

**Statement of J. Steven Dowd of Florida to be
Executive Director of the African Development Bank**

Chairman Corker, Ranking Member Cardin, and distinguished Members of the Foreign Relations Committee, it is a great honor to appear before you today as the nominee to serve as Executive Director of the African Development Bank. For decades, I have worked in project finance, agribusiness and logistics in developing countries, and if confirmed, I will marshal all my professional experiences toward bettering the African Development Bank and furthering U.S. interests.

I would like to introduce my wife Lillian - my life's inspiration - and our three children: Steven, Thomas and Andrea. Lillian is an attorney who previously served as a Deputy Attorney General in Delaware. Lillian is profoundly committed to combatting human trafficking and child stunting and malnutrition, a commitment I share. If confirmed, I will search for ways to make the bank a forceful check on these twin scourges.

My first encounter with development economics was as a teen-age merchant crewman delivering Food for Peace PL-480 grain cargoes to hungry nations. I watched as the desperately poor struggled to survive and made the most of the grain we delivered to them. Later, post-graduate studies at the Georgetown School of Foreign Service allowed me to deepen my knowledge of development economics in the context of global issues. Since then I have worked in logistics and finance on private development projects around the world. Therefore, I believe I am well equipped to address the challenges facing the African Development Bank.

If confirmed, I would lead the effort to leverage the U.S. contribution to the bank in order to ensure that its finance efforts are used to the best benefit for Africa, that they are consistent with U.S. foreign policy interests there, and that American taxpayers get a good return for their money. I will strive to open Africa to American investment and know-how, and facilitate U.S. companies doing business in Africa. I will also advocate for additional efforts to curb corruption and abuses of power that inhibit Africans to live longer, healthier, better lives.

Finally, if confirmed as Executive Director of the African Development Bank, I will work closely with the Members of this Committee and its staff, and with other Members of Congress, to perform my responsibilities as effectively as possible.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for this opportunity to appear before you and the other Members of the Committee, and I look forward to your questions.