

**Prepared Statement of
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To be Representative of the United States of America to the Vienna offices of the United
Nations and
to be Representative of the United States of America to the International Atomic Energy
Agency,
with the Rank of Ambassador
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
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Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee: I am honored to appear before you today as the President's nominee to serve as the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other International Organizations in Vienna. I am grateful to President Biden and to Secretary Blinken for the confidence they have placed in me.

This is a critical moment for the United States' interests in the IAEA and the other UN offices in Vienna. Establishing confidence that Iran's nuclear activities are solely peaceful and remain so, strengthening the global nuclear architecture that promotes security of nuclear materials and facilities, ensuring the safe and secure expansion of nuclear energy and other peaceful nuclear technologies, promoting effective efforts to combat transnational crime and corruption, and supporting innovative peaceful applications of space science demand active, focused leadership and engagement by the United States to promote our national interests and advance our contributions towards shared global priorities. Indeed, none of these challenges can be adequately met by the United States acting alone – we helped create the UN system to align the interests and combine the strengths of multiple nations to address global challenges, and I firmly believe that these institutions are more necessary today than ever.

My experience inside and outside the United States Government has prepared me to play this vital role in Vienna at this critical time. I have focused on reducing nuclear, biological, and chemical threats since 1989, when I wrote my MIT masters thesis on chemical weapons destruction. From the Pentagon to the Energy Department to the White House, and – briefly – in Vienna, I have spent over 15 years designing, leading, and coordinating federal programs to reduce and eliminate nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, through bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

Mr. Chairman, it was my distinct honor to have been supported by this Committee and confirmed by the Senate in 2016 to the position for which I am now again being considered, and I served for six months in that role, leading UNVIE's talented team of Foreign Service Officers, locally engaged staff, and civil servants from around the interagency.

If I am confirmed in this position, I pledge to strengthen and broaden the partnerships with other member states and with the Vienna-based UN agencies, and further develop the coalitions that we need to achieve U.S. priorities. Key among these goals is to work to make sure

the IAEA has the mandate and the capacity to address evolving challenges and the greater demands being placed on it. The IAEA must have the technical, human, and financial resources it needs to implement global safeguards, including in critical areas such as Iran, and to be prepared to return to North Korea, should a monitoring agreement be reached there. The IAEA's Directorates of Nuclear Energy, Safety and Security, and Safeguards must work better together to guide and monitor the safe and secure expansion of next-generation nuclear energy in a way that helps address climate change without increasing nuclear risks. The IAEA's Directorates of Technical Cooperation, and Nuclear Sciences and Applications must strengthen initiatives to provide the benefits of nuclear power to all, including innovations to speed the diagnosis of pandemic health threats.

Finally, if confirmed, I will press international organizations in Vienna to continue to make progress in management reforms, transparency, and accountability. I will encourage intensified efforts toward achieving greater gender and regional diversity, especially at the senior and policy-making levels, and revitalize the International Gender Champions chapter, which I helped found during my previous appointment.

The achievement of these and other U.S. priorities will face the growing influence of Russia and China in multilateral organizations. I believe the U.S. must be even more present, active, and visible in these fora and I will strengthen the essential relationships with traditional diplomatic partners and work hard to build new connections with countries who are eager to see U.S. leadership on issues they care about.

Mr. Chairman, I am eager to return to the post I held so briefly, and optimistic about the opportunities to reengage the diplomatic and UN community, many of whom I know well. I am grateful to this Committee for its attention, and to my family, friends, and colleagues observing these proceedings on-line for their love, support, and inspiration as I contemplate a return to public service.