

Statement of Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins
Nominee to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
April 28, 2021

Chairman Menendez, Ranking Member Risch, Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I am grateful to President Biden, Vice President Harris, and Secretary Blinken for their trust and faith in nominating me to be the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. It is a great honor for me to come before this committee. If confirmed, I pledge to work tirelessly for the American people and in close coordination with Members of Congress and this committee to advance our shared ideals for this great nation.

I would like to thank my mother, Dorothy Jenkins, my family, and my friends and colleagues who have inspired and supported me for so many years.

I have been honored to serve the U.S. Government as both a civilian and in uniform, from working on arms control treaties as a lawyer with the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in the 1990s, to over 20 years in the Air Force and U.S. Navy Reserves. Most recently, I had the honor of being confirmed to serve as Ambassador for the State Department's threat reduction programs from 2009 to 2017, working to bring the issues of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security front and center.

My commitment to public service has always included advancing opportunities for *all* Americans. In 2017, I founded the non-profit Women of Color Advancing Peace, Security and Conflict Transformation in an effort to make sure that our nation's policy makers are engaging in and constitute all of our experts, regardless of their race, gender, or background. I am also a professor at Georgetown and George Washington Universities, teaching our future generation of policy makers.

If confirmed, I will bring this breadth of experience to bear on the challenges that our country is facing today. An increasingly authoritarian People's Republic of China is pursuing a destabilizing military modernization project and rapid nuclear buildup, endangering the international rules-based order and inflaming regional and global tensions. Iran has continued to expand and accelerate its nuclear program and ballistic missile development, in addition to its ongoing support for terrorist groups and violent armed militias. Russia continues to violate arms control agreements and commitments. And we face new cybersecurity and emerging technology threats from our adversaries.

Reducing the risk of nuclear war through effective arms control, limiting Russian and Chinese nuclear expansion, strengthening our efforts in biosecurity, pursuing accountability for the use of chemical weapons, and promoting a diverse workforce will be among my top priorities, if confirmed. We must strengthen deterrence alliances in the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific to better deter and defend against growing threats. We must develop and implement norms of

responsible behavior in outer space. And we must grapple with advancements in emerging technologies that can threaten strategic stability.

If confirmed, I will strive to ensure that arms transfers and security assistance are focused on building values-based security partnerships. I will carefully assess all critical factors, including nonproliferation, arms control, and human rights, and will ensure other key commitments, such as maintaining Israel's Qualitative Military Edge, are upheld.

I look forward to working with this Committee, if confirmed, to look strategically at how our security assistance authorities are structured, and how they are balanced and resourced across the Departments of State and Defense, to ensure that our tools, including our security cooperation agreements, are the most efficient for the U.S. taxpayer, and the most effective for U.S. national security.

Renewed American leadership—as set out in the Administration's Interim National Security Strategic Guidance—will be essential to reducing the dangers from chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons, and their delivery systems. Further, working with allies and partners, the United States must continue to stand up for an open, interoperable, reliable, and secure Internet and a stable cyberspace, where international law and voluntary, non-binding norms apply to state behavior.

You have my commitment that if confirmed I will work in close coordination with you in our efforts to restore Congress' role in formulating foreign policy, and to ensure the policies we enact are in the greatest interest of our national security and of the American people. The threats we face are numerous, but our commitment to our allies, and to the American people, is rock solid. We have much work to do, and I am ready to get started. With that, I welcome your questions and look forward to our discussion today.