

Statement of Daniel A. Sepulveda

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

July 30, 2013

Thank you Mr. Chairman and distinguished Members of the Committee. I am honored to appear before you as the President's nominee for the title of Ambassador while serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs.

I want to thank President Obama and Secretary Kerry for the honor of being nominated for your consideration to serve as a representative of the United States. If confirmed, I will discharge the important responsibilities assigned to the U.S. Coordinator to the best of my ability.

I want to recognize my family here today and those that could not be here as well for all of their support.

Mr. Chairman, I served approximately twelve years in the U.S. Senate, assisting Senator Boxer, then-Senator Obama, then-Senator Kerry, and Senator Cowan. I managed technology and telecommunications issues as well as international trade for all of them. Most recently, I was a Senior Advisor to Senator Kerry in his capacity as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Technology and Telecommunications on the Senate Commerce Committee and worked with his Foreign Relations Committee staff on international issues in the same space. I am well versed in these debates and passionate about the importance of a thriving, open, and interconnected global communications infrastructure to our economy and democracy.

In simple terms, this State Department Office promotes and preserves global innovation in communications. In international wireless communications, this has required the coordination of rules and licenses in wireless operations around the world and the promotion of best practices in policy and law that attract investment in broadband networks.

In addition, we are charged with defending and promoting the existing multistakeholder system of Internet governance that has allowed the global information system to revolutionize how we work, educate, and express ourselves. Preserving and enabling the Internet environment for innovation is our mission. And this mission is more critical now than ever, not just to us, but to the billions of people not yet connected to the open Internet.

After last year's sometimes contentious World Conference on International Telecommunications, it seemed that an unbridgeable divide was potentially opening between the developing world and developed economies on how best to address the role of intergovernmental organizations in the management of international Internet based communications. We are working to close that divide to protect the openness of the Internet and the freedom it grants innovators and

citizens alike to create new services that reach the world as well as exercise their rights to speech and assembly.

Toward that end, I have some good news and a lot of hope. Last May, we were able to start changing the tone of the debate. At the International Telecommunication Union's fifth World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF), participants again debated important issues like the adoption of IPv6 (the protocol that provides an identification and location system for computers on networks), promoting Internet Exchange Points, and supporting the multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance. As the head of the U.S. Delegation in my capacity as a Deputy Assistant Secretary, I was acutely aware of the anxiety leading up to this conference that some governments would push for an outcome pointing toward international regulation of the internet.

Fortunately, at the event over 900 participants from more than 130 countries came together to adopt six consensus-based opinions on important subjects including the promotion of internet exchange points and the facilitation of the transition to IPv6. None of the consensus opinions threaten the existing multistakeholder Internet governance system. This outcome validated the multi-stakeholder preparatory process, which brought together governments, the technical community, civil society, and academia on an equal footing. The U.S. Delegation and key private-sector stakeholders were very pleased.

In the coming years, additional international proposals on Internet issues will be discussed in multiple international bodies. Specifically, the U.S. is preparing for future Internet-related public policy discussions at the Internet Governance Forum in Bali, Indonesia (October 2013), ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee in Argentina (November 2013), the ITU's World Telecommunication Development Conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt (April 2014), and the ITU's Plenipotentiary Conference in Busan, Korea (October-November 2014).

You can be confident that the Administration's position on Internet related proposals will continue to reflect the consistent bi-partisan approach to Internet governance issues that has prevailed since the Internet's privatization in the 1990s.

Another key communications priority for the Obama Administration is the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), which will take place in the last quarter of 2015. At WRC-15, we will address critical spectrum needs such as identifying frequencies to command unmanned aircraft by satellite and new internationally harmonized mobile allocations to progress the administration's broadband agenda. The decisions we will shape at WRC-15 will advance emerging technologies, protect essential government systems, and drive competition in an international regulatory framework hospitable to U.S. industries.

In addition to these international conferences, my office will continue to host a number of bilateral discussions on ICT issues with key engagement countries such as India, Brazil, Mexico, Japan, Korea, and the European Union. Under the stewardship of my predecessor, U.S. Ambassador Philip Verveer, these bilateral relationships have proven critical in helping to ensure strong support and collaboration on a myriad of communications and information technology issues.

As U.S. Coordinator, I will continue to promote the development of the global Internet and work to enhance our relationships and partnership with the developing world in our shared desire to expand Internet broadband access worldwide. If confirmed, I will look to you for guidance and assistance. I take your oversight authority very seriously and I know that the jobs, innovation, and discourse that the communications sector help enable in your states are critical to the economic and democratic wellbeing of the country.

Thank you for giving me the honor of appearing before you today. I look forward to any questions you may have.