest counseling sessions, to document them, and to inspire staff and provide them opportunities to grow their core competencies. I believe it is important to encourage staff not to be afraid of making mistakes, but to face them, correct them, and learn from them.

I believe that both the Bureau and the Department awards processes play important roles in recognizing the work of our best officers. I am a strong advocate of constructive risk taking in our diplomacy and if confirmed will seek to create a bureau culture that encourages diversity of perspectives and innovative thinking. Aside from producing better ideas, this approach is a priority for our successful economic statecraft. If confirmed, I will strive to assure that good work gets noticed, that career advancing opportunities are open to all staff, and that teammates are motivated to reach their full potential.

*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. 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 will encourage clear, accurate, respectful, and direct feedback. All officers can grow in their careers, and it is my responsibility as a manager to give them the tools to do so. Clear and accurate employee evaluations are also mission critical, as they enable the Department to identify and advance its most capable leaders.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO HON. GEOFFREY R. PYATT BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

*Economic Support Funds*

*Question.* In both FY 2022 and FY 2023, the Biden administration requested \$30.50 million in ESF funding for the Bureau of Energy Resources (ENR), intended for investment in projects or assistance efforts to bolster energy security. This amount is nearly \$25 million more than the State Department allocated in FY 2021.

- In your view, will the ENR bureau be able to absorb increased foreign assistance resources and spend them effectively?

*Answer.* The Department's Bureau of Energy Resources can absorb the requested funds. ENR foreign assistance helps allies and partners oversee their energy and mineral sectors to strengthen energy security, transition to a net-zero emissions future, and increase energy diversification and access. This funding request is critical to achieving the administration's climate goals and reaching the \$11.4 billion annual climate finance goal laid out by the President. Ensuring energy security and combating the climate crisis necessitate increased U.S. leadership and diplomacy;



they also require increased assistance resources to drive critical and timely energy sector reforms, and develop international partner capacity to accelerate the global energy transition. ENR will leverage its experience managing assistance to more than 50 countries over the past decade to advance U.S. energy and climate policy, including in-depth work in countries and regions such as Ukraine, Central America, and across the Indo-Pacific.

*Question.* In your view, what are the principal benefits and drawbacks to the United States of increasing its exports of LNG to Europe?

*Answer.* One of the consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, is a fundamental realignment of the geopolitics of energy and global energy trade. As Europe's energy security is threatened by Russia's drastic reduction in natural gas deliveries, assisting our allies and partners with additional LNG exports is in the U.S. national interest. Global geopolitical structures are changing and new threats are emerging that require a strong and adaptable Europe. Efforts to diversify and increase LNG supplies to Europe are being executed in alignment with climate objectives and in parallel with equally important efforts to reduce overall energy demand and accelerate deployment of clean and renewable energy.

*Question.* How might LNG exports enhance our national security and what are the key geopolitical considerations?

*Answer.* As a net exporter of natural gas since 2017, the United States has greatly enhanced the flexibility of the global LNG market by reaching over 40 countries due to its contracts without destination clauses and indexing to Henry Hub instead of oil prices. Although Europe's long-term goal is to decarbonize its economy, it is facing an energy security problem that U.S. LNG can help address in the short- and medium-term. In 2021, U.S. exports to Asia increased by 51 percent driven by surging demand from top importers Republic of Korea, PRC, Japan, and India. As the third largest supplier to Asia after Australia and Qatar, the United States plays a critical role in supplying Asia's largest economies and trading partners.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO HON. GEOFFREY R. PYATT BY SENATOR MARCO RUBIO

*Question.* Both the Trump and Biden administrations identified critical minerals as a key component of several supply chains, including semiconductors and military hardware. However, our adversaries such as Beijing and Moscow are making strides to dominate the critical mineral market. For example, China processes approximately 90 percent of the world's rare earth elements, 55 percent of the world's lithium, and 65 percent of the world's cobalt.

- What steps could the U.S. Government take to diversify critical mineral supply chains and expand the role of U.S. firms in extraction and processing sectors outside of the United States?

*Answer.* Building diverse, secure critical mineral supply chains is a key focus of the administration and a top priority of the State Department Bureau of Energy Resources (ENR). In 2019, ENR launched the Energy Resource Governance Initiative (ERGI) to improve governance in key mining countries through diplomatic engagement and technical assistance, thereby leveling the playing field for companies from the United States and likeminded countries. The Minerals Security Partnership (MSP), established on June 14, is designed to further advance global critical minerals supply chain security. Developed by the State Department in close coordination with partner countries, the MSP aims to catalyze investment from governments and the private sector for strategic critical minerals mining, processing, and recycling projects that adhere to high environmental, social, and governance standards.

*Question.* What additional avenues, if any, is the Biden administration exploring for multilateral cooperation on critical mineral supply chains beyond existing fora such as the EU-U.S.-Japan Trilateral Conference on Critical Minerals?

*Answer.* The State Department has intensified critical minerals engagement in multilateral fora and bilaterally with key countries. The Minerals Security Partnership (MSP), established on June 14, aims to bolster critical mineral supply chains. Developed by the State Department in close coordination with MSP partner countries, the MSP will help catalyze investment from governments and the private sector for strategic critical minerals mining, processing, and recycling projects that adhere to high environmental, social, and governance standards. In addition to the United States, current MSP partners include Australia, Canada, Finland, France,

Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the European Commission.

In response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the U.S., UK, Canada, and Australia have announced bans on Russian oil imports. This is a positive development, but it defies logic that the Biden administration is not unleashing our own supply of energy to help assist our allies as they reorient away from Russia. Instead, this administration has sought assistance from the Maduro regime in Venezuela.

*Question.* What is Venezuela's excess oil production today?

Answer. Venezuela's oil production has fallen from approximately 2.8 million bpd in 2013 to an estimated 636,000 bpd in 2021, following U.S. sanctions and years of corruption and mismanagement of the oil sector.

*Question.* Hypothetically, what would Maduro use this new influx of U.S. dollars for?

Answer. Our overall sanctions policy on Venezuela remains unchanged, and we will continue to implement and enforce our Venezuela sanctions in support of a return to democracy in Venezuela. Sanctions targeting actors in the Venezuelan oil sector, including state-owned oil company PDVSA, have deprived Maduro of revenue that would otherwise be generated by oil trade. The U.S. Government continues to prioritize limiting revenue flows to the Maduro regime that may result from its oil related activities.

*Question.* What, in your view, is the administration's objection to supporting and expanding our own domestic energy, which has been proven to be cleaner and safer than other countries?

Answer. I do not believe the administration objects to supporting and expanding our own domestic energy, but I would defer on domestic energy policy formulation and implementation to domestic agencies. In both of my Ambassadorial postings, I have actively supported U.S. energy companies overseas, including in both the fossil fuel and renewable sectors. American companies have tripled LNG exports to Europe this year and are working towards supplying 50 billion cubic meters per year of additional LNG from the United States between now and 2030. I also welcome the steps American industry has taken to reduce its carbon footprint, through reducing flaring, carbon and methane abatement, and exploration of additional clean and renewable energy sources and decarbonizing technologies.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO HON. GEOFFREY R. PYATT BY SENATOR JOHN BARRASSO

*Question.* If confirmed, what would be your top three energy priorities while serving in this position?

Answer. If I am confirmed, I would deepen ENR's approach to advancing U.S. interests in three main areas: energy security, decarbonization in support of the clean energy transition, and energy access. I will continue to prioritize working closely with our allies and partners to ensure our energy security with a coordinated response to Putin's unjustified war. I will advocate for energy diversification, increased efficiencies, and accelerating the deployment of clean and renewable technologies, because the clean energy transition is key to our long-term energy security. I recognize that demand for access to energy continues to grow, particularly in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. I believe this growth in demand presents an economic opportunity, and I commit to continuing ENR's diplomatic and programmatic support for U.S. energy companies, particularly clean energy companies, that want to invest globally and create jobs and prosperity in the United States and overseas. Finally, if I am confirmed, I will further support ENR's work to help build secure, reliable, and transparent mineral supply chains so that no one country dominates the materials that are critical inputs to the clean energy transition.

*Question.* If confirmed, would you ensure that the State Department is promoting all forms of energy projects across the globe, including oil, gas, and coal?

Answer. If confirmed, I would support energy projects across the globe that are consistent with U.S. national security goals. The administration has clearly stated that the clean energy transition will be the best solution for addressing the long-term climate crisis. In certain cases, however, and depending on the scope of the engagement and geostrategic objectives, support for fossil fuel projects may be justified, including for national security reasons.

*Question.* With billions of people without power, do you believe the U.S. should be promoting fossil fuels that are affordable and reliable, such as coal and natural gas, while supporting new technologies that reduce their carbon output?

*Answer.* If confirmed by the Senate, I would promote a range of energy options consistent with the administration's policy and each country's unique circumstances to help our global allies and partners meet their energy security needs, and ensure affordable and reliable access to energy. In certain cases, and depending on the scope of the engagement and geostrategic objectives, support for fossil fuel projects may be justified, including for national security reasons. In certain instances, increasing access to power by leapfrogging outdated infrastructure and technology may be a more optimal solution than fossil fuels that contribute to environmental damage and health impacts due to air pollution. In some instances, renewable sources of energy like wind and solar, supported by grid-scale battery storage, could provide reliable and more affordable power to many people who struggle to access and pay for energy from fossil fuels.

*Question.* How should the State Department evaluate and consider ongoing sanction programs that prohibit or discourage energy exports?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I would recommend that the State Department evaluate and consider ongoing energy sanctions programs that advance American interests and are consistent with broader U.S. foreign policy goals and U.S. legislation.

*Question.* Do you support the lifting of U.S. energy sanctions on Iran and Venezuela?

*Answer.* Any potential changes in our sanctions posture with respect to Iran's and Venezuela's oil sectors would be based on a consideration of the entire range of relevant foreign policy considerations.

A mutual return to full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is the best available option to constrain Iran's nuclear program and provide a platform to address Iran's other destabilizing conduct. If Iran were prepared to return to full implementation of the JCPOA's limits on its nuclear program, the United States would be prepared to lift sanctions necessary to return to full implementation of the JCPOA, including certain sanctions related to Iran's petroleum sector. However, we do not support lifting energy sanctions on Iran absent a mutual return to full implementation of the JCPOA.

While the administration does not preview sanctions actions, we have made clear that we would review our sanctions policies in response to constructive steps by the Maduro regime and if the Venezuelan parties made meaningful progress in the Venezuelan-led negotiations in Mexico. Venezuelan-led negotiations between the Maduro regime and the Unitary Platform represent the best path to restore to Venezuelans the democracy that they deserve and to alleviate their suffering.

*Question.* Do you support a prohibition on uranium imports and enrichment services from Russia?

*Answer.* As a result of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine, the United States has intensified its efforts to work closely with allies and partners to identify ways to reduce and ultimately eliminate energy dependence on Russia, including in nuclear energy. Several countries already have taken important steps in this direction.

At home, the State Department is working with other Departments and Agencies, including the Department of Energy, to identify domestic solutions that support our foreign policy goals.

We remain committed to urging the Congress to reduce our reliance on all Russian energy sources, including those related to civil nuclear energy.

#### *The Eastern Mediterranean Pipeline*

*Question.* The Eastern Mediterranean Pipeline can help enhance European energy security. As the U.S. Ambassador to Greece, you tweeted about the Eastern Mediterranean Pipeline deal. You stated, "Assistant Secretary @frank\_fannon puts it just right: 'Pleased to see Greece, Cyprus, and Israel advance #energycooperation in the region—continuing our work from the 3+1 in August—by signing the Tripartite Agreement for the East Med Energy Corridor.'" In January, the Biden administration announced their opposition to the Eastern Mediterranean Pipeline.

- What is your position on the Eastern Mediterranean Pipeline?

*Answer.* My tenure as Ambassador to Greece saw important progress in U.S. engagement with the Eastern Mediterranean, including the launch of the 3+1 process now led by Secretary Blinken, securing of U.S. observer status in the East Mediterranean Gas Forum, and Congressional passage of the Eastern Mediterranean Se-

curity and Energy Partnership Act of 2019. Against this background, the United States remains strongly committed to physically interconnecting East Mediterranean and Middle East energy to Europe. Putin's aggression in Ukraine and subsequent actions to disrupt gas supplies to European consumers only underscores the U.S. Government's longstanding position that energy cooperation in the East Mediterranean provides a foundation for durable energy security and economic prosperity in the East Mediterranean region and the rest of Europe. Bearing in mind our climate priorities, the administration intends to continue to focus our efforts on electricity interconnectors that can support both natural gas and renewable energy sources. A hypothetical new pipeline such as the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Pipeline (EMGP), for which no financing or business case has been identified, would not contribute to European energy security in the short or even medium term.

- Given the need to help Europe diversify their routes and supplies away from Russian energy resources, what should be the administration's stance on the Eastern Mediterranean Pipeline?

Answer. Putin's aggression in Ukraine and subsequent actions to disrupt gas supplies to European consumers only underscores our longstanding position that energy cooperation in the East Mediterranean provides a foundation for durable energy security and economic prosperity in the East Mediterranean region and the rest of Europe. We remain committed to physically interconnecting East Mediterranean and Middle East energy to Europe. The administration's stance on the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Pipeline (EMGP) has not changed. We are continuing to shift our focus to electricity interconnectors that can support both natural gas and renewable energy sources. A new pipeline such as the EMGP, which is not even under construction, would not contribute to European energy security in the immediate or even medium term. We welcome the agreement reached June 15th among Israel, Egypt, and the EU to provide additional gas from the East Mediterranean to Europe via LNG. This agreement takes advantage of existing infrastructure and will directly improve Europe's energy security over the short term by reducing dependence on Russian energy sources.

- What is the status of the Eastern Mediterranean pipeline?

Answer. The East Mediterranean Gas Pipeline (EMGP) is not under construction and no financing or business case has been identified. This is an EU project and financing this pipeline is a decision for the EU and any potential investors to make.

- How would development of new natural gas discoveries in the Eastern Mediterranean or elsewhere support U.S. objectives of promoting energy security and lowering energy prices for U.S. consumers?

Answer. The U.S. Government has supported efforts, including by U.S. companies, to develop natural gas resources in the Eastern Mediterranean as part of our policy to support diversification of energy sources and routes in Europe and to encourage cooperation among regional friends and allies. Any new natural gas discoveries in the East Mediterranean or elsewhere will not address near-term global energy security issues nor lower current energy prices for U.S. consumers.

#### *Gazprom*

*Question.* Gazprom has been halting gas deliveries to a number of European countries.

- What would you suggest the U.S. and our European allies do in response to Gazprom's actions?

Answer. The United States and the European Union are working in concert to reduce Europe's dependence on Russian fossil fuels. Through the U.S.-European Commission Joint Task Force on Energy Security, announced on March 25 by President Biden and European Commission President von der Leyen, the United States is working with the EU to diversify liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies to Europe in alignment with climate objectives, reducing demand for natural gas, and accelerating deployment of clean and renewable energy sources. The EU is taking concrete steps separate from the task force, including through its REPowerEU plan, announced on March 8, which aims to reduce and ultimately eliminate dependence on Russian natural gas, goals the U.S. supports.

- What countries has Russia stopped delivering natural gas to? What actions are those countries taking to mitigate the impact of being cut off from Russian natural gas?

Answer. As of June 23, 2022, Russia has halted natural gas supplies to Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, the Netherlands, and Poland. The EU is taking concrete steps to reduce dependence on Russian natural gas, including through its

REPowerEU plan, which aims to reduce dependence on Russian natural gas by two-thirds by the end of 2022 and to eliminate dependence on Russian fossil fuels before 2030. To mitigate the impact of Russian cutoffs, the EU is seeking additional natural gas supply globally, including from Egypt, Israel, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Nigeria, Senegal, and Angola, in addition to increased LNG imports from the United States. The EU is also setting out contingency measures in case of severe supply disruption.

- Are European Union member states prepared and able to meet their energy needs without Russian imports?

Answer. EU Member States are working to reduce their dependence on Russian fossil fuels, but this will take time. The EU imported from Russia more than 40 percent of its total gas consumption, 27 percent of oil imports, and 46 percent of coal in 2021. The EU is taking steps to reduce this dependency and establish contingency measures in case of severe supply disruption, including phased bans on imports of Russian coal and seaborne oil, and its REPowerEU plan to make Europe independent from Russian fossil fuels by 2030. We support these efforts through regular coordination and joint initiatives, such as the U.S.-European Commission Joint Task Force to Reduce Europe's Dependence on Russian Fossil Fuels.

- Under what circumstances and conditions could European Union member states stop receiving Russian natural gas imports from Nord Stream 1?

Answer. Gazprom has announced reduced natural gas flows through Nord Stream 1 to Germany by up to 60 percent and Russia could institute further natural gas flow decreases and cutoffs. Individual EU member states have different levels of dependencies on Russian fossil fuels and options and abilities to reduce them. These efforts involve numerous steps, including increasing LNG imports from non-Russian sources, reducing overall energy demand, and accelerating deployment of renewables and clean energy solutions. These efforts are difficult and will take time.

#### *Available U.S. Energy Resources*

*Question.* The United States has the energy resources needed to help our allies reduce their dependence on Russian energy. Our nation should be a strategic energy supplier to Europe. American natural gas is reliable, affordable, and abundant. It is an important energy solution for those who want to keep their lights on without empowering Russia.

- Do you support increasing exports of U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) to help our allies and partners escape their dependence on Russia?

Answer. I fully support the President's commitment to helping our European allies and partners reduce their dependence on Russian gas, including through the provision of American LNG, reducing their overall demand for energy, and accelerating the clean energy transition.

- What are the current barriers to increasing exports of American energy resources to our allies in Europe?

Answer. Energy exports to our European allies have increased significantly since January 2021. One current logistical barrier overseas is Europe's lack of sufficient compatible import infrastructure such as LNG import terminals or Floating Storage Regasification Units (FSRUs). We are working tirelessly with the private sector, and our partners and allies to address these capacity issues. Our European allies and partners already have taken steps to address existing infrastructure constraints to increase imports of non-Russian gas.

- What steps is the administration currently taking to support U.S. energy companies in increasing domestic export capacity and building the infrastructure needed to increase exports to Europe?

Answer. The administration has already taken steps to increase U.S. LNG export capacity, including authorizing additional exports of LNG to non-free trade agreement countries from two existing facilities, one under construction and one additional approved LNG project. If confirmed, I commit to working with EU member states toward ensuring demand for approximately 50 billion cubic meters per year of additional U.S. supplies, until at least 2030, as part of the President's commitment to the U.S.-EU Task Force for Energy Security. In addition, I would ensure that ENR continues to support the work of the U.S. and the European Commission to expedite planning and approval for renewable energy projects that will facilitate exports of U.S. energy technology.

*Question.* I believe improvements are needed to ensure the U.S. Government is pursuing a consistent and effective energy strategy around the world. For many years, there has been no clear delineation of responsibilities and authorities on international energy policy within the Executive branch. Duplication, redundancies,

and conflicting lines of authorities have created serious problems in delivering a consistent message from the United States on international energy across the globe. Numerous government agencies remain tasked with pursuing U.S. energy policies across the globe, including the U.S. Department of Energy, Department of Commerce, Department of Interior, Department of Treasury, the Energy Information Administration, and the National Security Council. As a result, areas of responsibility remain confusing. This in turn allows agencies to shift decision-making responsibility and divert accountability.

- How are the lines of authority and responsibilities delineated between the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Energy Resources and the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Policy and International Affairs?

Answer. By statute, the Department of State exercises primary authority for the conduct of foreign policy relating to energy. According to the DOE Organization Act, the Department of Energy implements policies regarding international energy issues that have a direct impact on research, development, and conservation of energy in the United States. State and DOE coordinate and cooperate on implementing U.S. foreign energy policy to avoid duplication and ensure that efforts are in line with broader U.S. foreign policy goals. For example, within the U.S.-EU Energy Council, ENR leads on the energy security working group, while DOE leads on the energy policy and energy technology working groups. Similarly, DOE and State participate together at international organizations, such as the International Energy Agency.

- Please describe your current understanding of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Energy Resources' role in interagency collaboration on international energy issue.

Answer. My understanding is that the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Energy Resources collaborates closely with other bureaus and offices within the Department of State, and with other U.S. Government agencies, in advancing American energy-related goals and interests. The Department of State exercises primary authority for the conduct of foreign policy relating to energy. The Bureau of Energy Resources uses diplomacy, advocacy, and technical assistance to contribute to the advancement of American energy-related foreign policy goals, leaning heavily on the unique access and impact of our Embassies overseas.

- What steps do you propose to eliminate overlapping and conflicting roles?

Answer. If confirmed, I would propose continuing the Bureau's commitment to close cooperation and collaboration with other U.S. Government agencies to ensure our respective efforts are complementary and collectively advance American interests.

- In what ways does interagency collaboration on international energy policy need to be improved?

Answer. I believe that interagency collaboration on international energy policy benefits from regular discussions and interactions among the different U.S. Government agencies involved. If confirmed, I commit to actively and constructively contribute to the interagency policy deliberation and formulation process.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO HON. ROBERT A. WOOD BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

*Question.* What is your understanding of morale throughout your post?

Answer. It is my understanding that morale at the Mission is high in light of the administration's robust recommitment to multilateral engagement and in spite of the corresponding workload, which at times can prove challenging.

*Question.* How do you intend to improve morale across all of Mission Geneva?

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to supporting Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield and her team in efforts to guide, encourage, and recognize the exceptional community of professionals working for the U.S. Mission to the U.N. That includes a focus on team building, treating every team member with respect, and ensuring appropriate work-life balance.

*Question.* How do you intend to create a unified mission and vision at your post?

Answer. It is my distinct impression that Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield has created just such a vision for the Mission, and if confirmed I will invest in that vision to continue the remarkable pattern of accomplishment she has established since assuming that role.

*Question.* How would you describe your management style?

Answer. I consider myself an inclusive and collaborative colleague, mentor, and team leader. If confirmed, I will strive to create an environment where all members of my team feel valued for their contributions and supported in their personal goals. I believe my record at various management levels speaks to someone who values collaboration, diversity, and shared success.

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

Answer. Under no circumstances is this acceptable.

*Question.* How do you envision your leadership relationship with your deputy?

Answer. If confirmed as Alternate Representative, I will have the honor of supervising an exceptional team of Foreign and Civil Service employees, and intend to operate with transparency, trust, and respect.

*Question.* If confirmed, what leadership responsibilities do you intend to entrust to your deputy?

Answer. If confirmed, I will invest in the broad expertise of my team, entrusting them with the necessary autonomy to continue working with the success and confidence they demonstrate every day.

*Question.* If confirmed, do you support U.N. Security Council reform including any potential efforts to expand the non-permanent or permanent members of the Council?

Answer. The United States supports a U.N. Security Council that is effective and fit for the challenges of the 21st century. If confirmed, I would remain open to a modest expansion of both permanent and non-permanent Security Council members in a way that does not diminish the Security Council's effectiveness or efficiency and does not alter or expand the veto.

*Question.* Do you support the expansion of veto power?

Answer. If confirmed, I would remain open to a modest expansion of both permanent and non-permanent Security Council members in a way that does not alter or expand the veto.

*Question.* Do you believe Security Council reform is necessary? Why or why not?

Answer. A well-executed expansion of the Security Council could help modernize the body to better reflect 21st century global realities and increase its effectiveness. If confirmed, I would work with our allies to support the evolution of this institution in a manner that promotes efficiency and effectiveness, without compromising United States interests.

*Question.* What other efforts would you support?

Answer. If confirmed, I am open to exploring other efforts that do not diminish the Security Council's effectiveness or efficiency and do not alter or expand the veto. In April, the United States cosponsored, along with 82 other countries, a U.N. General Assembly resolution that improves Security Council transparency—a sought-after reform—by automatically convening a debate in the General Assembly in response to the use of the veto in the Security Council.

*Question.* What is your assessment of the U.S.'s role on the Security Council? Are we effectively using our voice and vote to influence positive change towards peace and security?

Answer. The United States is committed to using the unique authority of the U.N. Security Council, as well as the U.N. system more broadly, to advance U.S. interests and respond to threats to international peace and security. If confirmed, I will be both a defender of and advocate for U.S. standards, values, and interests at the U.N. Security Council.

*Question.* What is your assessment of Russia on the Security Council in light of their war on Ukraine?

Answer. Russia's egregious actions are an affront to the core mandate of the Security Council and are especially outrageous given that it is a permanent member. If confirmed and if there were a path to suspend Russia from the U.N. Security Council, I would seek to pursue it immediately, particularly in light of its violations of the U.N. principles Russia has committed to defend. Russia's status as a permanent member of the Security Council, however, is enshrined in the U.N. Charter. To change this would require renegotiating and amending the Charter, which is a treaty among all the U.N.'s 193 Member States, including Russia. All amendments to

the Charter require ratification of all five Permanent Members, including Russia, in order to enter into force.

*Question.* The recent effort in the General Assembly to force a GA meeting upon the use of a veto was supported by the U.S. In your view, was this key to strengthening the council?

*Answer.* This U.N. General Assembly resolution is a significant step toward the accountability, transparency, and responsibility of all Permanent Members of the Security Council who wield the veto. We see virtue in automatically convening a General Assembly meeting when a veto is cast, to give the Permanent Member of the U.N. Security Council the opportunity to explain its veto to the full General Assembly membership, and for the Members of the General Assembly to express their views.

*Question.* What can be done to strengthen the U.S. position on the Security Council?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I am committed to driving our multilateral engagement to deliver concrete outcomes to advance our values around the world. Within the Security Council, if confirmed, I will work closely with our P3 allies, France and the UK, as well as elected UNSC members to push back on China and Russia's obstructionism and alternative authoritarian agenda.

*Question.* What is your view of the current state of U.N. peacekeeping?

*Answer.* U.N. peacekeeping operations are among the most effective mechanisms of burden-sharing to address the global challenges to international peace and security. The United States continues to evaluate peacekeeping missions with a view to making them as efficient and effective as possible, while also providing missions with the necessary resources to fully implement their mandates. If confirmed, I will commit to working with the administration in prioritizing reforms in annual budget negotiations, increasing the efficiency of missions and minimizing the cost to U.S. taxpayers, including reducing or closing missions where appropriate and when conditions allow.

*Question.* Are there missions that are more challenging politically than others? If so, which ones?

*Answer.* Peacekeeping missions facilitate post-conflict recovery by protecting civilians, preserving security, and creating the space for political solutions. While the U.N. Secretary-General and many Member States stress the importance of peacekeeping missions supporting political solutions, these are long-term endeavors that require persistence, political will, and significant resources. The most challenging missions are those where tremendous effort and many political processes over the years have not yielded a durable, sustainable peace. If confirmed, I will ensure that U.S. engagement continues to press for both short- and long-term solutions.

*Question.* Do you believe any missions are no longer meeting their mandate? If so, what do you believe would be appropriate action by the Security Council?

*Answer.* The administration continually reviews and assesses all existing peacekeeping missions to ensure they are making a meaningful and substantive contribution to international peace and security. If confirmed, for missions where that work remains imperative, I will focus on making them as effective and efficient as possible and providing them with the resources necessary to fully implement their mandates, including well-trained and well-equipped troops and police. If confirmed, for missions in countries where conditions allow, I will work with the U.N. Secretariat and U.N. Security Council to press for early strategic planning and sustainable transitions that preserve the advances in host nation peace and security.

*Question.* Ongoing allegations and incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers and U.N. personnel (and most recently an American) continue to draw international attention. What can the U.S., and the U.N., do to prevent more incidents of sexual abuse and assault?

*Answer.* The Secretary-General has taken important steps to address SEA, many of which the United States has directly supported, but there is still work to be done. If confirmed, I am committed to working with the Secretary-General to hold peacekeepers accountable.

In September 2021, the Secretary-General repatriated the entire Gabonese contingent deployed to the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Force in the CAR (MINUSCA) following repeated, credible allegations of SEA by Gabon's troops. This marked an important step forward in the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 2272 (2016), drafted and championed by the United States, to



provide the Secretary-General enhanced measures to deter future acts of SEA in peacekeeping and hold offenders accountable.

The United States has also discontinued peacekeeping security assistance in the form of PKO-funded Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) programming to three countries—Mauritania in 2019 and Cameroon and Gabon in 2020—when they failed to prevent and/or hold their peacekeepers accountable for persistent SEA and broader conduct and discipline issues.

*Question.* Most recently, the Council has experienced internal conflict about holding meetings on particular humanitarian crises like Syria, Ukraine, Ethiopia, and more. What is your assessment of this issue? Should the Security Council hold more regular meetings on these topics? If no, please explain.

*Answer.* The monthly program of work for the Security Council is negotiated among the members, with a significant number of the meetings fixed by directives in Security Council resolutions, including discussions on humanitarian situations. The Security Council has a monthly meeting on the humanitarian situation in Syria, and the Council has met 16 times on Ukraine since February 21, 2022, though some of these meetings on Ukraine were called by Russia on farcical pretenses. If confirmed, I commit to using these engagements as opportunities to work with like-minded partners to highlight humanitarian crises, including ones caused or exacerbated by Russia's further invasion of Ukraine.

*Question.* Additionally, the Council has issues passing resolutions or making statements on these topics. Do you believe the U.N. Security Council is broken? Why or why not?

*Answer.* The Security Council reflects global political dynamics and, as such, is often a challenging venue. If confirmed, I commit to working with our partners to address international crises through political missions, sanctions and embargos, and peacekeeping operations, notwithstanding Russian and PRC obstructionism. The requirement, adopted in April 2022, that the General Assembly automatically convenes a meeting following a veto in the Security Council is a significant step toward ensuring the accountability, transparency, and responsibility of all Permanent Members of the Security Council in the appropriate use of the veto.

*Question.* Russia and China have used their position on the Council to block formal meetings on topics they did not like, including human rights abuses in Xinjiang, Syria, and more. What is your assessment of this issue? How can the U.S. use its influence to highlight these important issues regardless of other P5 members?

*Answer.* Under the Security Council's rules, one Council member cannot block formal meetings of the Council. If confirmed, I will commit to working closely with our partners to ensure the Security Council discusses all threats to international peace and security. Beyond the Security Council, the United States leads efforts to ensure critical issues are addressed in the U.N. system and in other fora, including the General Assembly, Human Rights Council, OPCW, and IAEA. In those settings, the United States highlights issues like Russia's and China's oppression of their own citizens, Syria's chemical weapons use, and Iran's nuclear program.

*Question.* The most recent Security Council elections replaced 5 of the elected 10 members with each candidate running unopposed. Do you believe clean slates for U.N. bodies are beneficial? Why or why not?

*Answer.* Being elected to the U.N. Security Council is arguably the most prestigious assignment for a country in the U.N. system. It is also a major commitment of resources and requires significant preparation. Countries typically announce their candidacy years, if not decades, in advance to adequately plan. Once a country announces its candidacy, regional blocs often discourage competition to ensure diversity of representation and to avoid wasted efforts. In the wider U.N. setting, clean slate elections can be detrimental to U.N. bodies, often allowing candidates who are unqualified for, or worse, hostile to, the work of those bodies. If confirmed, I will work to actively encourage qualified candidates to participate in U.N. elections.

*Question.* There have been proposals put forward for U.N. peacekeeping budget to fund missions that have not been approved by the U.N. Security Council. Do you believe that the U.N. peacekeeping budget should only be put towards mission approved by the U.N. Security Council?

*Answer.* The Biden administration would not support the use of U.N.-assessed contributions to fund peacekeeping missions that have not been authorized by the U.N. Security Council (UNSC). U.N. Security Council oversight is one of the key preconditions of any agreement on the use of U.N.-assessed funds for non-U.N. peace support operations. If confirmed, I will work with the appropriate U.N. over-

sight bodies, including the UNSC through resolutions authorizing mission mandates, to oversee U.N. funds.

*Question.* The United States is the single largest financial contributor to U.N. peacekeeping activities. Congress authorizes and appropriates U.S. contributions, and it has an ongoing interest in ensuring such funding is used as efficiently and effectively as possible. Do you believe that any nation, including the United States, should pay more than 25 percent of the U.N. peacekeeping budget?

*Answer.* My firm belief is that the United States should pay its assessed contributions in full and on time, while concurrently working to reduce those contributions by maximizing efficiencies and encouraging other member states to assume more of the financial burden. In December 2021, the U.S. Mission to the United Nations achieved a reduction in the U.S. peacekeeping assessment rate from 27.9 to 26.9 percent and preserved the 22 percent ceiling for the U.N. regular budget assessment. If confirmed, I will work with counterparts to ensure that peacekeeping missions are fit for purpose, focused on results, and accountable for their resources.

*Question.* What is your position on U.S. repayment of U.N. peacekeeping arrears? As memorialized in the 1999 Helms-Biden agreement, the Late Ambassador Holbrooke, then-President Clinton, then-Secretary General Kofi Anan, and then-Senator Biden all believed that the United States has no obligation to pay, and thus should not pay, the roughly \$500 million in “contested arrears” that were explicitly excluded from the \$1.6 billion Helms-Biden agreement. However, since then, the U.N. has insisted upon keeping on its books, and the Obama administration sought to pay over Congressional objections. Do you commit not to pay these “contested arrears” per Congressional intent as outlined in the Helms-Biden agreement?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I would welcome the opportunity to work with Congress to determine how best to meet our financial obligations, including addressing the substantial level of arrears that have accumulated over the past five years and the 25-percent cap on peacekeeping funding.

*Question.* Are there any specific steps you believe the U.N. should take to reduce the overall size of the U.N. peacekeeping budget? If so, what are they?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I am committed to reviewing and assessing all existing peacekeeping missions to ensure they are still necessary for the promotion of international peace and security. For missions that remain necessary, I will work to ensure they are as effective and efficient as possible, while also ensuring they have the necessary resources to fully implement their mandates, including well-trained and well-equipped troops and police.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO HON. ROBERT A. WOOD BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

*Question.* What, in your opinion, are the prospects for effective Security Council action on the situation in Ukraine?

*Answer.* The prospects for effective action within the Security Council itself on the situation in Ukraine are limited by Russia’s veto power. However, we have seen effective action taken within other U.N. bodies, including the U.N. General Assembly, which overwhelmingly adopted three resolutions condemning Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

In one of these votes in the General Assembly, member states suspended Russia from the U.N. Human Rights Council (HRC). The HRC also adopted a resolution establishing a Commission of Inquiry into violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law. Secretary-General Guterres condemned Russia’s violation of the U.N. Charter and offered his good offices to negotiate an end to the war, to facilitate humanitarian corridors, and to find a solution to Ukraine’s inability to transport its agricultural commodities due to Russia’s aggression.

The U.N. provides significant lifesaving assistance to the people of Ukraine and refugees from Ukraine through U.N. agencies, and if confirmed, I will commit to working with these partners, such as UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the WHO, to ensure these lines of effort remain a priority. The United States has provided \$688 million dollars this year to fund this work.

*Question.* In the absence of possibilities in the Security Council, what are other opportunities to utilize the U.N. system to assist the people and government of Ukraine?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I am committed to supporting Ukraine and holding Russian President Vladimir Putin and his government to account across international fora—including the United Nations—in coordination with Ukraine, allies and partners, humanitarian organizations, and other international organizations. I will support steps the United Nations has already taken to hold Russia to account such as the U.N. Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry (UNHRC CoI) and the U.N. Human Rights Monitoring Mechanism in Ukraine (UNHRMMU). I will continue to encourage other governments to support and increase their support to Ukraine's Humanitarian Response Plan, which is coordinated by the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and covers critical needs for the millions of people displaced within, or outside of, Ukraine by Russia's aggression.

*Question.* If confirmed, how would you utilize your position to improve the effectiveness of economic sanctions?

*Answer.* The key to making U.N. economic sanctions effective is in promoting their full implementation by all U.N. Member States. When the U.N. Security Council adopts economic sanctions measures under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter, all U.N. Member States are required under international law to implement them. If confirmed, I will work diligently to ensure effective implementation of these measures, including by publicly calling out any U.N. Member State that knowingly violates them. We will continue working to strengthen implementation, helping bolster countries' capacity to implement and enforce sanctions and work with the U.N. system, including the U.N. sanctions expert panels and Security Council sanctions committees, to call attention to potential sanctions violations, remind U.N. Member States of their obligations under U.N. Security Council sanctions resolutions, and reiterate the importance to international peace and security of full compliance with the U.N. Security Council's decisions. We share information with those same U.N. sanctions expert panels to enhance their investigations and offer robust capacity-building assistance to U.N. Member States on a wide range of relevant issues, including banking, maritime trade, and others. Where appropriate, we work with our partners on the U.N. Security Council to nominate individuals and entities for designation in relevant U.N. sanctions committees and may consider implementing sanctions under domestic authorities on such individuals and entities when not designated by the U.N.

*Question.* In your view, how effective have U.N Security Council economic sanctions been to date?

*Answer.* U.N. Security Council-imposed economic sanctions have a mixed record in achieving their goals. Effectiveness has depended on many factors, including the degree to which U.N. Member States have faced consequences for failing to fully implement legally binding sanctions measures, as is required under the U.N. Charter. The most expansive U.N. Security Council economic sanctions now in existence are those imposed on the DPRK for the development of its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. These measures have severely impeded the Kim regime's ability to import foreign technologies, equipment, and other materials for its unlawful WMD and ballistic missile programs. If confirmed, I will continue to prioritize strengthening sanctions on the DPRK and working towards their full implementation. In response to concerns about Iran's nuclear program, the Security Council adopted multiple rounds of sanctions from 2006-2010 that helped get Iran to consent to limits in the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Targeted U.N. counterterrorism sanctions have made it much harder for groups like ISIS and al-Qaeda to raise, transfer or conceal funds. The United States is working hard to make sure that U.N. Security Council-imposed sanctions have clear objectives, are well integrated with broader diplomatic strategies, and are dynamic and flexible in response to relevant events. If confirmed, I will look to ensure U.N. Security Council sanctions continue to be used as a strong tool to counter threats to U.S. national security and global stability.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO HON. ROBERT A. WOOD BY SENATOR MARCO RUBIO

*Question.* Although the U.N. is often thought of as the guardian of world peace, it is in reality a dysfunctional, bureaucratic institution that gives our adversaries,

such as the Chinese Communist Party, a forum to further their malign influence. How would you counter Beijing's efforts to abuse the U.N. Security Council to further its agenda?

*Answer.* As I have in other multilateral fora, if confirmed I will continue to call out the PRC for its malign behavior and actions. I will also work with likeminded partners to promote the integrity of the U.N. system based on the principles and values of the U.N. Charter. If confirmed, I will work in the U.N. Security Council to present a united front against those who seek to advance authoritarian and destabilizing agendas. This type of outreach and coordination sends a powerful message throughout the multilateral system—as it did during the several historic votes in the U.N. General Assembly condemning Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war against Ukraine. The U.N. General Assembly held a debate on June 8 and 10 following vetoes by China and Russia of a U.S.-drafted Security Council resolution that would have imposed further sanctions on the DPRK for its unlawful ballistic missile launches. The many U.N. member states that spoke during this debate calling for U.N. Security Council action underscored the isolation of China and Russia on this issue. If confirmed, I will work to widen and deepen that isolation.

*Question.* What steps can the U.S. take to further its influence in the U.N. and minimize that of the Chinese Communist Party?

*Answer.* The United States is implementing a comprehensive multilateral strategy, alongside other regional plans, to counter the harmful influence of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and strengthen the U.N. and rules-based international order. This strategy includes advancing an affirmative agenda that highlights the role and contributions of the United States in addressing global challenges; advocating against any kind of U.N. endorsement of any country's signature foreign policy platforms, such as the Belt and Road Initiative; supporting qualified candidates for elected and appointed positions in the U.N. and other international organizations who will act independently; and developing flexible coalitions with a diverse array of countries to strengthen the rules-based international system. If confirmed, I would champion our efforts aimed to create an environment resistant to the PRC's efforts to bend international organizations to their worldview.

*Question.* China has roughly 1,072 peacekeeping personnel deployed in South Sudan and the China National Petroleum Corporation controls a 40 percent stake—the largest of any stakeholder—in a consortium that extracts South Sudan's oil. In 2012, the Chinese Government dispatched its first combat unit to the continent to support the U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). After civil war broke out in the country in 2013, Beijing played a significant role in increasing the UNMISS authorized troop strength and modifying UNMISS's mandate to include a broader interpretation of the U.N.'s nonintervention policy. In this expanded mandate, Beijing successfully lobbied for a provision to include the protection of workers on oil installations.

Although the provision initially encountered resistance from officials in the U.N. Department of Peacekeeping Operations, who argued the change would undermine the U.N.'s neutrality and place peacekeepers on the side of the South Sudanese Government and the oil industry, the mandate expansion was ultimately adopted unanimously by the U.N. Security Council in 2014. The new mandate aligned peacekeepers with the South Sudanese Government and the country's oil sector, and by extension, Beijing's economic interests.

- What is your assessment of this case?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I would ensure constant vigilance in our review of UNSC products to guard against PRC and other states exploiting multilateral fora to pursue parochial interests or national agendas.

*Question.* Clearly this was done against U.S. interests. How will you prevent Beijing from coopting the U.N. Security Council and U.N. Peacekeeping system to further its own interests and diminish our own in the future?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I will coordinate closely with State Department colleagues, other members of the Security Council, and U.N. partners in New York and in the field to ensure that we advance U.S. priorities across U.N. peacekeeping, including, for instance, by preventing changes to Security Council mandates that seek to undermine those priorities. More broadly, I will seek common ground at the Security Council with those who take their responsibilities seriously among the permanent and elected members to highlight our shared values and present a united front against those who seek to advance authoritarian and destabilizing agendas.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO HON. ROBERT A. WOOD BY SENATOR ROB PORTMAN

*Question.* The United Nation's bias against Israel is long-standing and well-known.

- If confirmed, what will you do to fight back against the U.N.'s bias against Israel?

*Answer.* I agree completely that U.N. bias against Israel is long-standing and well-known. In previous leadership positions at the U.S. Mission to the U.N. in Vienna and at the Conference on Disarmament, I worked closely with Israeli officials in lobbying member states to oppose regular Arab League resolutions at the International Atomic Energy Agency condemning Israel for not joining the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. If confirmed, I will continue the United States' work in opposing efforts to unfairly single out or delegitimize Israel through one-sided resolutions, reports, and other actions across the United Nations, including the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, and other bodies. If confirmed, I will also work with our Israeli diplomatic colleagues to promote the election of Israeli citizens to U.N. leadership posts and Israel's inclusion in U.N. working groups, as well as support qualified Israeli candidates for appointments within the U.N. system.

*Question.* On February 24th, the day of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, I said that the U.S. should work with our allies and partners to remove Russia from the Security Council. Their flagrant disregard for the principles of the U.N. Charter, their abuse of their veto power to worsen Syria's humanitarian situation, and other their unprovoked violence against U.N. member states make them unfit to serve on the Security Council.

- What are your thoughts on this?
- Do you believe that Russia deserves a seat on the U.N. Security Council?
- If yes, why do they deserve that honor?
- Are there any issues that you believe we can work with the Russians on in good faith?

*Answer.* Russia's egregious violations are an affront to the core mandate of the U.N. Security Council, and it is outrageous that a permanent member has acted in this manner, particularly in light of its violations of the U.N. principles it had committed to defend. A change in Russia's status as a permanent member of the UNSC, however, would require renegotiating and amending the U.N. Charter, which is a treaty among all 193 member states of the U.N., including Russia. All amendments to the Charter require ratification by all five Permanent Members, including Russia, in order to enter into force. Given these realities, if confirmed, my focus will be to continue working with likeminded partners across the U.N. system to further isolate Russia and impose additional consequences for its egregious violations of international law.

The nature of the U.N. Security Council working procedures requires we engage with Russia, as all other members of the Security Council, if it is in the United States' interest to do so. If confirmed, I pledge to be realistic and clear-eyed about the limits of our engagement with Russia given its violations of the U.N. Charter.

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