

Testimony of Lisa Carty
Nominee for Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations with the rank of Ambassador and Alternate Representative to the United Nations General Assembly
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
October 5, 2021

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Risch, members of the Committee: It is truly an honor to appear before you today as President Biden's nominee to become the U.S. Representative to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. I am grateful to the President, Secretary Blinken and Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield for their confidence in me. If confirmed, I will do my best to live up to their trust and to work closely with all of you on this Committee.

I would like to begin by expressing my deep appreciation to my family - to my husband, Bill, an exceptionally talented public servant, and accomplished diplomat, and to our daughters, Lizzy and Sarah, who from infancy through college, shared our Foreign Service journey and the many moves that entailed. Serving overseas, particularly at challenging posts, asks a lot of family members, and I will be forever grateful that they so readily embraced the demands of Foreign Service life. I wish that my parents, and my in-laws – each models of exemplary service - could see this moment. My father was a proud graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and a veteran of the Korean War, my mother, a public-school special education teacher, my father-in-law served in the U.S. Army for 34 years with my mother-in-law his full partner in all the sacrifices that entailed. Their example, and the love and support of my family, are a very large part of why I am here today.

I approach this new challenge with considerable humility; with an abiding commitment to public service; with faith in the power of clear-eyed diplomacy in the pursuit of American interests and human rights; with a well-grounded sense of both the possibilities and limitations of the United Nations; and with few illusions about the complicated world around us.

It is a world in which the UN has a crucial role, especially in tackling the humanitarian, development, human rights, and social issues to which I have devoted nearly four decades as a career diplomat and then as an official of the United Nations. It is a world in which a changing climate and the COVID pandemic have worsened problems of poverty, economic development, instability,

and health insecurity, especially among women and girls, and where the UN's Economic and Social Council can play a key role in boosting a global response and recovery consistent with U.S. interests. It is a world in which authoritarian rivals like China, Russia, and others seek advantage in the UN system, demanding active and energetic American diplomacy to counter them. And it is a world in which the capabilities of the United Nations matter enormously – but also require relentless U.S. insistence on transparency, accountability and reform, as well as unwavering resistance to anti-Israel bias.

My professional background provides a unique combination of skills to help the United States take on these challenges. I spent a quarter-century as a Foreign Service Officer, working extensively on humanitarian, health, gender and development issues, with field experience in Asia, Russia and the Middle East. I served as a Pearson Congressional Fellow working for Senator Nancy Kassebaum on the Africa Sub-committee and with Congressman Tony Hall on the Select Committee on Hunger. I worked for USAID on health programs in Russia; and served as the Regional Refugee Coordinator for the State Department, based in Amman, Jordan. I have decades of experience in multilateral diplomacy, and a strong sense of how to navigate the UN system shaped by ten years of work in UN entities – first with the United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS where I served as the principal UN focal point for the PEPFAR program and most recently with the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, where I worked with U.S. government counterparts and courageous and committed UN colleagues to help alleviate suffering in some of the world's worst crises.

Mr. Chairman, if confirmed, I look forward to working hard to put that background to good use in support of American interests at the United Nations. I will work hard to ensure that UN efforts across the responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies are effective, well-run, and consistent with U.S. goals. I will work hard with allies and partners at the UN to mobilize coalitions and achieve practical outcomes. And I will work hard with all of you to ensure the closest possible cooperation with Congress.

Thank you very much again, Mr. Chairman, for your consideration. This is the honor of a lifetime, and if confirmed, I will devote the full measure of my skill and experience to serve the best interests of the American people. I look forward to your questions.