

**Statement of The Honorable Bathsheba N. Crocker**  
**Nominee for Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador**  
**Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
**September 15, 2021**

Thank you, Chairman Coons, Ranking Member, and distinguished members of this committee.

I am honored to appear before you as President Biden's nominee to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva. I am grateful to President Biden and Secretary of State Blinken for this opportunity to again serve my country.

I am so grateful for the love and support of my husband, Milan Vaishnav, and our daughters, Asha and Farrin -- and for their sacrifice should I be confirmed to take on this important role. I am also thankful for the support of my father, Chester Crocker and my sisters and their families, and am thinking today of my mom, who would have been so proud to witness me appearing before this Committee again.

My parents instilled in me a deep commitment to public service. I have had no greater honor than serving my country side-by-side with our career diplomatic corps, and I am especially proud that my father and I are the only father-daughter Assistant Secretaries of State in State Department history.

My previous roles as Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, at the United Nations, and overseeing CARE USA's humanitarian work have shown me that the United Nations works most effectively when the United States leads and leverages all the tools at our disposal to advance U.S. national security interests across and through the United Nations system.

My previous experiences position me well to represent the United States across the different organizations in Geneva and ensure sound oversight of the U.S. contributions to those organizations. I am committed to advancing reforms to make those organizations more efficient and effective and to ensuring the United States is best positioned to lead, to collaborate, and, where necessary, to out-compete -- so that the United Nations system remains grounded on its foundational values of advancing human rights, democracy, economic opportunity, and international peace and security.

China, Russia, Cuba, and others are threatening those values, seeking to co-opt multilateral institutions, including Geneva-based organizations, to impose their national agendas and reshape the rules-based international order.

At the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the PRC and Russia aim to undercut U.S. efforts to protect the open internet. If confirmed, I will work to ensure the United States and our like-minded partners can drive the discussion and the rules of the road -- at the ITU and other

standard-setting bodies -- and support strong candidates for leadership in the Geneva-based organizations.

The Biden-Harris administration decided that the United States should run for re-election to the UN Human Rights Council to ensure that body focuses on shining a spotlight on the world's worst human rights violators.

The Geneva-based organizations are critical to U.S. efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthen global health security, and support effective and efficient provision of humanitarian assistance in crisis and conflict situations.

The World Health Organization is a central pillar of the global health security architecture. If confirmed, I will prioritize U.S. leadership in the efforts to strengthen the WHO through reforms that promote transparency, accountability, sustainability, cost effectiveness, and equity across the agency and its programs. I am committed to ensuring that the organization can more effectively and transparently tackle COVID-19 and future emerging global health threats in collaboration with other UN and international partners.

During my time at CARE USA, I saw firsthand the critical role the U.S. plays in leading and supporting humanitarian efforts around the globe. In Geneva, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization on Migration, the Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs, and the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent are key partners in those efforts, and, if confirmed, I will ensure robust U.S. leadership and oversight at those agencies and look to leverage U.S. contributions to drive needed reforms and ensure other countries step up.

At their best, the Geneva-based organizations are valuable partners across an array of U.S. priorities, including global health security, human rights, humanitarian assistance, technology and other standard setting efforts, climate change, intellectual property, trade, disarmament, and more. If confirmed, I will aim to re-establish U.S. relationships and leadership so that we can effectively leverage the unique multilateral platform Geneva offers to work with allies and partners, the private sector, and civil society to advance U.S. goals and pushback on PRC and others' efforts to undermine those organizations.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before this Committee today. I look forward to your questions and, if confirmed, to working with this Committee to ensure that USUN Geneva effectively meets the challenges of today's strategic landscape.