

# NOMINATION HEARINGS OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

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## HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

## COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

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FIRST SESSION—MARCH 10 THROUGH DECEMBER 2, 2015

SECOND SESSION—FEBRUARY 11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

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Printed for the use of the Committee on Foreign Relations



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U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

21-581 PDF

WASHINGTON : 2017

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## NOMINATIONS

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015

U.S. SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,  
*Washington, DC.*

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The Hon. Deborah R. Malack of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uganda  
Lisa J. Peterson, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Swaziland  
H. Dean Pittman, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique

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The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:33 a.m., in room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Jeff Flake presiding. Present: Senators Flake, Gardner, Markey, and Coons.

### **OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JEFF FLAKE, U.S. SENATOR FROM ARIZONA**

Senator FLAKE. This hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will come to order.

Today, the committee will consider the nomination of three very experienced Foreign Service officers to be U.S. Ambassadors to Uganda, Swaziland, and Mozambique. I was happy to meet each of you in my office earlier, and I appreciated learning the positions you have and the service that you have already provided elsewhere in the world, and specifically on the continent of Africa.

In Uganda, our Ambassador to the re will be tasked to help ensure that the country enforces a tenuous peace agreement in South Sudan. Another challenge will be to help Uganda avoid complacency with regard to HIV/AIDS after the good progress the country has made largely due to PEPFAR program.

Swaziland has had its AGOA benefits rescinded at a time when the government is already struggling with revenue generation. While various international financial institutions have offered loans in exchange for reforms, thus far, Swaziland has not been able to deliver on those reforms. So it is a difficult situation there.

Mozambique has recently discovered vast natural gas resources. Our Ambassador to the re will have to help that country make the most of that discovery, which often, as we know, becomes more of a curse than a blessing.

I thank each of you for your time, for sharing your experience, and I appreciate family members who are here and also appreciate the sacrifices that they have made so that we all can benefit from the good work that you do.

With that, I will recognize Congressman Markey—Senator Markey—we were both in the House before this—

[Laughter.]

Senator FLAKE [continuing]. For any comments that he has.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS**

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your leadership on the subcommittee and for convening this hearing to consider the nominations of these three very distinguished public servants to serve as our Ambassadors to Uganda, Swaziland, and Mozambique.

To the nominees, thank you for dedicating yourselves to serving our country. We know what you do is hard and that it can also be hard on your families, so I want to give a warm welcome to the families of the nominees who are here today. I know from my own experience that the support of your family is critical to your own success, so thank you again to the nominees and to their families for being here today.

We are here to talk about your future posts, and generally about Africa. I am sure that you will agree that the continent presents much opportunity but also many challenges.

Mr. Chairman, when we traveled with the President to Africa this summer, we saw the possibility to spark Africa's existing entrepreneurial spirit to create unprecedented economic opportunity and growth. We can and should help spur this growth by supporting expanded access to sustainable sources of power, innovative telecommunications, and Internet interconnectivity. All of these are fundamental requirements for commercial and social success in our time.

At the same time, we also saw that Africa faces tremendous challenges. We must work to strengthen democratic institutions and legitimate electoral processes; ensure that economic growth lifts all boats, not just the elites; and that it happens in a way that does not degrade the environment, but safeguards it for future generations.

We also need to support efforts to protect and advance human rights, including the prevention of trafficking in persons, and the abuse of LGBT people and other minorities.

So I look very much forward to this hearing today and engaging with all of you on these important topics.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for having this hearing, and I yield back.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you, Senator Markey.

We will now proceed with the nominees.

Deborah Malac, a career member in the Senior Foreign Service, currently serves as U.S. Ambassador to Liberia. Her previous assignments have included postings to Cameroon, Senegal, South Africa, and Ethiopia.

The second nominee is Lisa Peterson, who most recently served as the Director of the Office of Multilateral and Global Affairs in the Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, a position she has held since 2012. Prior assignments include postings in Cameroon, Nigeria, Kenya, Zambia, DRC, CAR, and South Africa.

Last but not least, H. Dean Pittman is a career member of the Foreign Service. He spent time in Mozambique back in the early 1990s, a very different time then, and he will hopefully be heading back to the country here shortly, this time as U.S. Ambassador.

So with that, Ambassador Malac.

**STATEMENT OF THE HON. DEBORAH R. MALAC, NOMINATED  
TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

Ambassador MALAC. Thank you. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am deeply honored to appear before you today as the nominee to be the next United States Ambassador to the Republic of Uganda. I thank President Obama and Secretary Kerry for the confidence and trust they have placed in me by sending my name to the Senate for consideration.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize my husband, Ron Olson, and our three children, Nicholas, Gregory, and Katharine, and our daughter-in-law, Shana. I am deeply grateful for their unstinting love and support. Without it, I would not be here today.

Mr. Chairman, I have been extraordinarily privileged to serve as a member of the Foreign Service for more than 34 years. As the daughter of an immigrant who arrived in the United States in the middle of the last century in pursuit of freedom and opportunity, my service is small repayment for all that the United States has afforded me and my family.

The majority of my career has been spent working in and on Africa, beginning with my first assignment in Cameroon in 1981. That first taste of Africa was followed by assignments in South Africa, Senegal, Ethiopia, and, now, Liberia, where I have had the great honor to serve as Ambassador since 2012. Interspersed among the Africa assignments, I have worked in Washington and Southeast Asia on issues of democracy, development, trade, and security.

Mr. Chairman, the United States has enjoyed a close bilateral partnership with Uganda for the past quarter century. Uganda and the United States have worked together to promote the peaceful resolution of a series of regional conflicts.

Having expelled the Lord's Resistance Army from Ugandan territory, the Ugandan military has continued to lead regional efforts to counter the LRA in central Africa.

As the second largest troop contributor to the African Union Mission in Somalia, Uganda has made tremendous sacrifices in its efforts to degrade and defeat terrorists al-Shabaab, and bring peace and stability to the Horn of Africa.

The United States is supporting Uganda to build capacity in law enforcement, crisis response, counterterrorism investigations, criminal justice sector reform, border security, and countering violent extremism and terrorist finance.

Uganda stands out not only for its contributions to regional peace and security, but also for its great strides in transitioning from a country beset by internal conflict to one that is at peace and growing economically.

When President Museveni came to power in 1986 after decades of violent internal strife in Uganda, he instituted macroeconomic policies that contributed to steady economic growth.

We look forward to continuing to work with Uganda to help expand economic activity for its citizens and support improved governance that will help foster broad-based economic development. We are working to help Uganda strengthen its multiparty democracy and reinforce respect for human rights.

Uganda will hold elections in 2016, during which President Museveni will seek a fifth term. If confirmed, I will urge the President to ensure the political space necessary for a spirited and robust campaign in which all parties participate freely.

It is important for the region and Uganda's future that the elections are free, fair, transparent, and peaceful.

We continue to urge the Ugandan Government to respect the fundamental human rights of all individuals.

On the development front, we continue to invest in Uganda with a robust set of programs. USAID has provided over \$430 million over the past 6 years in development assistance to help Uganda's people, efforts that support vital activities, including education and economic growth, as well as reintegration and rehabilitation support for those affected by past conflicts in Uganda, including many former LRA abductees.

President Obama's Feed the Future Initiative focuses on improving productivity and incomes in the agriculture sector, on which 70 percent of Uganda's citizens rely for their livelihoods.

In the health sector, the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate has fallen from a high of 13.4 percent in 1992 to around 7 percent, where it has stagnated for the past decade. Malaria still causes an estimated 70,000 to 100,000 deaths per year, and progress in improving maternal and child health is slow.

Through the Global Health Security Agenda, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the President's Malaria Initiative, and the Saving Mothers, Giving Life partnership, we are working with the Ugandan Government to improve the quality and accessibility of health services and to address Uganda's most pressing needs.

Mr. Chairman, if confirmed, I will seek to strengthen our partnership with Uganda as a force for regional peace and security. I will also work with the government and people of Uganda in pursuit of a healthier, more productive, and more prosperous society where protection of citizens' political and personal freedoms is a priority for all.

Achieving these objectives will be critical to Uganda's future stability and economic growth, as well as its continued role as an important and constructive regional leader.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, or more precisely, first, if confirmed, the protection of U.S. citizens and U.S. business interests in Uganda will be the foremost concern for my team and me.



Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you to represent and promote the interests of the American people in Uganda. I welcome any questions the committee may have. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ambassador Malac follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR DEBORAH MALAC

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am deeply honored to appear before you today as the nominee to be the next United States Ambassador to the Republic of Uganda. I thank President Obama and Secretary Kerry for the confidence and trust they have placed in me by sending my name to the Senate for consideration.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize my husband, Ron Olson, our three children, Nicholas, Gregory, and Katharine, and my daughter-in-law, Shana. I am deeply grateful for their unstinting love and support; without it, I would not be seated here today.

Mr. Chairman, I have been extraordinarily privileged to serve as a member of the Foreign Service for more than 34 years. As the daughter of an immigrant who arrived in the United States in the middle of the last century in pursuit of freedom and opportunity, my service is small repayment for all that the United States has afforded my family and me. The majority of my career has been spent working in and on Africa, beginning with my first assignment in Cameroon in 1981. That first taste of Africa was followed by assignments in South Africa, Senegal, Ethiopia, and now, Liberia, where I have had the great honor to serve as Ambassador since 2012. Interspersed among the Africa assignments, I have worked in Washington and Southeast Asia on issues of democracy, development, trade, and security.

Mr. Chairman, the United States has enjoyed a close bilateral partnership with Uganda for the past quarter century. Uganda and the United States have worked together to promote the peaceful resolution of a series of regional conflicts. Having expelled the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) from Ugandan territory, the Ugandan military has continued to lead regional efforts to counter the LRA in central Africa. As the second largest troop contributor to the African Union Mission in Somalia, Uganda has made tremendous sacrifices in its efforts to degrade and defeat the terrorist al-Shabaab and bring peace and stability to the Horn of Africa.

The United States is supporting Uganda to build capacity in law enforcement crisis response, counterterrorism investigations, criminal justice sector reform, border security, and countering violent extremism and terrorist finance.

Uganda stands out not only for its contributions to regional peace and security, but also for its great strides in transitioning from a country beset by internal conflict to one that is at peace and growing economically. When President Yoweri Museveni came to power in 1986 after decades of violent internal strife in Uganda, he instituted macroeconomic policies that contributed to steady economic growth. We look forward to continuing to work with Uganda to help expand economic activity for its citizens and support improved governance that will help foster broad-based economic development.

We are working to help Uganda strengthen its multiparty democracy and reinforce respect for human rights. Uganda will hold elections in 2016, during which President Museveni will seek a fifth term. If confirmed, I will urge the President to ensure the political space necessary for a spirited and robust campaign in which all parties participate freely. It is important for the region and Uganda's future that the elections are free, fair, transparent, and peaceful. We continue to urge the Ugandan Government to respect the fundamental human rights of all individuals.

On the development front, we continue to invest in Uganda with a robust set of programs. USAID has provided over \$430 million over the past 6 years in development assistance to help Uganda's people, efforts that support vital activities including education and economic growth, as well as reintegration and rehabilitation support for those affected by past conflicts in Uganda, including many former LRA abductees. President Obama's Feed the Future Initiative focuses on improving productivity and incomes in the agriculture sector, on which 70 percent of Uganda's citizens rely for their livelihoods.

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Initiative, and the Saving Mothers, Giving Life partnership, we are working with the Ugandan Government to improve the quality and accessibility of health services and to address Uganda's most pressing health concerns.

Mr. Chairman, if confirmed, I will seek to strengthen our partnership with Uganda as a force for regional peace and security. I will also work with the government and people of Uganda in pursuit of a healthier, more productive, and more prosperous society where protection of citizens' political and personal freedoms is a priority for all. Achieving these objectives will be critical to Uganda's future stability and economic growth, as well as its continued role as an important and constructive regional leader. Finally, Mr. Chairman, or more precisely, first, if confirmed, the protection of U.S. citizens and U.S. business interests in Uganda will be the foremost concern for my team and for me.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you to represent and promote the interests of the American people in Uganda. I welcome any questions the committee may have.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Ms. Peterson.

**STATEMENT OF LISA J. PETERSON, NOMINATED TO BE  
AMBASSADOR TO THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND**

Ms. PETERSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The full text of my remarks has been submitted for the record.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is a great honor for me to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Swaziland.

I am happy to have with me today my husband, Siza Ntshakala, and my son, Thabo. They have made tremendous sacrifices for my Foreign Service career. I am grateful for their love and support, which have helped bring me to the threshold of this potential new, challenging, and exciting assignment.

Mr. Chairman, if confirmed, I look forward to working with you and the honorable members of this committee to advance the interests and values of the United States and the American people in Swaziland.

The United States maintains one of the few resident diplomatic missions in the Kingdom of Swaziland. Our relationship with the people of Swaziland is an important partnership.

The new Embassy building that will open next year in Mbabane is a powerful symbol of the value the U.S. places on that relationship and will be a great platform for outreach to the Swazi people.

If confirmed, I will continue to engage the Swazi Government as well. I would like to see the king and his advisers enter into an ongoing dialogue with civil society.

Swazi citizens still have limited ability to engage meaningfully in public policy decisions. And basic rights such as the freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, and expression are restricted. Dialogue with civil society will help open the way for citizen engagement in policy decisions, which will help ensure the best policy outcomes.

Swaziland is facing a declining economy. This is partially due to a broader regional economic downturn, but also due to the loss of African Growth and Opportunity Act, or AGOA, trade preferences. Swaziland was suspended from AGOA membership in January after the government failed to meet established benchmarks to strengthen its human rights record, despite several years of en-

gagement by the U.S. Government. These benchmarks involve the same basic rights for which Swazi civil society advocates.

Drawing on my experience with the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, I will support those who strive to hold the Government accountable and uphold democratic values. I will support civil society, labor unions, and media, to create space for needed political dialogue amongst all the stakeholders of Swaziland.

The people of Swaziland want what the people of the United States want: peace, stability, economic prosperity, and an opportunity for their children to build better lives for themselves. They also hope that their children will be healthy enough to have that opportunity.

Swaziland's 26 percent HIV prevalence rate is the highest in the world, and the Nation is suffering a severe tuberculosis crisis. Thanks to the resources available through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, the United States has helped save tens of thousands of lives in Swaziland.

Embassy Mbabane has been actively coordinating with the Swazi Government and other donors to control the epidemic by strengthening health infrastructure, increasing the capacity of the Health Ministry and HIV/AIDS Council, and developing a whole-of-government approach to the crisis.

This year, Swaziland was selected for the new DREAMS initiative, which aims to enable adolescent girls and young women to become Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-Free, Mentored and Safe. These efforts have generated results.

In 2004, prior to PEPFAR, fewer than 500 people were on antiretroviral therapy. Now more than 130,000 people in Swaziland receive treatment.

If confirmed, I would look to build on the Embassy's ongoing work to continue engaging national, regional, and local community leaders about efforts to create sustainable programs for an AIDS-free generation.

A stable Swaziland is important to U.S. regional strategic interests, but long-term stability is not possible where citizens are unable to use their voices to hold government accountable for its actions.

If confirmed, I will draw on the strong bilateral relationship between the United States and Swaziland to continue encouraging the kingdom to improve its record on human rights and fundamental freedoms. This will also help Swaziland meet the benchmarks for AGOA eligibility, which will benefit the Swazi economy.

I will also ensure that our health programming builds on success and innovates for sustainability, saving the lives of Swazi citizens and helping preserve family units.

And I will continue to engage in cross-cutting areas, such as civil society's ability to advocate on issues from preventing gender-based violence to protection of marginalized groups to institutionalizing the rule of law.

Encouraged by the mutual respect between our two nations and energized by the challenges that lie ahead, I would be honored, if confirmed, to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Swaziland.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I will be happy to answer any questions you have.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Peterson follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF LISA PETERSON

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is a great honor for me to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Swaziland. I am happy to have with me today my husband, Siza Ntshakala, and my son, Thabo. They have made tremendous sacrifices for my Foreign Service career. I am grateful for their love and support, which have helped bring me to the threshold of this potential new, challenging, and exciting assignment.

Mr. Chairman, if confirmed, I look forward to working with you and the honorable members of this committee to advance the interests and values of the United States and the American people in Swaziland.

Service in Swaziland would offer me the opportunity to utilize the experience I have developed over years of work throughout Africa. My decision to remain in Africa was, in many ways, shaped by my first tour in the Central African Republic. There, I had the opportunity to work with officials of the sole political party as they grappled with demands for change. I also had the chance to work with citizens who were coalescing around calls for multiparty democracy and with a trade union movement battling to advocate for workers' rights in the face of government harassment and restrictions. Since then, I have collaborated with human rights advocates, supported grassroots democracy education efforts, and advocated for democratic organizations and movements from South Africa to South Sudan and from Kenya to Nigeria. HIV/AIDS has been a constant focus throughout my assignments, culminating in my support for the development of Mission Cameroon's first country strategy for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). If confirmed, I am particularly looking forward to continuing Mission Swaziland's work to combine these two priorities—expanding Swazi ownership of the HIV/AIDS response while strengthening the ability of Swazi citizens to hold their government accountable for performance across all sectors, including but not limited to health.

The United States maintains one of the few resident diplomatic missions in the Kingdom of Swaziland. Our relationship with the people of Swaziland is an important partnership. The new Embassy building that will open next year in Mbabane is a powerful symbol of the value the U.S. places on that relationship and will be a great platform for outreach to the Swazi people.

If confirmed, I will continue to engage the Swazi Government as well. I would like to see the king and his advisors enter into an ongoing dialogue with civil society. Swazi citizens still have limited ability to engage meaningfully in public policy decisions, and basic rights such as the freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, and expression are restricted. Dialogue with civil society will help open the way for citizen engagement in policy decisions, which will help ensure the best policy outcomes.

Swaziland is facing a declining economy. This is partially due to a broader regional economic downturn, but also due to the loss of African Growth and Opportunity (AGOA) trade preferences. Swaziland was suspended from AGOA membership in January, after the government failed to meet established benchmarks to strengthen its human rights record, despite several years of engagement by the U.S. Government. These benchmarks involve the same basic rights for which Swazi civil society advocates: freedom of peaceful assembly, association, expression, and other essential freedoms. Drawing on my experience with the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, I will support those who strive to hold the government accountable and uphold democratic values. I will support civil society, labor unions, and media, to create space for needed political dialogue amongst all the stakeholders in Swaziland.

The people of Swaziland want what the people of the United States want: peace, stability, economic prosperity, and an opportunity for their children to build better lives for themselves. They also hope that their children will be healthy enough to have that opportunity.

Swaziland's 26 percent HIV prevalence rate is the highest in the world, and the nation is suffering a severe tuberculosis crisis. Thanks to the resources available through PEPFAR, the United States has helped save tens of thousands of lives in Swaziland. Embassy Mbabane has been actively coordinating with the Swazi Government and other donors to control the epidemic by strengthening health infrastructure, increasing the capacity of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and

the National Emergency Response Council for HIV/AIDS, and developing a whole of government approach to the crisis.

These efforts have generated results. In 2004, prior to PEPFAR, fewer than 500 people were on antiretroviral therapy. Now, more than 130,000 people in Swaziland receive treatment. With the new guidance for starting treatment early in the disease progression, and the potential to implement a "test and start" program, those numbers should increase even further. In recent years, the Swazi Government has procured its own medicines and laboratory commodities, although the supply chain continues to face challenges and needs ongoing support. If confirmed, I would look to build on the Embassy's ongoing work to continue engaging national, regional, and local community leaders about efforts to create sustainable programs for an AIDS-Free generation.

The U.S. mission in Swaziland engages with both national leaders and at grass roots levels across Swaziland. In addition, Peace Corps Volunteers are actively engaged in community health and HIV prevention programs. These volunteers are tangible representatives of the interest and concern of the United States for the people of Swaziland.

If confirmed, I am also passionate about working with Swaziland's young women and girls to help them realize their full potential, because young women who feel empowered are less likely to be at risk for HIV. To that end, Swaziland is a partner in the new DREAMS initiative, which aims to enable adolescent girls and young women to become Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-Free, Mentored and Safe. If confirmed, I will continue efforts to work closely with the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland and civil society to enhance the status of women and girls, in order to help address the HIV/AIDS epidemic, support poverty alleviation efforts, and uphold universal human rights.

A stable Swaziland is important to U.S. regional strategic interests, but, long-term stability is not possible where citizens are unable to use their voices to hold government accountable for its actions. If confirmed, I will draw on the strong bilateral relationship between the United States and Swaziland to continue encouraging the Kingdom to improve its record on human rights and fundamental freedoms. This will also help Swaziland meet the benchmarks for AGOA eligibility, which will benefit the Swazi economy. I will also ensure that our health programming builds on success and innovates for sustainability, saving the lives of Swazi citizens and helping preserve family units. And I will continue to engage in cross-cutting areas, such as civil society's ability to advocate on issues from preventing gender-based violence to protection of marginalized groups to institutionalizing the rule of law. Encouraged by the mutual respect between our two nations and energized by the challenges that lie ahead, I would be honored, if confirmed, to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Swaziland.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I will be happy to answer any questions you have.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Mr. Pittman.

**STATEMENT OF H. DEAN PITTMAN, NOMINATED TO BE  
AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

Mr. PITTMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to say, first, my family is sort of scattered from Burma to Mississippi today, so it is just me up here, but thank you very much.

And just let me say to Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is an honor for me to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique. I am grateful to the President and Secretary Kerry for the confidence they have placed in me.

Mr. Chairman, as you noted, I served in Mozambique 24 years ago at a time the country was just emerging from years of devastating civil war. Mozambique has come a long way since those days.

Over these last decades, the United States has aimed to build a strong, productive partnership with Mozambique and its people as

we advance our mutual interests in tackling a wide range of issues, including expanding investment opportunities; combating transnational crime and illegal trafficking; stopping the spread of HIV; and building more inclusive, democratic institutions that can meet the needs of all Mozambique's people. And we have seen significant, though uneven, progress.

On the economic front, Mozambique had registered impressive growth over the past decade. This economic growth will likely continue as the country develops its recently discovered natural gas fields, an area where opportunities for U.S. investment are already being realized.

Most notably, when the Texas-based company Anadarko concludes its negotiations with the Government to develop a large natural gas field, a multimillion dollar project, it will become one of the largest investors in sub-Saharan Africa.

With our opening of the Embassy's new Foreign Commercial Service Office in 2014, we have deepened U.S. Government advocacy support available to U.S. companies and businesses.

But it is clear these positive developments only tell part of the story. Despite such impressive economic growth, the majority of Mozambique's 25 million people continue to live below the poverty line. Mozambique has an HIV prevalence rate of around 11 percent nationwide. Educational opportunities, while improving, still are not equally available across the country. And illiteracy remains a challenge, particularly for women and girls.

Weak institutions and porous borders continue to make Mozambique a target of international trafficking and other criminal networks. And perhaps most troubling, recent violent skirmishes between the Government and opposition party underscore that peace remains fragile.

Mozambique's progress and ability to be a strong partner with the United States depends in large part on continued peace and stability; strong democratic institutions; a healthy, educated population; an engaged civil society; and economic growth that is inclusive and benefits all Mozambicans.

These are areas where the United States has long worked closely with Mozambique, and this is an area where we will continue to focus our attention. Let me offer a few examples.

As the largest bilateral donor to Mozambique, the United States provides the majority of our support to improve the health of Mozambicans. The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the President's Malaria Initiative, the Global Health Initiative, and the Peace Corps are all working together toward this goal in partnership with both the Mozambican Government and the Mozambican people.

Thanks to these efforts, more than 675,000 people living with HIV are now on treatment, and 75 percent of them are supported by the generosity of the American people.

If confirmed, I will also encourage the Mozambican Government to commit more of its own resources, particularly as it is able to do so, to improve the health of its people and ensure the sustainability of its health care system.

In the agricultural sector, where there is significant room for expansion, the U.S. Government is helping Mozambicans improve

overall performance in order to reduce hunger, poverty, and malnutrition.

In light of Mozambique's geographical location on the Indian Ocean, we recognize its potential as a regional partner and leader. But to fulfill this role, Mozambique must be able to secure its long land borders and coastline. There needs to be sustained efforts to promote maritime security and curb illegal trade flows. So if confirmed, I will look for more opportunities to expand efforts in this area.

We are cooperating with Mozambique to conserve coastal wetlands and marine reserves, and to reestablish the country's unique wildlife parks and combat wildlife trafficking. The Government of Mozambique has already taken important steps enacting stronger conservation law and recently courageously destroying a stockpile of confiscated ivory and rhino horns.

If confirmed, I will advocate for continued demonstrations of political and national will to take on powerful criminal enterprises intent on profiteering at the expense of Mozambique's natural heritage and what is, indeed, a global treasure.

Underpinning all of this work, are people-to-people ties. More than 1,200 Mozambicans have come to the United States as part of a wide variety of exchange programs and returned home to contribute to their country the perspectives they gained here in our country.

These exchanges work both ways. We have a robust Peace Corps program in Mozambique. As a former Peace Corps Volunteer, I know what invaluable experiences our volunteers gain from work they are doing in many communities, large and small, throughout the entire country.

So, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I want to thank you for the privilege of appearing before you today. If confirmed, I welcome the challenge of protecting and advancing the interests of the United States in Mozambique. It is a duty and responsibility I would be honored to accept. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Pittman follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DEAN PITTMAN

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is an honor for me to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique. I am grateful to the President and Secretary Kerry for the confidence they have placed in me. Mr. Chairman, I served in Mozambique 24 years ago at a time the country was just emerging from years of devastating civil war. Mozambique has come a long way since those days. Over these last decades the United States has aimed to build a strong, productive partnership with Mozambique and its people as we advance our mutual interests in tackling a wide range of issues, including expanding investment opportunities, combating transnational crime and illegal trafficking, stopping the spread of HIV, and building more inclusive, democratic institutions that can meet the needs of all Mozambique's people.

And we have seen significant—though uneven—progress. On the economic front Mozambique has registered impressive growth over the past decade—upward of 7 percent a year. This economic growth will likely continue as the country develops its recently discovered natural gas fields; an area where opportunities for U.S. investment are already being realized. Most notably, when the Texas-based company—Anadarko—concludes its negotiations with the government to develop a large section of the natural gas fields—a multibillion dollar project—it will become one of the largest investors in sub-Saharan Africa. Already other U.S. companies are taking advantage of what are expected to be increasing investment opportunities, not only in the energy field, but also in construction, tourism, and agriculture. With

our opening of the Embassy's new Foreign Commercial Service Office in 2014, we have deepened U.S. Government advocacy support available to U.S. companies and investors. As a new Trade Africa partner, the United States will work closely with Mozambique to expand economic ties and improve the environment for trade and investment.

But it is clear these positive developments only tell part of the story. Despite such impressive economic growth, the majority of Mozambique's 25 million people continue to live below the poverty line. Mozambique has an HIV prevalence rate of over 11 percent nationwide, a huge threat to the country's well-being. Educational opportunities, while improving, still are not equally available across the country and illiteracy remains a challenge, particularly among women and girls. Weak institutions and porous borders continue to make Mozambique a target of international trafficking and other criminal networks. And perhaps most troubling, recent violent skirmishes between the government and opposition party underscore that peace remains fragile.

Mozambique's progress and ability to be a strong partner with the U.S. depends in large part on continued peace and stability, strong democratic institutions, a healthy, educated population, an engaged civil society and economic growth that is inclusive and benefits all Mozambicans. These are areas where the United States has long worked closely with Mozambique and its people and where, if confirmed, I will continue to focus our attention. Let me offer a few examples of areas where we have worked successfully with Mozambique to advance our mutual interests.

As the largest bilateral donor to Mozambique, the United States provides the majority of our support to improve the health of Mozambicans. The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the President's Malaria Initiative, the Global Health Initiative, and the Peace Corps are all working together toward this goal in partnership with both the Mozambican Government and civil society. Thanks to the partnership between the Mozambican Government and international donors including the United States (through PEPFAR), more than 675,000 people living with HIV are now on treatment, and 75 percent of them are supported by the generosity of the American people. If confirmed, I will continue to advance our ambitious vision of creating an AIDS-free generation by working to reduce the transmission of HIV/AIDS, boost the percentage of HIV-positive Mozambicans on treatment, and control the epidemic in the highest burden districts of Mozambique by the year 2018. At the same time, I will encourage the Mozambican Government to commit more of its own resources—particularly as its ability to do so increases—to improving the health of its people and ensuring the sustainability of its health care system.

In the agricultural sector, where there is significant room for expansion, the U.S. Government is helping Mozambicans improve overall performance in order to reduce hunger, poverty, and malnutrition. Our support is also designed to help create opportunities through entrepreneurship, access to markets, improved technology, and a healthy business climate that will aid in transforming subsistence farming into commercial agriculture.

We worked closely with Mozambique to carry out the recently concluded 5-year Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Compact that focused on investments in water supply, sanitation, drainage, roads, bridges, land tenure, and agriculture to increase productive capacity in areas where economic development has lagged.

In addition over the last couple of decades, the United States has been a major contributor to ridding Mozambique of landmines, a deadly reminder of the civil war and an obstacle to development and economic growth. Earlier this year, Mozambique officially declared itself "impact free" of landmines.

We also recognize Mozambique's potential as a regional partner and leader, particularly in light of its expectation of becoming a world-class energy exporter. To fulfill this role, Mozambique must be able to secure its long land borders and coastline. There needs also to be sustained efforts to promote maritime security and curb illegal trade flows. If confirmed, I will continue to build upon our partnership with the Mozambican authorities to promote regional maritime and border security as an integral part of efforts to advance regional stability and economic growth.

We are also cooperating with Mozambique to conserve coastal wetlands and marine reserves, and to reestablish the country's unique wildlife parks and combat wildlife trafficking, a very serious threat to Mozambique's sovereignty, border security, as well as the economic welfare of the population. The Government of Mozambique has already taken important steps: enacting a stronger conservation law and recently courageously destroying a stockpile of confiscated ivory and rhino horn. If confirmed, I will advocate for continued demonstrations of political and national will to take on powerful criminal enterprises intent on profiteering at the expense of Mozambique's natural heritage, and indeed a global heritage.



Underpinning all of this work are our people-to-people ties. Our American Cultural Center and American Corners provide spaces for the exchange of ideas on topics from the environment to entrepreneurship, from capacity building to culture.

More than 1,200 Mozambicans have come to the United States as part of a wide variety of exchange programs and returned home to contribute to their communities the perspectives and skills gained here. And, these exchanges work both ways. We have a robust Peace Corps program in Mozambique, and as a former Peace Corps Volunteer, I know what invaluable experiences our volunteers gain from work they are doing in many communities large and small throughout the entire country.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I want to thank you for the privilege of appearing before you today. If confirmed, I welcome the challenge of protecting and advancing the interests of the United States in Mozambique; it is a duty and responsibility I would be honored to accept. Thank you and I would welcome any questions you might have.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you, Mr. Pittman.

Ms. Malac, with regard to Uganda, there has been, as we talked about before, an uptick in HIV/AIDS. What is the Government doing to help stem that? I am talking about the Ugandan Government. And how can we play a positive role there?

Ambassador MALAC. Thank you, Senator.

Yes, we are a bit concerned that the decline in HIV/AIDS rates has stagnated over the last several years. We continue to work through the PEPFAR program with the Government of Uganda, with the Ministry of Health, which understands the concerns, looking for other opportunities to improve prevention efforts.

They have been quite successful in terms of preventing mother-to-child transmission. But clearly, with numbers continuing to show increases in some parts of the population, there is more that needs to be done. We believe that it is possible to stop that from continuing to go up and push it back in the other direction. So PEPFAR is heavily engaged in a number of areas in the prevention arena.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you. Uganda has played a positive role in the region, in terms of contributing troops and helping broker peace deals and enforce, hopefully, a cease-fire in South Sudan. Do you see it as an important role, your role as Ambassador, if you are confirmed, to forward that relationship? What can we do to make sure that that kind of positive cooperation continues?

Ambassador MALAC. Clearly, the relationship that we have had with Uganda over the last several years in the security arena is a very important one for our interests and the interests of the countries in East Africa and the Horn. If confirmed as Ambassador, I will continue, through the many different avenues that the U.S. has used to date, to ensure that our interests and Uganda's converge as regards the security sector.

We believe that Uganda has potential to continue to play a leadership role in the security sector and bringing some help to address the conflicts that surround the country. So I am quite confident that we will be able to continue that relationship.

The Ugandans have said that they are committed to participate in all of the activities. But clearly, we will need, going forward, to ensure that that conversation remains robust, and that we are able to identify opportunities that they are in a position to address.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you. And thank you for your willingness to take on this assignment after that nice, leisurely post you had

in Liberia over the last couple years. Thanks for the work that you did there as well.

Ms. Peterson, you mentioned that the HIV/AIDS rate in Swaziland is among if not the highest in the world. You also mentioned that there are a large number, 130,000, on retrovirals. Given the difficulty in terms of revenue for Government, how will they be able to continue to provide the retrovirals? Is that an issue we ought to be concerned about?

Ms. PETERSON. Thank you very much for that question.

The Government has taken a very forward-leaning position, in terms of taking responsibility for providing the medications for treatment in Swaziland. The financial burden on the Government is only going to grow as the objective for addressing prevention is actually through treatment, and the numbers of people who will need to go on treatment will increase.

The Government is in a difficult position, because they have the looming economic circumstance in the region at this moment in time.

We are considering options that may help them in the short term with ensuring that the supply chain of medication is not stopped. But longer term, there will clearly need to be conversations with the Government about how they are prioritizing their spending, so that they can continue to uphold their commitment, which is a point on which they are very proud.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

With regard to AGOA, is there any possibility that, in the short term, they might be able to hit the benchmarks they need to have these restrictions lifted?

Ms. PETERSON. So the Government has "done the needful" on two Labor Relations Act provisions. There is, apparently, work that has been developed around crowd control measures, public order, the way security forces respond to public demonstrations. That is still a work in progress and not something that has been really rolled out to the Swazi security forces.

The real sticking points are going to come around revisions to the Public Order Act and the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The International Labor Organization has been working with the Swazi Government to amend the relevant provisions in the Terrorism Act. If confirmed, this is something that I would also like to try to draw on individuals and organizations that I came to know through my work in Democracy, Human Rights and Labor to try to find ways that we can help the Government address those final two provisions, so that overall space, not just for trade unions, but also for civil society writ large, will be more open.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Mr. Pittman, you mentioned wildlife trafficking as an issue the Government is dealing with there. There has been a huge uptick in rhino poaching in the Kruger National Park proximity right near the border of Mozambique. What role is yours, if you are confirmed, to help the Government respond to that problem?

Mr. PITTMAN. Thank you, Senator.

Yes, you are right. First of all, this is a huge resource that the Mozambicans have, and they are aware of it. They have these beautiful, unique, natural national parks and reserves. They are

unique to the world. So preserving these and preventing trafficking in ivory and rhino horns is critical.

The United States has been very much involved, and I have to say our Ambassador to the re, Ambassador Griffiths, has been working very closely with the Government and with the private sector. I think that is key, that we have a partnership where we bring in private sector expertise to work with the Government to manage their resources and help manage the parks, help manage the reserves, but also look at how we can provide training and other advice and other tools to the Government to prevent the trafficking in wildlife.

It is a challenge. The borders are porous, and the capacity is a challenge. But we are working on a whole series of levels, and a lot of our assistance is going directly to support efforts in this area.

I have to commend the Government. They realize this is a challenge. They realize how important it is. And they have recently destroyed 2.5 tons of ivory and rhino horns that had been confiscated.

So I think we have a good partner with Mozambique in working toward a solution here. It is a challenge. It is a challenge for the region.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Senator Markey.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, very much.

Ambassador Malac, last April, Human Rights Watch said that the new bill to regulate nongovernmental groups would severely curb Ugandans' basic rights and would subject NGOs to such extensive governmental control and interference that it could negate the very essence of freedom of association and expression.

Alarming, one of its clauses would prohibit activity "contrary to the dignity of the people of the Uganda." Such a broad definition leaves the conclusion that they want to just be able to act arbitrarily.

So what is the State Department's view of Uganda's new NGO bill that they are looking at? And what would you do, as Ambassador, to help protect civil society groups?

Ambassador MALAC. Thank you, Senator.

Regulation of NGOs is a topic of much interest and discussion among many countries in East Africa, and so we are, understandably, having seen how it works elsewhere, concerned by the proposed legislation in Uganda.

The good news on this issue, however, is that the Ugandan Government has continued to appear open to dialogue and discussion, and to entertain suggestions for revisions to the language of the legislation that are put forward by civil society organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and international partners.

If confirmed, I will continue to lead that kind of an effort to have a dialogue and discussion, and try to moderate where we can aspects of the legislation, understanding that the Government of Uganda does need to have a good understanding of what activities are ongoing inside its borders.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you.

The Somali-based extremist group al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the 2010 bombings in the Ugandan capital. Reports say that it has successfully recruited members in Uganda. Also, al-

Shabaab militants based in Kenya have threatened Uganda with further attacks in retaliation for its involvement in the African Union Mission in Somalia.

We work closely with Uganda, with assistance focused on improving border control and airport security, travel document control, forensics, and critical questions on Somali.

Could you talk a little bit about that and how you see that situation unfolding?

Ambassador MALAC. Certainly, Senator. Thank you.

Uganda has faced a lot of challenges and it, certainly, is under threat for the leading role that it has played in AMISOM since its inception in 2007. As a result, they have been a direct target of terrorist attacks.

It is clear to us that there is much more work that we all need to do to strengthen their ability to insulate themselves, to the extent that it is possible with terrorist groups, from these kinds of activities.

We have seen al-Shabaab and what it is capable of doing, not just within Somalia, but outside. It is ongoing effort in cooperation with the Government of Uganda to work together to try to build their capacity to do that in a variety of ways, as you have outlined.

If confirmed, I would continue those programs and that cooperation in any way possible.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you.

Ms. Peterson, the 2005 Constitution, notably its Bill of Rights, was a key step toward Swazi compliance with global constitutional norms. But pro-democracy groups view it as falling short in many respects, and discontent continues over alleged corruption, nepotism, favoritism, and privilege for royals and the political elite; mismanagement of public funds; and state resistance to political reform.

What more can the United States do to help foster a climate where political parties can operate and civic freedoms can expand?

Ms. PETERSON. Thank you very much for that question.

I think the fundamental work on ensuring space for civil society—and this grows out of the engagement around AGOA—that if we can get the space opened for civil society, that will open broader opportunities for engagement by an array of actors.

I do think that Swaziland has taken a negative direction since 2005. It clearly is something that the current Ambassador at post has worked on. If confirmed, I would look to build on her engagements, provide as much support and as much convening power for civil society as I can.

On the fiscal transparency side, I think as a starting point, we, the U.S. Government, can hold a stronger line on asking for greater fiscal transparency from the Government. But, again, opening the space for Swazis to be able to speak to their own Government and hold their own Government accountable will also be key to getting the Government to respond on these points.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you.

Mr. Pittman, according to the department's 2015 Trafficking in Persons report, Mozambique as a Tier 2 country is a transit and to a lesser extent destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Please describe the

Government's approach to halting human trafficking abuses. What must it do more effectively to counter such crimes? And what can you in the Embassy do to advance that goal?

Mr. PITTMAN. Thank you, Senator.

In some ways, this is a bit of a good news story. The Government of Mozambique was listed as a Tier 2 Watch country just a few years ago. But because of some of the good work and efforts they have made, they moved to the Tier 2. Obviously, it is still not enough, and we work very closely with the Government to sort of see how we can find ways to advance them and get them to fulfill the regulations here.

But they have taken some positive steps, and, certainly, ones that are encouraging. They set up reference groups in various provinces that are looking at some of these cases and investigating them and providing that kind of eyes on the ground for the Government. The Government is taking the opportunity with other NGOs and groups to provide training and information to Government workers so they are aware of what they should be looking for, and how they should be approached.

Broader issues, of course, are the issues that Mozambique has with maintaining its long borders that are porous.

These are all areas where we will continue to work. But the bottom line here, I think, is that we have some good progress so far on this issue.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Senator Coons.

Senator COONS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for convening this hearing today.

First, to Ambassador Malac, I just cannot thank you enough for your service in Liberia. In my three visits to Liberia, I was struck by the capabilities of the country, the challenges it faced. And in the most recent visit, I had the opportunity to see your leadership in the midst of the Ebola crisis. It was nothing short of spectacular. You were just the sort of Foreign Service leader we hope for in this country under extremely demanding circumstances—highly motivated, capable, still retaining a sense of humor in the midst of one of the most difficult environments I have ever seen, and with a loyal and dedicated team.

So I just want to start by, in front of your family, thanking you for what I know was a very long and difficult period, and for your exceptional leadership in it.

I mean to take nothing away from our other nominees, but I have had the opportunity to see you lead under extremely demanding circumstances.

And you go from Monrovia to Kampala. When I first came into Kampala, in 1987, Museveni's troops had just taken control. He had just become President, and he is still President today.

So my first question would simply be, given what we have already heard in terms of concerns about the civil society, the NGO law, and the really grinding pressure on civil society, and given recent decisions about pursuing another term, how do you strike an appropriate balance between advocating for democracy and open

civil society and transparency while retaining a positive relationship with a key regional security ally?

Ambassador MALAC. Thank you for those kind words, Senator, and for the question. Yes, moving from one difficult situation to another.

Creating democracy, creating multiparty democracy that functions in an appropriate manner is a process, as you know. It is not something that happens overnight.

A few elections ago, there was not anything that even resembled multiparty democracy in Uganda. Now in the election we are headed toward in early next year, there is a greater semblance of that process.

But it is messy, and it is, certainly, not as far and as well-entrenched in Uganda as any of us would like to see it. So we are continuing to have the discussion; continuing to work as the U.S. Government has been doing with developing the capacity of political parties to provide legitimate opposition, some real opposition, to the current system; creating capacity within civil society organizations, nongovernmental organizations, to understand the role that they play, the important role that they play in making demands on their government for appropriate democratic outlets and processes; continuing to work with the elections commission to ensure the capacity of the system to function, despite some of the concerns.

The issue of term limits is always a tricky one. Ultimately, this often resides in constitutions, and ultimately, those decisions are for the people to decide. We understand often those referendums or decisions may not always be the most transparent processes.

But that said, I think I, if confirmed as Ambassador, will continue to have this conversation that has been an ongoing one with President Museveni to show that change is good sometimes—it brings different ideas; it brings different opportunities—but, most importantly, to encourage him to keep the space open so that opposition parties and civil society organizations, Ugandans, can advocate for their own rights and civil protections.

Thank you.

Senator COONS. Let me also ask you, Ambassador, about the LGBT community in Uganda and the shrinking space in which they have had to operate in the last couple of years, and the real challenges we face in trying to respect their security, privacy, and liberty while still advocating for them.

I had a very memorable meeting a number of years ago in which I was asked not to be a more vocal advocate because of the consequences for those who were known to have met with a Senator or anyone else from our Government.

How do you fight for space when the political environment around it is not supportive?

Ambassador MALAC. Thank you.

That is a very difficult balance to strike, particularly as we are pushed on the part of the U.S. Government to ensure, as we do advocate all over the world, for the protection of the human rights of all individuals to be free from discrimination, to be free from the threat of violence. It is an issue and a value that we hold very

dear, and we must advocate in that arena, even in difficult environments like Uganda.

It is often the case that we are sometimes further out ahead of some of the local groups or individuals themselves. So continuing the dialogue that we have—we work very closely with organizations and individuals in Uganda who are advocating for LGBT rights to ensure that we are calibrated appropriately and to continue to work with the Government, to dialogue with the Government of Uganda, to ensure that the space is open.

It will be an ongoing process where we believe the legislation that was on the books previously is gone. But, of course, we will have to continue to watch vigilantly to ensure that we do not turn the clock back.

Senator COONS. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question of all three, being conscious of my colleagues' time.

Mr. Pittman, you served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Gabon many years ago. All three of you have had experience and exposure with the Peace Corps in the countries to which you will serve or where you previously served.

I am also interested in the Young African Leaders program. We had a terrific meeting with them in Monrovia. The University of Delaware is one of 20 institutions that hosts them. I think it has a lot of potential and is an area this administration has led in.

If you would please in turn talk about how we build a better relationship between the nations to which you will be posted, and what role exchange programs, service programs like the Peace Corps, like Young African Leaders, play in that process? Please, if you would, in order.

Ambassador MALAC. Thank you, Senator.

Watching what has been happening with Young African Leaders participants who have returned to Liberia has been very instructive in terms of what the possibilities are, watching how they come back with these connections, not just to young people in the United States but to the Africans that they have met from other countries that they might not have had the opportunity to. They themselves are watching the energy, creating networks among themselves, talking back and forth and coming up with ideas about how they can contribute.

If confirmed, I look forward to the opportunity in Uganda to see what other possibilities we can find among the young people. It is a very young population, as many of the African countries are. So finding ways to constructively engage the young population is absolutely critical for the future of this country. I think that YALI, among others, is one tool that we can use.

Ms. PETERSON. Thank you, Senator.

The Peace Corps is a key part of our engagement on our HIV/AIDS programming in Swaziland. They provide access to rural communities and young populations in a way that traditional Embassy-based programming would never be able to accomplish. It really is a people-to-people connection that you cannot match in any way.

If confirmed, I would definitely continue supporting the work of the Peace Corps as they can go about raising awareness and encouraging voluntary testing.

In terms of other initiatives such as the Young African Leaders program, because Swaziland is not quite as young of a population as Uganda, but it still has its own youth bulge, engagement with young people and developing young leaders who are going to have that access to mentors that they meet through the course of the program, those sorts of resources available to them will be key to Swaziland's ability to consider how it moves forward and creates opportunities for young people, with young people advocating for their own particular needs.

Senator COONS. Thank you, Ms. Peterson.

Mr. Pittman.

Mr. PITTMAN. Thank you, Senator.

As you know, I was in the Peace Corps, and I am a huge fan. We have over about 180 Peace Corps Volunteers in Mozambique now. They are not only a value-add, they are a multiplier in the many areas where we are working. That is education; health; advancing the interests of young girls, particularly; and education, as I said. So that is a great resource for a mission to have, and I am pleased that we have a robust Peace Corps program there.

As I noted in my testimony, we have had 1,200 exchange persons from Mozambique come to the United States. I think this is an excellent program. We will continue to look at how we can engage with youth groups through our Embassy outreach to civil society.

And the YALI program is an excellent way to identify some of the next generation of young leaders. I believe we identified this last go-round about 15 or so Mozambicans.

So if confirmed, this will be a great area where I hope to do a lot of work as well.

Senator COONS. Thank you.

Thank you to you and your families. And as you had to Mbabane, Maputo, and Kampala, I wish you all the best and look forward to staying in touch.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Senator Gardner.

Senator GARDNER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And thank you as well to the nominees who are here today. I appreciate your sacrifice, your service, and your families as well. So thank you for your public service.

I, too, just want to follow up on what Senator Coons said about Museveni and the comments you had made in your opening statement. "Uganda will hold elections in 2016, during which President Museveni will seek a fifth term. If confirmed, I will urge the President to ensure the political space necessary for a spirited and robust campaign in which all parties participate freely."

Obviously, with the news on October 15, the arrest of the opposition leaders, we are far from a spirited and robust campaign, at this point, so perhaps we can go further into what the U.S. positions will be.

But I want to shift away from that. I do not think this has been brought up yet. I would just like to get an update perhaps on what



you see in Uganda and what the United States is doing in terms of the LRA and resistance to the LRA.

Ambassador MALAC. Thank you, Senator.

The counter-LRA activities continue. As you know, only one of the ICC indictees, Joseph Kony himself, remains on the battlefield. It is a slow process. It is a very remote area.

But as you all are aware, the operation has been extended for another year. We continue to be hopeful that the activities, working with the partners in the region, led primarily by the Ugandan forces, that they will be successful. That continues to be the hope, that we will find and remove Joseph Kony from the battlefield in the coming months.

The commitment on the part of the Ugandan Government remains strong to participate in these activities and to help free the populations of that part of Africa from the threat of LRA activity that had such a negative impact for so long.

Senator GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Ambassador, thank you.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Any followup questions from my colleagues? I should not ask that to Senator Coons. [Laughter.]

I appreciate the time that you have taken to prepare for this hearing. I appreciate, again, the family members who are here and the sacrifices that they make.

We look forward to going forward with this process and thank you all. Thank you for your service.

The hearing record will be open until Thursday, so members can submit other questions for the record, as well. We would ask witnesses to respond as promptly as possible to these questions that might come your way.

With thanks to the committee, this hearing now stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:24 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

#### ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

RESPONSES OF HON. DEBORAH MALAC, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE  
REPUBLIC OF UGANDA, TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE MALAC'S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR CORKER

*Question.* What steps has Uganda taken to address sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers in AMISOM?

*Answer.* In regard to the accusations in the Human Rights Watch report of systematic sexual abuse by AMISOM soldiers of Somali women, the Ugandans charged three soldiers for conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline under Section 178 of the Ugandan Peoples' Defense Force (UPDF) Act and have committed to undertaking courts martial against any other soldiers found over the course of the investigation to have violated military regulations. We understand that Uganda and AMISOM restructured the "gender office" for the primary AMISOM base in Mogadishu and moved it to a stadium outside the base so that anyone can access the office for assistance or to report incidents. The Ugandan Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence (CMI) was tasked with the investigation into the accusations made in the Human Rights Watch report. We continue to follow up with our interlocutors in the CMI on their progress in the investigation.

Separately, the UPDF convicted two soldiers in July and September 2015, respectively, of sexually abusing two fellow Ugandan soldiers while stationed in Somalia as part of the AMISOM contingent.

*Question.* In 2013, Ugandan forces deployed a court martial to Mogadishu, but it has since been recalled. Why was it recalled?

*Answer.* We understand that the Ugandans undertook this action in order to avoid paying additional per diem to soldiers undergoing the trials. The Ugandans see this as an additional disciplinary measure for those soldiers.

*Question.* What African Union guidelines and policies on sexual exploitation and abuse are AMISOM troops, including Uganda, subject to?

*Answer.* Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) are expressly prohibited by AMISOM, and are also against the regulations of the individual and troop contributing countries (TCCs). This zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual exploitation and abuse was recently reaffirmed at the September 2015 meeting of the AU's Military Operations Coordination Committee, which was attended by the leaderships of the AU, AMISOM, and troop/police-contributing countries, including Uganda, as well as donor partners. AMISOM maintains a policy on prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as a board of inquiry to investigate breaches in discipline. AMISOM also established a disciplinary board, before which there are currently pending cases of sexual harassment by AMISOM forces. Nonetheless, an AU investigation into existing measures to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation revealed that AMISOM should make significant improvements to its reporting and accountability mechanisms, and Human Rights Watch has noted gaps and weaknesses within the original SEA policy language itself. We are committed to following up with our AU and TCC partners on how they are improving their systems.

*Question.* If confirmed, will you commit to opening a dialogue with the Ugandan Government on military professionalism, specifically around the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse?

*Answer.* Respect for human rights and protection of civilians is a core component of all peacekeeping and military training conducted by the United States for the Ugandan Peoples' Defense Force (UPDF). We are already engaged in a discussion with the Government of Uganda regarding the allegations of abuse and misconduct by the UPDF forces serving in AMISOM, and continue to provide training to enhance the UPDF's professionalism. If confirmed, I will continue this ongoing dialogue with the Government of Uganda and the leadership of the UPDF to urge greater attention to protection of civilians and respect for human rights whenever or wherever UPDF forces are deployed. In addition, I will continue to advocate for investigations into and accountability for actions related to abuse or sexual exploitation.

*Question.* What commitments has Uganda made to countering wildlife trafficking and what programming and funding has the United States put toward counterwildlife trafficking in FY 2014 and FY 2015?

*Answer.* Uganda's location makes it a natural transit route for wildlife products, especially ivory, that originate in neighboring countries. The problem is underscored by weak antitrafficking laws and inadequate resources and training of wildlife officials. Because the penalties for trafficking are not strong enough to act as deterrents, the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities is working to strengthen the current wildlife law. We continue to raise this issue with the government to ensure government-wide leadership in enacting the amendments and greater government investment of resources in the law enforcement and intelligence aspects of combating wildlife trafficking.

Additionally, many of the administration's global and regional activities to combat wildlife trafficking, including training programs, strengthening regional cooperation, and reducing demand, can lead to benefits in Uganda. At this time, USAID/Uganda is focused on supporting several comprehensive analyses of wildlife crime and trafficking that look at Uganda, specifically, as well as its link to broader East African regional networks. These assessments will inform the design of future programs. USAID/Uganda plans to program \$500,000 to combat wildlife trafficking in FY 2015.

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AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE MALAC'S RESPONSES  
TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR CARDIN

*Question.* According to figures obtained by the Congressional Research Service, Uganda will receive over \$90 million in security assistance in FY15 and a mere \$3 million for Democracy and Governance activities, most of which will be used to assist with activities associated with the February 2016 elections.

◆ Is this an appropriate balance of funding in your estimation? What is the United States Government currently doing to support democracy and good governance/anticorruption in Uganda, and how much are we providing to fund those activities? Are these activities adequate to the challenges in the aforementioned areas? If confirmed as Ambassador, what will be your priorities for the duration of your tenure in the areas of democracy and governance and anticorruption? What role will you play in supporting efforts to see that next year's Presidential elections are free and fair?

Answer. Funding for Democracy and Governance (DG) programs is constrained globally, and we strive to make the broadest possible effect with whatever level of funding is available. Embassy Kampala is proactive in identifying DG funding opportunities and has dedicated a total of \$3 million in FY 2015 and FY 2016 resources toward Governing Justly and Democratically activities. U.S. foreign assistance supports human rights and invests in organizations and individuals that defend human rights in Uganda; creates more effective links between officials and their constituents; improves local government capacity to deliver services; promotes greater judicial independence, media professionalism, and civil society participation for more accountable governance; and increases transparency and respect for democratic processes and the rule of law. In addition, through our military assistance, the United States prioritizes courses on human rights as part of its basic curriculum for all U.S.-provided training for Ugandan soldiers. Our assistance is helping to build the Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) into a more professional force that can continue to help promote stability throughout the region.

If confirmed, I will continue to urge the President and Government of Uganda to open up political space for political parties and civil society to operate and to campaign freely. I will use all available resources and tools to strengthen existing programs to build capacity among civil society organizations, political parties, and the media. On anticorruption, I will continue existing programs to strengthen institutional capacity to combat corruption, and look for opportunities to broaden our partnerships in Uganda to address this massive challenge. I will continue to raise with Ugandan officials and nongovernmental partners the need to reduce corruption at all levels in order to ensure Uganda's long-term development and stability. If confirmed, I will be in a better position to assess whether the resources for these programs are adequate, and will do so when I am in the country.

*Question.* The State Department Inspector General issued a report of Inspection of Embassy Kampala in 2014 with 27 recommendations. Among the findings was that post-specific procedures for Leahy vetting of Ugandan military and law enforcement personnel had not been codified.

◆ What is the status of the codification of procedures for Leahy vetting at the Embassy?

Answer. Embassy Kampala was encouraged in an "informal" recommendation to develop post-specific procedures for Leahy vetting as a best practice. There was no finding by the OIG that the Embassy was doing Leahy vetting incorrectly or insufficiently. Nonetheless, Embassy Kampala has codified its existing robust procedures for conducting Leahy vetting for all individuals and units requiring vetting by developing a written, post-specific standard operating procedure for Leahy vetting.

*Question.* In July, the East African Community has asked Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni to lead mediation talks on Burundi. Reports continue of politically motivated killings in the Burundian capital, Bujumbura.

◆ If confirmed, what role will you play in supporting and encouraging Uganda's continued engagement in efforts to bring an end to the crisis in Burundi?

Answer. If confirmed, I will continue to stress the importance of President Museveni's mediation efforts on behalf of the EAC to convene urgently a comprehensive Burundian political dialogue aimed at reaching consensus on a path to end the violence and restoring the Arusha Agreement as the foundation for peace, stability, and economic development in Burundi.

RESPONSES OF LISA PETERSON, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND, TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE PETERSON'S RESPONSES  
TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR CARDIN

*Question.* The Trafficking in Persons Report 2015 recommends that the Government of Swaziland "institutionalize training of officials, particularly police, prosecutors, and judges, on the 2010 antitrafficking act and case investigation techniques."

◆ Does the Government of Swaziland have the capacity to successfully undertake such actions? If not, what role should the United States play in assisting with such training?

*Answer.* Swaziland could do more to combat this crime. The Swazi Government has limited capacity to improve training on antitrafficking techniques, and the Department is already supporting multiple initiatives to increase official capacity and understanding among Swazi officials in addressing trafficking crimes. For example, we will look to use International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) training opportunities to improve overall policing techniques, which can be applicable to trafficking prevention and investigation methods.

The State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons has awarded a grant for the "Establishment of Data Collection Systems in SADC (South African Development Community) Member States." Swaziland will be one of the beneficiaries of this project, which will include setting up national and regional data hubs, as well as conducting training courses for users of the system.

Furthermore, if confirmed, I will encourage the Swazi Government to enact amendments to its 2010 antitrafficking law to allow permanent residency of foreign victims and increase its efforts at prosecution, improving the rights of victims of trafficking.

Although not specifically tied to antitrafficking efforts, the U.S. Government funded a pilot program for child-friendly courts for victims of sexual assault. Children feel more comfortable testifying with the assistance of social workers in such courts, and as a result, both reporting rates of sex crimes against children and prosecution rates have gone up. Thus, officials are working to improve such systems in country, and with continued assistance and support, we hope to see continued progress in the judicial sector.

*Question.* According to the State Department's 2015 Fiscal Transparency Report, Swaziland has made no significant progress in meeting minimum fiscal transparency standards.

◆ How pervasive is official corruption and what effect is it having on the economy? What actions would the government have to undertake to spur economic growth, and improve fiscal management? If confirmed as Ambassador, what will you do to encourage such actions?

*Answer.* While a lack of fiscal transparency can be an enabling factor for corruption, the Fiscal Transparency report does not assess corruption. Rather, it tracks practices regarding reporting of budget information to the public such as whether budgets are publicly available, reliable, and substantially complete as well as transparency in licensing and contracting for natural resource extraction. Our concerns in the review relate to government reporting on issues related to processes for awarding contracts and licenses for natural resource extraction as well as the degree of oversight on expenditures to support the royal family, military, police, and correctional services.

In terms of corruption, Swaziland's scores in perception of corruption indices are quite favorable. However, there are concerns that Swaziland's sovereign wealth fund is able to enter business deals, which are not transparent or open for public review. This issue is pervasive and has resulted in an investment climate that is less conducive to U.S. and other foreign investment, notwithstanding the country's official policy of encouraging such investment.

A return to AGOA eligibility could spur economic growth through trade, but businesses looking to invest or reinvest in Swaziland will be interested in seeing a more transparent business environment. Meeting these benchmarks would provide space to organizations, such as civil society and the media, to hold leaders accountable and shine a light on corruption. Additionally, Swaziland should implement the regulatory reforms identified in the country's Investor Roadmap (which dates to 2005 and was relaunched in 2012), most of which remain unaddressed. Swaziland should enhance ways for private sector entities of all sizes to get access to financing, and should look for ways to keep the country's deficit under control while protecting spending to help the poorest of the poor in Swaziland.

If confirmed, I would encourage the Government of Swaziland to meet the AGOA benchmarks—including basic rights such as the freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, and expression. Meeting these benchmarks would provide space to organizations, such as civil society and the media, to hold leaders accountable, shine a light on corruption, and provide opportunities to improve the country's trade and investment climate. I would also engage the government in discussions around Swaziland's need for economic growth and the ways in which greater transparency in the investment climate can contribute to more interest from foreign investors. The Department of State recently funded an Internal Audit Department Capacity Building Project to empower the government's auditors and bring greater oversight to the government's finances. While International Quality Assessment Scores have improved, I would urge the Swazi Government to pass the Public Finance Management bill and to establish an independent Internal Audit Committee. These steps are crucial to both meeting international standards and ensuring sustainability of the progress made through this project.

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RESPONSES OF DEAN PITTMAN, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE, TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE PITTMAN'S RESPONSES  
TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR CORKER

*Question.* Violence has flared recently between government and RENAMO forces. What role do you believe the U.S. Ambassador to Mozambique should play, if any, in this situation? What specific steps would you advocate the U.S. Government take to ameliorate the instability?

*Answer.* We are concerned about reports of confrontations between elements of Renamo and government forces, including incidents involving the opposition leader. However, Mozambicans have demonstrated that they can resolve differences through dialogue. As the largest donor to Mozambique and with growing U.S. investment there, the United States has an important role to play in encouraging peace and stability. As Ambassador, I would continue to build on Ambassador Griffiths' efforts work with all sides to support the peaceful resolution of outstanding differences. However, understanding that the situation between elements of Renamo and government forces remains very fluid, the Department would be happy to provide a briefing as more information becomes available.

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AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE PITTMAN'S RESPONSES  
TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR CARDIN

*Question.* Agence France Presse reported on November 3 that fighting between government forces and opposition party Renamo resulted in fatalities, though the number of deaths remains unclear. This is the latest in a series of deadly clashes between the two parties.

- ◆ What is your assessment of whether these clashes could evolve into a more generalized conflict?
- ◆ What are the main points of contention between the government and Renamo, and what role, if any, will you have in supporting a rapprochement between the ruling party and Renamo if confirmed as Ambassador?

*Answer.* Currently, the skirmishes are entirely localized to rural areas in Mozambique's central provinces. Although worrisome, all indications from leadership on both sides are that there is no desire for a return to civil war. The Embassy was monitoring these events closely. At this time, events are still very fluid.

The main points of contention between the government and Renamo were outlined in the 2014 cessation of hostilities agreement. They include the separation of party activities from state functions and the disarmament and reintegration of residual Renamo forces into the police and military. Additionally, Renamo has a bill before Parliament seeking a constitutional change to the mechanism by which provincial governors are established.

While these periodic skirmishes are concerning, Mozambicans have demonstrated in the past that they can resolve differences through dialogue. If confirmed as Ambassador, I will actively pursue a peaceful, transparent, and constitutional resolution to the political impasse. I will encourage all parties to use negotiation rather than violence to achieve their goals. I will do everything in my power to promote rapprochement between ruling party Frelimo and Renamo.

*Question.* Mozambique ranks near the bottom of Transparency International's corruption index, and according to the State Department's 2015 Fiscal Transparency Report, Mozambique has not made significant progress in meeting minimum requirements of fiscal transparency.

- ♦ What programs do we currently have in place to help Mozambicans combat corruption? What tools will you have if confirmed as Ambassador to use against corruption government officials, and under what circumstances will you use them? If confirmed, what actions do you plan to take during your tenure as Ambassador to help Mozambicans to combat corruption?

*Answer.* Promoting transparency, combatting corruption, and strengthening national institutions and civil society are important aspects of our work in Mozambique. We currently support the Mozambican Prosecutor General and Anti-Corruption Offices through training and mentoring for prosecutors and anticorruption officials to increase their capacity to prevent, investigate and prosecute corruption and to strengthen internal administrative capacity, with a specific focus on procurement and financial management. These programs not only increase the capacity of the government to apply the law and prosecute corruption cases, but they also reinforce efforts to improve overall public financial management and accountability within important state institutions. In addition, our work with the media seeks to increase the capacity of journalists to provide citizens with accurate and independent information. In the last fiscal year, the program mentored 13 leading journalists from major media outlets on investigative journalism and trained 33 emerging journalists to equip them to enter the market. The program also assisted select media outlets in improving their business management and revenues from advertising, thus contributing to their long-term sustainability and making them less prone to depending on a single advertiser and vulnerable to undue influence. A strong Fourth Estate helps hold government accountable to the citizens, and strong prosecutors help hold people, businesses, organizations and other government agencies accountable to the law.

If confirmed, I will regularly include anticorruption themes in our embassy public outreach efforts and continue our engagement with civil society. I will include fiscal transparency and respect for international norms as a regular theme in discussions with senior government officials. Improving public financial management—of which fiscal transparency is a key element—will be a recurring theme in my work, particularly in the context of projected falling commodity prices and state revenues. I will support and, where possible, expand embassy efforts to train organizations that hold governments accountable and serve as watchdogs against corruption, such as civil society organizations and the media.

I will also continue to work with other donors on such key initiatives as the promotion of full Mozambican membership in and adherence to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which offers a global standard to promote transparency in the extractive sector's revenue. Additionally, I will continue to encourage the government to pass legislation enabling a public comment period on draft legislation which would increase transparency in the discussion and passage of national laws. More work will also be necessary to see that Mozambique's supreme audit institution conducts audits of the government's annual budget and makes audit reports public.

I note that as a sign of progress in transparency, the government passed the Freedom of Information law last year, which should allow greater public scrutiny of government decisions and better oversight of how public funds are used. If confirmed, I would actively look for ways to help Mozambique as it implements this important law.

*Question.* Exports of liquefied natural gas could begin as early as 2018. Has the government put in place strong enough regulations and oversight mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability in the sector? What role will you play, if confirmed, to help Mozambicans ensure that the population will benefit from resources from the sector?

*Answer.* The discovery of significant energy resources has the potential to push sustainable development in Mozambique forward in favor of expansive growth that provides employment and opportunities to Mozambican citizens. To realize this potential, the Mozambican Government faces a number of critical legislative, regulatory, fiscal, and social decisions that will influence the development of its natural resources.

If confirmed, I will advocate fiscal responsibility and transparency in the energy producing sector, including through the IMF representative in Maputo. The representative is actively working with the Government of Mozambique on transparency and the best use of resources. I will continue to support our programming

on media strengthening that has educated scores of journalists on the importance of independent reporting on the extractive industry sector of their country. If confirmed, I will also continue the Embassy's regular meetings with NGOs advocating for transparency and proper use of funds.

Mozambique has made significant progress through its official acceptance as a Compliant Country of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), and it has the opportunity to continue to strengthen its transparency and responsibility, given that the established contracts with the companies that work in extractive industries are open to the public. It will be important for Mozambique to use its resources for the benefit of its people.

*Question.* Mozambique has been classified as a Tier 2 country since 2011. The Trafficking in Persons Report 2015 states "the government did not finalize its national action plan or the implementing regulations for the 2008 antitrafficking law," that "the government's funding for and provision of protective services remained inadequate," and that "the Ministry of Justice's draft 2013 action plan to guide the efforts for witness protection and outline implementation of the 2012 witness protection law . . . remained unfinished."

- ◆ What steps will you take, if confirmed, to encourage the government to develop regulations to implement the 2008 antitrafficking law, and complete the action plan related to witness protection? Does the government have the resources for protective services? If not, what assistance could be provided to help with such services?

*Answer.* Mozambique was upgraded from the Tier 2 Watch List in 2011 to Tier 2 after significant progress in combating trafficking in persons. I understand that the Government of Mozambique is making efforts to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons. If confirmed, I will encourage the government to continue those efforts. The government established coordinating bodies known as "reference groups" in three additional provinces and reported its investigation in 2014 of 27 trafficking cases. The government prosecuted 44 suspected traffickers and convicted 32, a continued increase from previous years. In 2014, government officials, in partnership with Save the Children, conducted an awareness campaign for 150 members of a transportation association and hosted seven antitrafficking lectures for 600 government and civil sector personnel. U.S. assistance also helped journalists report on the issue.

Further, if confirmed, I will encourage the government to complete its national action plan, develop regulations to ensure full implementation of the protection provisions under the 2008 antitrafficking law, and, most importantly, encourage the government to expand the availability or protection services via allocation of increased funding to the Ministry of Gender and to NGOs. These recommendations complement programming the Department already had in place to support increased provision of adequate protection services, through a grant to IOM. In addition, I will advocate that Mozambican officials participate in training and other programs that combat these illegal activities. An example of such training is the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP); the State Department sponsored for a Deputy Prosecutor General and a civil society human rights leader to visit the United States this month. They were in Washington, DC, this week and will go on to Nevada and California to witness firsthand and exchange viewpoints on how our federal, local, and state governments work together to combat trafficking in persons.

