

Prepared Statement of
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before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
To be Representative of the United States of America to the Vienna offices of the United Nations
and
to be Representative of the United States of America to the International Atomic Energy Agency,
with the Rank of Ambassador

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Cardin, and Members of the Committee: I am honored to appear before you today as the President's nominee to serve as the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other International Organizations in Vienna. I am grateful to President Obama and to Secretary Kerry for the confidence they have placed in me.

This is a critical moment for the United States' interests in the IAEA and the other UN offices in Vienna. Full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran, successful transition of the Nuclear Security Summit's legacy of achievement to the relevant enduring international institutions, safe and secure expansion of nuclear energy and other peaceful nuclear technologies, effective efforts to combat transnational crime and corruption, and innovative peaceful applications of space science demand active, focused leadership and engagement by the United States to promote our national interests and to advance our contributions towards shared global priorities.

My experience inside and outside the United States Government has prepared me to play this vital role in Vienna at this critical time. I have worked on reducing nuclear, biological and chemical threats since 1989, when I wrote my MIT masters thesis on chemical weapons destruction. I was part of the team led by Ash Carter and Bill Perry in 1991 that conceived what became the landmark Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. I have served a combined 14 years in the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and at the National Security Council, where I led programs and developed policies to keep nuclear materials out of terrorist hands, to destroy chemical weapons in Russia, Libya and Syria, and to prevent bioterrorism. I was a founding member of the nongovernment Nuclear Threat Initiative, where for eight years I headed the programs focused on Russia and New Independent States and pioneered projects that gave rise to major international outcomes such as the Department of Energy's Global Threat Reduction Initiative and the IAEA's low enriched uranium fuel bank. In my current position on the National Security Council staff, I oversee and coordinate the development of national policies and programs to reduce global threats from nuclear, biological and chemical weapons; detect, identify, secure and eliminate nuclear materials; prevent malicious use of biotechnology; and secure the civilian nuclear fuel cycle. Most relevant to the position for which I am being considered, I have led the preparation for four Nuclear Security Summits, working closely with counterparts from 52 diverse countries and four international organizations, including the IAEA. Each of these positions has contributed to my knowledge,

experience, relationships across parties and around the world, and enhanced my ability to represent the United States and the President with authority and respect.

Many of the UN agencies and organizations headquartered in Vienna have emerged as key partners for the United States as our country seeks to resolve some of the most difficult challenges and threats to our own national interests. The IAEA and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, for example, have proven track records in providing the kind(s?) of expertise, technical knowledge, and credibility that the U.S. needs in its tool box as we lead the world in forging international responses to the most urgent and critical threats to international peace and security.

If confirmed, I fully recognize that I will be leading American engagement with these agencies at a critical time. I see an array of challenges that will require strong U.S. leadership so that the work of the Vienna agencies continues to fully reflect U.S. values and priorities. At the same time, I also see numerous opportunities for the U.S. to promote sound management practices; transparency; accountability; and good stewardship of (for?) U.S. and other Member State contributions. Ultimately, I see great potential for the U.S. to use its presence among(st?) the UN agencies in Vienna to promote and advance strong partnerships and coordination with our friends and allies in a complex and often dangerous world.

In this context, I would like to share with you today more details regarding what I see as these challenges and opportunities as well as what my priorities would be if I have the honor to be confirmed for this important post. But before I do that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to pause briefly to introduce to you and the Committee a few very special people who have joined me here today. My husband, Rick Holgate, has for 27 years steadfastly supported my career even as he has built his own impressive accomplishments in government service and in the private sector. I am grateful for his encouragement and partnership as we consider this new opportunity to serve. My parents, Susan and Bert Hayes, instilled in me a love of country and a commitment to excellence that continue to motivate me, and they have set inspiring examples of service in their own lives and in how they raised me and my sister, Gregg. And I am honored and humbled by the support of friends and colleagues who are watching these proceedings today.

Mr. Chairman, if I am confirmed in this position, I pledge to strengthen and broaden the partnerships with other member states and with the Vienna UN agencies, and further develop the coalitions that we need to achieve U.S. priorities. Key among these goals is to work to make sure the IAEA has the mandate and the capacity to address evolving challenges and the greater demands being placed on it. In particular, the IAEA must have the tools it needs to monitor implementation of the P5+1/Iran Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Going forward, the IAEA, with its proven record of technical expertise, offers us an agency well-placed to ensure appropriate implementation.

Another opportunity I see is to leverage the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to better address today's breaking and long-term crises. I would seek, in concert with other member states, to focus the UNODC's technical skills and expertise efficiently on threats that directly affect our interests, including anti-corruption and the rule of law, border security, combatting trafficking of persons and migrant smuggling, and counter-piracy. This will involve

identifying threats and applying UNODC's resources in the regions in which they may be needed most.

A key challenge is to fend off other countries' attempts to distort the important technical and scientific work of key international organizations such as the IAEA and the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS). These organizations' work should not be stymied by grandstanding on issues such as the procedure for approving Israel's application for membership.

Finally, if confirmed, I will press international organizations in Vienna to continue to make progress in management reforms, transparency, and fairness. I will encourage intensified efforts toward achieving greater diversity, including at the senior and policy-making levels. I will continue the efforts of my predecessors to strongly support the hiring of qualified American citizens in these organizations.

I would like to briefly highlight just a few examples of the work being done by international organizations in Vienna – work that affects not only our national security but also the everyday lives of not only our citizens but of people around the world.

The International Atomic Energy Agency

Since its inception in 1958, the IAEA has been central to international nuclear nonproliferation regime, encouraging peaceful uses of nuclear technology while preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. Today, the IAEA will need our support more than ever as it steps up to meet the huge challenge of monitoring implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The IAEA's central role is to implement monitoring and verification as set forth in the JCPOA. On October 15, the IAEA reported that activities set out in the IAEA/Iran "Road-map for the clarification of past and present outstanding issues regarding Iran's nuclear program" were completed. The IAEA indicated that by December 15, 2015, the Director General will provide, for action by the Board of Governors, the final assessment on the resolution of all past and present outstanding issues, as set out in the annex of the 2011 Director General's report. I know the JCPOA is an issue of intense interest to the members of this Committee, the Congress, and the public, and if confirmed, I commit keep an open and candid dialogue with the Congress.

In addition to the JCPOA, the IAEA has been nothing short of remarkable in its successful efforts to adapt to the evolving challenges of its safeguards mandate. The IAEA has safeguards agreements with 182 countries, under which it verifies that nuclear material is not diverted and nuclear facilities are not misused for weapons. Over the last two decades, 126 countries have concluded Additional Protocols with the IAEA, designed to enable the IAEA to confirm that there are no undeclared nuclear materials or activities in the country as a whole. The United States works closely with the IAEA Secretariat and with other IAEA Member States to ensure that the Agency has the financial, technical, and human resources and the political support it needs to fulfill those demanding responsibilities. And Congress plays a critical role in funding these programs.

Equally important is our collaboration with IAEA on nuclear security. The effort to prevent a terrorist from acquiring a nuclear weapon has been a top priority for this Administration. The President's Nuclear Security Summit, for which I have had the honor to serve as U.S. Sherpa, has raised the issue of nuclear security to the head of state level which has, in turn, produced major national commitments to minimize and secure nuclear materials, as well as increase efforts to interdict such materials outside of regulatory control. The Summit has strengthened the global nuclear security architecture through support for international institutions and initiatives, as well as creating new standards for the security of nuclear materials. As we prepare to host the final Nuclear Security Summit, this spring, it is more evident than ever that the IAEA will play a central role in coordinating international institutions which will continue the work undertaken in the Summit process. If confirmed, I would promote the IAEA's role in coordinating nuclear security activities worldwide and maintaining the momentum created by the Summit process on this important issue.

Meanwhile, as global demand for nuclear power grows, the demands on the IAEA to help promote strong national nuclear safety standards will accelerate. The Fukushima Daiichi disaster in March 2011 demonstrated once again that no nation -- no matter how prepared or technically advanced -- is invulnerable to disasters involving nuclear material. In the wake of these kinds of crises -- and to prevent future disasters -- the IAEA is there to assist member states in managing risk and offering technical guidance to build safety capacity.

More broadly, the IAEA plays a key role in assessing member states' power needs and infrastructure capacity, and in identifying where capacity needs to be improved before nuclear power becomes a viable option. Also, the IAEA is engaged in the establishment of a Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Fuel Bank in Kazakhstan. This Bank will serve both as an assurance of supply mechanism so that countries can access peaceful power and as a disincentive to the spread of enrichment technology to countries that do not already have it. It underlines the central roles the IAEA plays in both the promotion and nonproliferation aspects of nuclear energy.

Finally, in addition to nuclear safeguards and nuclear safety and security, the IAEA's third core mandate relates to fostering the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, science, and technology for all member states. During the last several years, the IAEA has been engaged in essential work in promoting human health, agriculture and food security, clean water, and the environment through nuclear techniques and its partnership with UN and other international organizations.

If confirmed, I would work toward adapting the IAEA's efforts in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear power continue address the evolving needs and interests of member states in nuclear power, and to a fully informed decisions by member states embarking on such a course.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime

The UNODC is also a key U.S. partner in countering terrorism; strengthening criminal justice systems and respect for the rule of law; and fighting crime. UNODC has shown leadership in addressing these threats and in building member states' capacity to address them. In East and West Africa; for example, U.S. funding to UNODC has shown tangible results in stemming human trafficking and migrant smuggling. There and elsewhere, UNODC has also led

international efforts to address wildlife trafficking, environmental crime, and cybercrime. Finally, UNODC's Terrorism Prevention Branch also plays an important role in providing technical assistance to enhance member states capacities to counter and prevent terrorism. Since 2002, the United States and other partners have worked closely with this program to develop and strengthen its technical assistance programs for criminal justice sector officials, especially those in high threat regions and countries. UNODC's efforts complement our counterterrorism objectives. If confirmed, I would look to expand on this good work, and to increase efforts to address the global phenomena of foreign terrorist fighters and illicit diversion of precursor chemicals that could be used to build improvised explosive devices.

Other Organizations

Other Vienna-based organizations also play important roles and touch the lives of our citizens in fundamental ways.

For example, the UN Office on Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in Vienna implements the decisions of the United Nations General Assembly and of the UNCOPUOS). These are traditionally consensus-based organizations that focus on ensuring that satellite capabilities and space technology operate peacefully, safely and for the broad benefit of all. A challenge we face within these types of agencies is occasional attempts by certain member states to politicize their work or decision-making. If confirmed, I would strive for these cooperative, technical organizations to continue to work smoothly in the performance of their mandates, free from politicization that could undermine their consensus-based procedures.

Finally, if confirmed, I would also serve as the Permanent Representative of the United States to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. The United States continues to engage with Member States of the Preparatory Commission and with its Provisional Technical Secretariat to complete the verification regime that would be required to implement the CTBT should it enter into force. The International Monitoring System (IMS), the heart of that regime, is nearly complete. It is a technically advanced, global network of sensors that can detect even relatively low-yield nuclear explosions. The IMS has enjoyed the financial and diplomatic support of every Administration since the United States signed the Treaty in 1996. Although data from the IMS is not used to monitor compliance with the Treaty, as it has not yet entered into force, it is noteworthy that a still incomplete IMS successfully detected all three North Korean nuclear explosive tests in 2006, 2009, and 2013.

Conclusion:

The specialized and technical agencies in Vienna foster activities and technologies that affect the lives of every citizen every day – from combatting proliferation and human and arms trafficking, to harnessing the power of the atom to promote human health and reduce and eliminate hunger, to addressing climate change, to utilizing space for communication, disaster early warning, and exploration and research.

I believe that strong U.S. engagement, partnership, and leadership in these organizations is vitally important not only to our national security but also to the individual well-being of each of our citizens, and the prospect of a better life for all.

If confirmed, I would work in close consultation with Congress to ensure that U.S. values and priorities are fully reflected in our positions, and that U.S. contributions and resources are expended with care.

I recognize that there may be many areas of disagreement and contention within these organizations and among their membership(s?), but I believe that it is only through strong U.S. engagement and leadership in these multilateral technical forums that can they achieve a positive and lasting impact on the welfare and quality of life of our generation and those to come.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to close with a personal note. Growing up in Overland Park, Kansas, this kind of opportunity to serve my country was unimaginable: I had no idea what an ambassador did, and I was 27 before I met one. I credit my parents for the upbringing that created this occasion. My airline pilot father opened my eyes, ears and mind to the wide world beyond the American Midwest, and my mother set the example of opening our doors and our hearts to people who were different from us. Most importantly, they offered support, encouragement and pride as I slowly formed the notion that I might do good in the world by figuring out ways to prevent nuclear war, which, when I was a Princeton undergraduate during the Cold War, seemed like it might break forth at any moment. The end of the Cold War coincided with my first jobs as a national security professional, and many new WMD threats began to crowd to the forefront – the collapse of a nuclear superpower, the advances in biology that made pathogens both more dangerous and more accessible, and, as we turned the corner into a new millennium, the stark reality of terrorists with apocalyptic ambitions and the skills and resources to achieve them. In the years since the Cold War, we have created new tools – programs, technology, organizations, partnerships – to deal with these new and pressing threats. It has been my privilege to have helped invent some of these tools, and to have used them to reduce these threats and keep America safe. Mr. Chairman, if confirmed, I would make the most of the opportunity to continue this commitment by vigorously promoting U.S. interests at the IAEA, and at the U.N. and other international organizations in Vienna.