

Statement of Record
Terence P. McCulley
Ambassador-Designate to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
Before
The Committee on Foreign Relations
U.S. Senate
July 30, 2013

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Corker, and Members of the Committee:

I am honored today to appear before you as the President's nominee to be the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. I would like to thank President Obama and Secretary Kerry for the confidence they have placed in me and, if confirmed, I look forward to working with this Committee, other Members of Congress, and others on our important relationship with Côte d'Ivoire. I would also like to thank my wife Renée and my sons, Sean and Liam for their constant support. Renée and Liam are on the West Coast at the moment, and Sean is in Japan. They are watching the webcast of this hearing. With nearly three decades of service in Africa, most recently as the U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria, I am eager to remain on the continent and, if confirmed, represent the United States in a country that we hope will once again be a political and economic hub in the West African sub-region.

Mr. Chairman, I believe strongly that the success of our engagement abroad depends on our people, and I will make it my highest priority to ensure their safety, security, and well-being, as well as that of the American community in Côte

d'Ivoire. If confirmed, I look forward to working with interagency partners and our Ivoirian friends to improve our already excellent relationship and promote the interests of the United States while continuing to press for the peace and prosperity the Ivoirian people deserve.

After more than a decade of instability, Côte d'Ivoire is on a corrective if challenging path in key areas. The country held free and fair elections in 2010, and the Ivoirian government has made progress investigating crimes committed during the post-electoral crisis. Yet there is much more to be done, and I am committed to engaging with our Ivoirian friends to promote transparency, inclusiveness, equity, and accountability.

In the current post-crisis climate, where significant rifts remain and with the 2015 presidential elections on the horizon, serious efforts must be made to advance national healing. Justice and reconciliation will not be successful without a credible, transparent legal process, nationally and internationally, that ensures the investigation of crimes committed by both sides of the conflict and holds those responsible to account, irrespective of their political affiliation. If confirmed, I will work with Ivoirian and international partners to press for progress on these critically important issues.

The economy of Côte d'Ivoire is improving, and the United States is working with the Ivoirian Government to address corruption, and improve the

investment climate in order to promote stability and economic growth. If confirmed, I will make it a priority to pursue our economic statecraft agenda, supporting and advocating for American businesses that seek opportunities in Côte d'Ivoire.

I am also committed to the collective effort to support Côte d'Ivoire's security sector reform; as well as disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of ex-combatants. The country can -- and must -- redouble its efforts in both areas in order to promote stability, protect civilians, and realize Côte d'Ivoire's significant economic potential.

With President Ouattara's democratic election, the United States lifted restrictions on our assistance to Côte d'Ivoire. The bulk of our assistance goes toward global health programs focused on prevention, care, and treatment for those living with HIV/AIDS. We also provide assistance to strengthen democratic institutions to build strong systems of governance and rule of law. We advance maritime security in the sub-region and we provide training to build the capacity of Côte d'Ivoire's military and police, including in respect for human rights, and on the role of a professional security services in a democracy.

Côte d'Ivoire is a keystone country in a region of growing interest to the United States, and a politically stable and economically vibrant Côte d'Ivoire will promote prosperity in the sub-region. Our agenda with Côte d'Ivoire is complex,

challenging, and ripe with opportunity, including support for democracy, good governance and reconciliation, for security sector reform, and for economic recovery. If I am confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire, I will be a vigorous advocate for America as we advance our relationship with this important West African nation.

Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and I welcome your questions.