

Statement of P. Michael McKinley
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to Brazil
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 21, 2016

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

It is my distinct honor to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to serve as the next United States Ambassador to Brazil. I deeply appreciate the confidence President Obama and Secretary Kerry have shown in me by sending my name to the Senate for consideration. I am also profoundly thankful for the support of my family, particularly my wife Fatima and my children Claire, Peter, and Sarah.

Having spent part of my youth in Brazil, and having had the good fortune to serve as U.S. Ambassador first to Peru and then to Colombia, I am well aware of Brazil's importance to the United States and to the region. If I am confirmed, I pledge to work with you and your Senate colleagues to continue developing our vibrant relationship with Brazil.

Brazil and the United States have a rich history of collaboration. The United States was the first nation to recognize Brazil's independence in 1822, and our troops fought side-by-side as part of the Allied effort during the Second World War. Today, the United States and Brazil are pursuing a comprehensive agenda with a breadth and depth that befits the size of our countries and the diversity of our peoples.

Our engagement is firmly rooted in our shared democratic values and determination to promote peace and prosperity for all our citizens. We are collaborating to facilitate trade, encourage investment, and create jobs. We are deepening our defense and security cooperation to promote peace and stability in the region and across the globe. We are standing together in defense of human rights. Our citizens are traveling between our two countries in impressive numbers, and our extensive people-to-people contacts are producing advancements in science, technology, and innovation.

If I am confirmed, I will do my utmost to continue advancing on all these fronts. Job number one would be to ensure the continued safety and security of U.S. citizens in Brazil. Our Mission to Brazil has established an excellent foundation by working to support the Brazilian government's efforts to stage a safe and

successful 2016 Summer Olympics and Paralympics, which more than 100,000 Americans are expected to attend. If I am confirmed, I will build upon this foundation so that U.S. citizens who choose to travel, work, and live in Brazil in the future may do so safely and securely.

Another key focus of mine would be to continue developing our commercial ties with Brazil. Annual two-way trade in goods and services between our countries is already considerable, having reached \$100 billion in recent years, but we can increase it even more. If confirmed, I will dedicate my efforts to advancing our leaders' vision of doubling trade within ten years. The United States is already the number one source for foreign direct investment (FDI) in Brazil, with over \$70 billion in FDI stock, and Brazilian direct investment in the United States already supports over 70,000 jobs in the United States, but again, we can do even more. If confirmed, I will work with Brazil to lower trade barriers and spur additional growth in our trade and investment relationship.

If confirmed, I will also support Brazil's ongoing efforts to promote transparency and confidence in the rule of law. As Secretary Kerry has made clear, rooting out corruption, reducing impunity, and promoting good governance need to be among our top priorities in the hemisphere, and Brazil shares that view. Strong, transparent, and independent Brazilian institutions benefit us all. For this reason, I would seek opportunities for our two countries to continue to partner in by exchanging information about our experiences promoting transparency and accountability.

In addition, if confirmed, I would work to secure Brazil's support for our regional, global, and multilateral priorities. Whether we are seeking to promote respect for democracy in the hemisphere, defend freedom of expression, build global peacekeeping capacity, combat global health threats like Zika, or confront climate change, we can accomplish more when we work together with Brazil than we can on our own.

In conclusion, and if confirmed, I will faithfully execute my duties as U.S. Ambassador to Brazil and dedicate all my energies to deepening the robust partnership between the two largest democracies and economies in the Americas.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you once for your consideration of my nomination. It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to speak with you today. I welcome your questions.