

**Opening Statement of Enoch T. Ebong**  
**Nominee for Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency**  
**Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**  
**December 14, 2021**

Thank you very much. Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Risch, distinguished members of the Committee.

I am honored and grateful to appear before you as the President's nominee to serve as the Director of the U.S. Trade and Development Agency.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge my family: my sisters Inyang Ebong-Harstrup and Ima Ebong; my nephews Haakon and Magnus Harstrup; and my partner Keith Taylor. I am blessed to have their unwavering love and support.

As an immigrant from Nigeria, my presence before you is reflective of the possibilities that exist in this country. It is also reflective of the principles that my late parents, Ime and Rose Ebong, instilled in my sisters and me.

My father was a public servant who worked to shape Nigeria's economic development as a newly independent country in the 1960s.

My mother worked in the private sector and focused on human capital development, or as she put it, making sure people were equipped to both contribute and succeed.

My parents taught me the value of public service and making a difference in other people's lives. Most of all, they showed me the value of a good education and the importance of being able to put that education to good use. That is why they encouraged me to come to America: for opportunity.

*These* are the values that drew me to this country, and *these* are the values that I have exhibited throughout my life and career. If confirmed, these are the values that I will bring to USTDA.

USTDA is a foreign assistance agency with a mandate to support U.S. jobs – that makes it truly unique: USTDA is the *only* U.S. government agency that focuses *exclusively* on project preparation, with the *express* goal of positioning U.S. companies to meet the infrastructure needs of our overseas partners.

USTDA has excellent results. Currently, the agency generates \$117 in U.S. exports for every program dollar spent. USTDA has supported more than \$76 billion in U.S. exports since its founding in 1992; this includes small business exports from 370 communities across the United States.

I am proud of my role supporting USTDA and these results. After completing law school at the University of Michigan, I worked at an international law firm, with a focus on business and finance. This prepared me to join USTDA in 2004, as the attorney-advisor for the Africa team.

As a career civil servant, I rose through the ranks of the agency, serving as General Counsel and then Deputy Director & Chief Operating Officer. I also served briefly as the agency's Acting Director.

I am personally and professionally committed to USTDA. I am proud of my association with its highly talented and motivated staff that has driven the agency's incredible results. They have made USTDA *the* most innovative and effective U.S. government agency. In fact, USTDA was recognized as one of the best places to work for three consecutive years during my tenure as Deputy Director.

If confirmed, I will bring my deep understanding of USTDA's programs, policies, operations and talent. I will bring my ability to build, manage and lead. And I will bring the values that my parents have taught me.

My vision for USTDA is one of shared prosperity for our overseas partners and for the United States. If I am confirmed, USTDA will continue to work with U.S. industry and across the U.S. government to advance high-quality infrastructure overseas and support good-paying jobs at home. These efforts will include engaging *more* of America's small and diverse businesses. USTDA will also utilize its full range of tools to level the playing field for American companies facing unfair competition in emerging economies.

If I am confirmed, USTDA will remain focused on critical economic sectors including clean energy and transportation. The agency will also work toward connecting millions more people to the internet and improving patient care through stronger healthcare infrastructure in emerging economies.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with you, your staffs, and the Administration to advance USTDA's mission. I believe that I have the knowledge, experience, and commitment to lead USTDA, to make a difference at home and abroad, and to build global partnerships that will be good for all of us.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to appear before you. I look forward to your questions.

Thank you.

###