

**NOMINATIONS OF THE 113TH
CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION**

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
UNITED STATES SENATE**

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

—
MAY 7 THROUGH DECEMBER 17, 2013
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Printed for the use of the Committee on Foreign Relations



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**NOMINATION HEARING OF DWIGHT BUSH,
SR., MARK CHILDRESS, THOMAS DAUGHTON,
MATTHEW HARRINGTON, EUNICE REDDICK,
JOHN HOOVER, AND MICHAEL HOZA**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2013

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

Dwight L. Bush, Sr., of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco
Mark Bradkey Childress, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania
Thomas F. Daughton, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to Namibia
Matthew Harrington, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Lesotho
Hon. Eunice S. Reddick, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to Niger
John Hoover, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to Sierra Leone
Michael S. Hoza, of Washington, to be Ambassador to Cameroon

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:06 a.m., in room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Christopher A. Coons presiding.

Present: Senators Coons, Kaine, Murphy, Markey, and Flake.
Also Present: Senator Durbin.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. CHRISTOPHER A. COONS,
U.S. SENATOR FROM DELAWARE**

Senator COONS. I am pleased to call to order this hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on African Affairs as we consider the following nominations: Dwight Bush to be Ambassador to Morocco; Mark Bradley Childress to be Ambassador to Tanzania; Thomas Daughton to be Ambassador to Namibia; Matthew Harrington to be Ambassador to Lesotho; Eunice Reddick to be Ambassador to Niger; John Hoover to be Ambassador to Sierra Leone; and Michael Hoza to be Ambassador to Cameroon.

As I have discussed with our nominees, before we begin more formally I would like to just say a few words about the horrific attack in Nairobi in Kenya. My deepest condolences go out to the families of those injured or killed in this senseless violence. My prayers are with those who have been lost with the security forces and the people of Kenya and with all who have been touched by this event.

The United States stands firmly with the people of Kenya as they move forward from this unconscionable act of terror and we will continue to assist the Kenyan Government in responding to this attack and ensuring that those who are responsible are brought to justice. It is my hope that this incident will remind all of us of the value of our alliances around the world and of those who are willing to stand with us and to take actions and take risks in the global effort against terrorism.

I welcome each of the nominees and their family members who are here to support them today, and I welcome my colleague and subcommittee ranking member, Senator Flake, and I expect we may see some other members of the committee this morning.

Today we consider nominees for seven different diplomatic assignments, and I will briefly touch on the relevant countries. Cameroon has a strong record of stability, but it has come at the cost of democracy and opportunity for its citizens that presents some challenges for long-term prospects.

Namibia has achieved upper income status, but works through the lingering legacy of apartheid.

Sierra Leone has made very significant strides since emerging from a brutal civil war, but remains challenged by poverty.

Tanzania has shown a strong commitment to democracy and benefits from a very wide array of U.S. assistance, but some weak institutions. Poverty and corruption remain persistent.

Lesotho appears to have successfully embraced democracy after a tumultuous transition, an AGOA success story, especially in the textile sector, but that success has bypassed many Basotho and more than a third of the Lesotho's children suffer from malnutrition.

Niger has restored constitutional rule following the 2010 coup and its leadership has sought to include diverse voices, but it is vulnerable to a wide range of threats, both domestic and international.

Morocco is a steady ally and has signed a free trade agreement with the United States, but the unresolved status of western Sahara continues to present some governance and human rights challenges.

As all my colleagues on the committee know, I am convinced the United States has to deepen and diversify our engagement with the leaders and people of Africa. Some of these countries we are going to discuss today are more often seen through the lens of two-dimensional cartoons or cliches, both positive and negative. But countries are not simple cliches. Each deserves our attention, support, and respect as we work to advance economic development, security and democracy both for their benefit and for the benefit of the United States and our interests. Investing in the success of African countries is good in my view for both Africans and Americans.

The nominees before us today bring a wealth of foreign policy and public service experience and I am interested in hearing your views about how we can build these partnerships.

Dwight Bush has excelled in the world of business and finance and serves on the board of many nonprofits, including the GAVI Alliance, which is reaching millions with lifesaving vaccines and im-

munizations, and I am confident he will apply his expertise to managing U.S. bilateral relations.

Mark Childress brings strong insights on law, health, labor, agriculture, minority rights, all important elements of Tanzania's development and our enduring bilateral relationship.

Thomas Daughton has most recently served as DCM in Beirut, during which he was immersed in sensitive security and development issues. They are important qualifications for any chief of mission charged with protecting Americans abroad, but I imagine he is also looking forward to the opportunity to handle the more diverse set of issues Namibia will present.

Matthew Harrington has demonstrated a deep commitment to Africa from his service as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mauritania to serving as DCM in Windhoek and Lome and assignments focused on Sudan, Zimbabwe, and Ghana, and is eminently qualified to represent our interests in Lesotho.

Ambassador Eunice Reddick brings a deep understanding of the difficult and complex challenges and threats facing Niger and U.S. policy in the Sahel. Having served most recently as Director of the Office of West African Affairs, her experience with the Sahel and previous service as Ambassador in Gabon make her an excellent choice to lead our mission in Niamey.

John Hoover has served around the globe from Paris to Beijing to Nairobi, covering consular, economic, security, political affairs. These skills will serve him well in the complex and dynamic environment of Sierra Leone as they seek to move sustainably decisively past a history of conflict.

Michael Hoza has served as a management counselor in Nairobi and Moscow, two of our largest and most complex embassies in the world, and as DCM in smaller and more remote posts, such as in Mbabane, Swaziland. In Yaounde he will have the opportunity to apply these management skills and his African experience in pursuit of our interests.

With that broad overview of our remarkably qualified nominees, I would like to turn to Senator Flake for his opening statement.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you all. I enjoyed meeting with all of you in my office earlier last week and the week before, and I am convinced that all of you have a great background to serve the Nation in the capacity that you have been chosen for. I am envious, especially of Mr. Daughton going back to Namibia, where I spent a good deal of time. From Arizona to Namibia, that seems to be a good connection here. But I really appreciate your willing to make the sacrifice and for your families as well.

As I mentioned with the last group of African Ambassadors, when I spent time over there it was a little different, before the Internet age. It was a little tougher to keep contact with family here. You have it easier in that sense. But you face difficult challenges, as we are reminded of just in the last couple of days, particularly in Kenya.

And I want to, along with the chairman, I want to express my condolences to those who are affected. Hopefully, we will be able to help our allies move away from this points up the fact that we live in a dangerous world, and it points to the importance of your

role here in representing this great country. So I appreciate your willingness to serve in this capacity and look forward to your testimony here.

Thanks.

Senator COONS. Thank you.

We will be joined by Senator Durbin in a few minutes. But I think we should simply proceed, if we could, for the moment. I would like to invite Mr. Bush, Mr. Childress, Mr. Daughton, and Mr. Harrington, in order if you would, to make your introductory statements.

In particular, I would like to encourage you to recognize your families and your coworkers or colleagues who might be here to support you today. We are all of us on the committee conscious of the fact that your service, your willingness to go and represent us overseas, your service—many of you have dedicated long periods of time to public life—is possible really only because of the support and encouragement of your family and colleagues. So please do take a moment to recognize them.

Mr. Bush.

STATEMENT OF DWIGHT L. BUSH, SR., OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

Mr. BUSH. Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Flake, and distinguished members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, I thank you for the privilege to appear before you today. I am deeply honored to be nominated to serve as Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco by President Obama and Secretary Kerry.

I sit before you today as a testament to the remarkable promise and beauty of our great country. I am a child of Charlie and Jessie Bush, who committed their entire lives to making sure that their children could fully participate in the American dream. I grew up in East St. Louis, IL, a town of rich history whose boom and bust cycles reflect both the hope and tragedy of industrial America.

My father passed away several years ago and I know that he is at peace today and happy with his progeny. My mother sits here behind me, and I must acknowledge and thank her for the sacrifices that I know she and my dad made for my siblings and me.

I also must thank my dear wife, Antoinette Cook Bush, for her love and steadfast support of me; and to Dwight Junior and Jacqueline, who bring me joy endlessly every single day.

The extensive friends and families behind me are here because they know that I depend on them daily for support and sustenance.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that my life experiences to date have prepared me for the job at hand. After graduating from Cornell University, I have had a 35-year career characterized by increasing responsibility and broad leadership experiences. I have been a banker and an entrepreneur and I have engaged in corporate education and philanthropic governance.

One of the things I am most proud of is my 10-year involvement in the GAVI Alliance, a public-private partnership that vaccinates over 70 million children a year in the poorest countries throughout the world. Through GAVI, I have become keenly aware of the nuances of diplomatic engagement.

Through my experiences I have developed a management style that encourages consensus-building, teamwork, and excellence. If confirmed, I look forward to working with our outstanding Career Foreign Service colleagues in Morocco.

Mr. Chairman, no country has been a friend of the United States longer than Morocco. They were the first country to recognize us in 1777. However, we should not be satisfied with the longevity of our relationship. Rather, we should want a relationship that is dynamic, growing, and reflective of the times.

We must also acknowledge the challenges that face the Maghreb region today. We have bilateral priorities to advance, American interests to maintain, and a United States workforce in Morocco to protect. If confirmed, protecting Americans and American interests in Morocco will be my highest priority.

Our longstanding relationship with Morocco is broad. They are a major non-NATO ally. We also have a thriving free trade agreement with Morocco and a nearly \$700 million Millennium Challenge Corporation compact that went into effect in 2008. When the MCC compact ends at the end of this month, Morocco will commit to completing the programs that we helped them to start.

Exports to Morocco have increased dramatically since the FTA went into effect. The expansion of Morocco's deepwater Tangier Med port positions Morocco to become a bridge for American exports to Europe, the Middle East, and beyond. Expanding trade not just in Morocco but throughout the Maghreb region could lead to greater levels of regional integration and greater cooperation on issues like trafficking, illegal migration, and violent extremism.

Morocco is on a positive path, but it faces significant challenges. Morocco's youth face high levels of unemployment and they could be susceptible to violent extremist ideologies. While the Moroccan Government has aggressively and successfully pursued terrorist cells over the years, the specter of transnational terrorism remains. Accordingly, it is all the more important for Morocco to continue investing in education, job creation, and ensuring that all Moroccans feel that they are equal stakeholders in their country.

Morocco's continued development and stability depend on political, economic, and social reforms that King Mohammed VI championed for the last 15 years that he has been in power.

The 2011 constitutional amendments and reforms strengthened the role of the Parliament and the elected government. They enhanced Parliament's ability to pass laws on a wide range of issues and shifted some political prerogatives from the King to the Parliament.

Separately, our good friends at USAID engage in activities that will enhance the lives and potential for Moroccans in the future.

If confirmed, I will work with the Government of Morocco and our colleagues across various U.S. agencies to continue to make progress on principles of good governance.

In addition to political and economic advancement, the promotion of human rights is also important. Human rights are a core value of the United States and if confirmed human rights will figure prominently in my engagement with Morocco.

Finally, there has been progress made in the Western Sahara and if I am confirmed I will fully support the efforts of the U.N.

Secretary's personal envoy to develop with Morocco and other parties in the region a just, lasting, and political solution for the western Sahara.

Mr. Chairman, I am truly humbled today and if confirmed I will do all that I can to further deepen our relationships with Morocco. Mr. Chairman, I thank you and the members of the committee for this opportunity to address you and I am available for any questions that you may have.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Bush follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DWIGHT L. BUSH, SR.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Flake, and distinguished members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, I thank you for the privilege to appear before you today. I also want to specifically thank Senator Durbin for his kind words in support of my nomination. I am deeply appreciative for the trust and confidence placed in me by President Obama and Secretary Kerry for nominating me to be the Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco.

I sit before you today as a testament to the remarkable promise and beauty of our great country. I am the fourth of five children raised by Charlie and Jessie Bush, two parents who committed their entire lives to only one mission: to make sure that their children could fully participate in the American dream. I grew up in East St. Louis, IL, a town of rich history whose boom and bust cycles reflect both the hope and tragedy of industrial America. I consider myself fortunate to have grown up with the working class families, the great teachers, and the mentors that helped me along the way.

My father passed away several years ago, and I know that he is at peace today and happy with his progeny. My mother sits here behind me, and I must acknowledge and thank her for the sacrifices that I know she and my dad made for my siblings and me. I must also thank my dear wife, Antoinette Cook Bush, for her love and steadfast support of me, and our children, Dwight Bush, Jr., and Jacqueline Bush, who bring me endless joy every day. The rather extensive family and friends gathered are here today because they know that I depend on them daily for sustenance and support.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that my life experience to date has uniquely prepared me for the job at hand. After graduating from Cornell University I have had a nearly 35-year career characterized by increasing responsibility and broad leadership experiences in the areas of corporate management and investing, as well as corporate, education, and philanthropic governance. Among other things, at The Chase Manhattan Bank I raised capital for Fortune 500 companies. As an entrepreneur, I have started and served as the Chief Executive Officer of a bank. I have been a member of the Executive Committee of Cornell University, and I have been on the boards of directors of several public and private companies, and not for profit organizations. For the last 10 years I have been a member of the board of trustees of the GAVI Alliance, a public-private partnership that vaccinates over 70 million children a year in the poorest countries throughout the world. Through my involvement with GAVI I have interacted with leaders of many developing countries, and I have become keenly aware of the nuances of diplomatic engagement. I am a student of history, and I have previously visited Morocco and several other Saharan countries as well as over other 40 countries, most in the developing world. These experiences have helped me to develop a broad set of leadership skills, including the ability to set goals, establish an esprit de corps, and motivate others to perform at high levels. I look forward to working with our outstanding career Foreign Service officers, and if I am confirmed by this committee, I will bring the fullness of my experiences together in my representation of our country in the Kingdom of Morocco.

Mr. Chairman, no country has been a friend of the United States of America longer than Morocco. It was the first nation to recognize our country back in 1777. However, we should not be satisfied with simply having a friendship that is longstanding. We should want a relationship that is dynamic, growing, and reflective of the times. As we look ahead, we must also acknowledge the challenges that face the Maghreb region today. We have bilateral priorities to advance, American interests to maintain, and a U.S. workforce in Morocco to protect. If confirmed, protecting Americans and American interests in Morocco will be my highest priority.

Our longstanding relationship has produced several milestones that demonstrate the depth and breadth of our close relationship. Morocco is a major non-NATO ally. We also have a thriving Free Trade Agreement with Morocco, and a \$697.5 million

Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Compact that entered into force in 2008. When that MCC Compact ends this month, Morocco will commit its own resources to complete MCC programs.

Morocco is on a positive path, but it faces significant challenges. Morocco's youth face high levels of unemployment and they could be susceptible to violent extremist ideologies. While the Moroccan Government has been successful in finding, arresting, and prosecuting terrorist cells over the years, the specter of transnational terrorism has grown significantly in the region. These facts make it all the more important for Morocco to continue to address the problems that cause young people to lose faith in their system and communities. There needs to be a heightened focus on education and employment opportunities, and creating an environment in which Moroccans feel they are real stakeholders in their government and their society.

Morocco's continued development and stability depend on the political, economic, and social reforms that King Mohammed VI has championed since he assumed power nearly 15 years ago. In early 2011, Morocco introduced a reform program that included a new constitution and parliamentary elections that were widely found to be free and fair. The 2011 constitution strengthened the role of the Parliament and the elected government, enhanced its ability to pass laws on a wide range of issues, and shifted some political prerogatives from the King to Parliament. Additionally, the work of USAID will expand opportunities for millions of Moroccans to lift themselves out of poverty and play productive roles in Morocco's future. If confirmed I will work closely with my colleagues across various agencies and with the Government of Morocco to ensure we continue to make progress on principles of good governance.

On the economic front, the U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement has increased exports of American products to Morocco, by 369 percent. U.S. investment in Morocco has also risen sharply in recent years. With the expansion of Morocco's deep-water Tangier-Med port, Morocco may be well positioned to become a bridge for American exports to Europe, the Middle East, and sub-Saharan Africa. These steps should increase access to Moroccan markets for U.S. exports and investment. If confirmed, I will commit myself to working to increase commerce with this key ally.

While political and economic reforms are extremely important, the promotion and protection of human rights is also important. Human rights are a core value of the United States and will certainly figure prominently in my engagement with Morocco. If confirmed, I will make the promotion and protection of human rights a high priority.

The Moroccan Government also understands that its future depends on the development of the region. Increasing trade among the countries of the Maghreb could lead to greater levels of economic development than they can achieve alone. Improving cooperation among these neighboring countries can help them all better cope with illegal migration, trafficking, and violent extremism. However, one of the major impediments to improved cooperation among North African countries has been the issue of western Sahara. If I am confirmed as Ambassador to Morocco, I will fully support the efforts of the U.N. Secretary General's Personal Envoy to develop with Morocco and other parties in the region a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution.

If confirmed, my priorities will be to promote partnership, expand U.S. exports, promote human rights, counter violent extremism, reinforce military cooperation and peacekeeping, and of course, protect Americans living in Morocco.

Mr. Chairman, I want to express how humbled I am to be nominated to this great country. If confirmed, I will do all that I can to further deepen our relations with Morocco, our strategic ally, and a key partner in the Maghreb.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you and members of the committee for this opportunity to address you. I welcome any questions that you may have.

Senator COONS. Thank you very much, Mr. Bush.
Mr. Childress.

**STATEMENT OF MARK BRADLEY CHILDRESS, OF VIRGINIA,
NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED REPUBLIC
OF TANZANIA**

Mr. CHILDRESS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Flake, members of the committee, it's an honor to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to be the Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania and the East African

Community. I am humbled by the trust that President Obama and Secretary Kerry have placed in me and, if confirmed, I look forward to further strengthening our relationship with Tanzania and broadening our engagement with the EAC.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge my wife, Kate, and note with some chagrin that you were much more eloquent in thanking her, Mr. Chairman, than I was going to be. So I think we will just put your comments in the record and move on.

I lived and worked in Africa on several occasions as far back as the 1980s, and I have returned as often as possible. Should I be confirmed, I believe my years of public service in both the executive and legislative branches, my strong legal background, and my previous work overseas in Africa and in Australia assisting development organizations provide me with the experience and the tools necessary to carry out this important assignment.

Mr. Chairman, we are at an important juncture in our relationship with Tanzania. Tanzania's Government, under the leadership of President Kikwete, has embarked upon an ambitious economic and political reform agenda. This agenda presents an opportunity for the United States to move toward what President Obama has described as a new model for Africa that builds capacity in countries like Tanzania based not just on aid and assistance, but on trade and partnership.

In agriculture, in energy, and in many other areas, the best way for Tanzania to achieve its own ambitious goals is to use public resources to leverage private sector investments.

Tanzania's development also provides business opportunities for both American and Tanzanian companies to expand trade between Tanzania, the EAC, and the United States. If confirmed, I stand ready to promote U.S. firms and I will work to ensure a level playing field for U.S. interests.

Tanzania has significant natural gas reserves and it is important that the United States contribute to its efforts to develop these resources as rapidly and responsibly as possible. President Kikwete has committed to increased accountability and regulatory reform in the energy and power sectors, and the United States supports these reforms because they are essential for an attractive environment for private investment.

In addition, tourism provides approximately 14 percent of the gross domestic product and an estimated \$1.7 billion in revenue. Unfortunately, poaching and wildlife trafficking threaten not only this important contribution to the Tanzanian economy, but a unique, natural legacy. If confirmed, I am personally committed to assisting Tanzania in combating these threats.

Our strategic objectives in Tanzania include promoting democratic institutions, supporting Tanzania's economic growth and private sector development, working with Tanzania to tackle HIV-AIDS, malaria, and other health challenges, promoting regional stability, including Tanzania's peacekeeping efforts, and cooperating on security threats such as terrorism, drug trafficking, and piracy. As the chairman noted, the events in Nairobi are a stark reminder of the importance of keeping our focus on counterterrorism.

Today the partnership with Tanzania is as strong as ever and President Obama's recent trip highlighted the successes already achieved and the challenges that remain. Tanzania is one of only four Partnership for Growth countries and it has committed to jointly addressing constraints to broad-based economic development. Tanzania receives assistance under almost every Presidential initiative, in addition to the recently announced Power Africa and Trade Africa. These programs can produce tangible and lasting results.

For example, since the inception of PEPFAR the American people have provided treatment to more than 405,000 Tanzanians. The President's Malaria Initiative has been an important factor in helping Tanzania to virtually eliminate malaria from Zanzibar. And our partnership with Tanzania under Feed the Future has helped 14,000 farmers and we have seen rice yields in that program increase by 50 percent since it started.

Tanzania has recently successfully completed its first Millennium Challenge Compact that was the largest awarded to date, almost \$700 million, a little bit larger than Morocco, which focused on building new roads and increasing access to water and electricity. In order to ensure successful completion of these projects, Tanzania has made a significant contribution of its own, which is really important, I think.

Key to many of these successes is a transparent democratic society that protects rights and promotes tolerance.

If confirmed, I will utilize the Young African Leaders Initiative to engage with Tanzania's youth. This is essential as nearly 45 percent of the population of Tanzania is under the age of 15. I will also work with the Government of Tanzania to continue to promote human rights and the rule of law across all sectors.

Looking ahead, Tanzania has its next election in 2015 and is currently in the process of constitutional reform that will further define individual rights and which will ultimately determine the structure of the union between Zanzibar and the mainland. If confirmed, I will monitor these developments closely and promote a democratic and peaceful process.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you and the committee for considering my nomination and look forward to answering any questions that you have.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Childress follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF MARK B. CHILDRESS

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Flake, and members of the committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to be Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania and the East African Community (EAC). I am humbled by the trust and confidence that President Obama and Secretary Kerry have placed in me; and if confirmed, I look forward to further strengthening our relationship with Tanzania and broadening our engagement with the EAC.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge my wife, Kate, a business executive, who also has worked in the government and nonprofit sectors, and whom I wish to thank for her support.

I lived and worked in Africa on several occasions as far back as the 1980s, and I have returned as often as possible. Should I be confirmed, I believe my years of public service, in both the executive and legislative branches, my strong legal background, and my previous work overseas in Africa and in Australia assisting development and nonprofit organizations, provide me with the experience and tools necessary to carry out this important assignment.

Mr. Chairman, I come before this committee at an important juncture in our relationship with Tanzania. Tanzania's Government, under the leadership of President Kikwete, has embarked upon an ambitious economic and political reform agenda. This agenda, a driving force for Tanzania's development, presents an opportunity for the United States to move toward what President Obama has described as a new model for Africa that builds capacity in countries like Tanzania, based not just on aid and assistance, but on trade and partnership. In agriculture, energy, and many other areas, the best way for Tanzania to achieve its own ambitious goals is to use public resources to leverage private sector investments.

Tanzania's development also provides business opportunities for both American and Tanzanian companies, and the recently announced Trade Africa is just one of the platforms that can expand trade between Tanzania, the EAC, and the United States. If confirmed, I stand ready to promote U.S. firms, and will work to ensure a level playing field for U.S. interests.

Tanzania has significant natural gas reserves, and it is important that the United States support its efforts to develop these resources as rapidly and responsibly as possible. President Kikwete has committed to increased accountability and regulatory reform in the energy and power sectors, and the United States supports these reforms because they create an attractive environment for private investment.

In addition, tourism provides approximately 14 percent of the gross domestic product and an estimated \$1.7 billion in revenue. Unfortunately, poaching and wildlife trafficking threaten not only this important contribution to the Tanzanian economy, but a unique, natural legacy. If confirmed, I am personally committed to assisting Tanzania in combating these threats.

Our strategic objectives in Tanzania include promoting democratic institutions; supporting Tanzania's economic growth and private sector development; working with Tanzania to tackle HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other health challenges; helping Tanzania improve its schools, promoting regional stability, including Tanzania's peacekeeping efforts throughout the region, and cooperating on security threats such as terrorism, drug trafficking, and piracy.

Today, the partnership with Tanzania is as strong as ever, and President Obama's recent trip highlighted the successes already achieved and the opportunities and challenges that remain. Tanzania is one of four Partnership for Growth countries because of its demonstrated commitment to democratic governance and economic freedom, and receives assistance under almost every Presidential initiative, including: Feed the Future, Global Climate Change, and the Global Health Initiative which includes the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the President's Malaria Initiative, in addition to the recently announced Power Africa and Trade Africa. These programs can produce tangible and lasting results. For example, since the inception of PEPFAR the American people have provided treatment to more than 405,000 Tanzanians and placed more than 1.2 million into care and support programs. Tanzania is close to eliminating malaria from Zanzibar. On the mainland, where the mortality rate in children under 5 years has been reduced by half, much of this progress is thought to be a result of gradually scaled-up malaria control efforts. Our partnership with Tanzania under Feed the Future has helped 14,000 farmers apply improved technologies and management practices, contributing to a rice yield increase of 50 percent since the program started. In addition, nutrition programs have reached over 96,000 children.

Tanzania has successfully completed its first Millennium Challenge Compact, the largest awarded to date, which focused on building new roads, and increasing access to water and electricity. In order to ensure successful completion of all the projects, Tanzania made a significant contribution of its own financial support. Tanzania was found eligible for a second compact, and is developing its new project proposals.

Key to many of these successes is a transparent, democratic society that protects rights and promotes tolerance. If confirmed, I will actively engage with Tanzania's youth, and support their efforts to advance democratic values. This is essential, as nearly 45 percent of the population is under age 15. I will utilize the Young African Leaders Initiative and other exchanges to build relationships that will continue into the future. I also will work with the Government of Tanzania to continue to promote human rights and the rule of law across all sectors. And, I will seek out opportunities to support Tanzania's traditions of religious and ethnic tolerance, which have come under strain over the past several months.

Looking ahead, Tanzania has its next election in 2015, and is currently in the process of constitutional reform that will further define individual rights, and which will ultimately determine the structure of the union between Zanzibar and the mainland. It is critical that Tanzania's constitutional process continues to be transparent and includes consultations with civil society. If confirmed, I will ensure that

we monitor these developments closely and promote a democratic and peaceful process.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you and the committee for considering my nomination, and look forward to answering any questions that you may have.

Senator COONS. Thank you very much, Mr. Childress.
Mr. Daughton.

**STATEMENT OF THOMAS F. DAUGHTON, OF ARIZONA,
NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO NAMIBIA**

Mr. DAUGHTON. Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Flake, members of the committee, it is a great honor and privilege for me to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to be the Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia. I appreciate the confidence that the President and Secretary Kerry have shown in putting my name forward for your consideration. If confirmed, I look forward to working with this committee and the Congress to advance United States interests in Namibia.

I have spent a third of my 25 years in the Foreign Service working on the African Continent, including as Chargé d'Affaires in Gabon more than 10 years ago. If confirmed, I very much look forward to returning to Africa. In doing so, I will have the invaluable support of my wife of 7 weeks, Melinda Burrell, who I am delighted to have with me here today along with her father, Steve.

U.S. relations with Namibia are strong and our two countries share a firm commitment to democratic values. Since its independence in 1990, Namibia has stood as an example of stability and good governance in southern Africa. Namibia has held several democratic elections in its relatively short history and will conduct elections for a new President next year.

One of the goals of the United States in Namibia is to see the young country's democratic institutions continue to become stronger. If confirmed, I will work with the Namibian Government and civil society toward that goal.

The United States and Namibia also share an interest in increasing economic growth and prosperity. For more than 20 years, Namibia has worked hard to create jobs, attract foreign investment, and seek advice and assistance to diversify its economy. A \$305 million Millennium Challenge Corporation compact with Namibia that will come to a close next year has targeted tourism and agriculture as sectors where growth can help decrease poverty and has provided assistance to the education system in order to give more Namibians the skills employers need to be competitive in the regional economy.

Namibia has, however, one of the highest levels of income inequality in the world and education can help narrow that divide.

If I am confirmed, one of my priorities will be to ensure that the implementation of the final phase of our MCC compact is effective and has a lasting beneficial impact in Namibia.

Namibia also has a 13-percent HIV-AIDS prevalence rate among adults and one of the highest tuberculosis case rates in the world. Statistics from recent years reflect significant progress in tackling both diseases and the United States continues to work actively with Namibia to combat them. An important focus of the United States effort is helping the Namibian Government to strengthen its

health system to sustain treatment and prevention of these devastating diseases as we work together to achieve an AIDS-free generation.

Namibia has been at the forefront of PEPFAR's efforts to move its programs to a more sustainable response. The Namibian Government today funds more than half of the HIV-AIDS response and has taken financial and supervisory responsibility for doctors, nurses, and pharmacists previously supported by PEPFAR and the Global Fund.

Namibia stands as a model in the region of a host country-led HIV-AIDS response and a transitioning PEPFAR Program. If confirmed, I will do my utmost to make sure that our taxpayers' resources continue to be used effectively in this joint effort.

There is also considerable potential for growth in trade between Namibia and the United States. The Namibian Government has ambitious plans for expansion in the electricity generation and transportation sectors, plans that should create significant opportunities for American companies to sell their products. Trade goes both ways, of course, and more exports from Namibia will help the Namibian economy grow, thus increasing demand for goods and services.

If confirmed, I look forward to promoting the efforts of United States companies to do business with Namibia and making available the tools we can offer for Namibians to grow their own economy.

Namibia has the potential to emerge as a strong leader in southern Africa. I welcome the opportunity to promote stronger diplomatic ties between our two nations and better mutual understanding among our peoples. If confirmed, I look forward to leading a team committed to advancing our interests and to supporting one of Africa's youngest nations as it tackles the challenges of development.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Flake, members of the committee, thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Daughton follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THOMAS F. DAUGHTON

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Flake, and members of the committee, it is a great honor and privilege to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to be the Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia. I appreciate the confidence that the President and Secretary Kerry have shown in putting my name forward for your consideration. If confirmed, I look forward to working with this committee and the Congress to advance U.S. interests in Namibia.

I have spent a third of my 25 years in the Foreign Service working on the African Continent, including as Chargé d'Affaires in Gabon in the early 2000s. Recent years have taken me elsewhere in the world, but if confirmed, I very much look forward to getting back to Africa. In doing so, I will have the invaluable support of my wife, Melinda Burrell, who I am delighted to have here with me today.

U.S. relations with Namibia are strong, and our two countries share a firm commitment to democratic values. Since its independence in 1990, Namibia has stood as an example of stability and good governance in southern Africa. Namibia has held several democratic elections in its relatively short history, and will conduct elections for a new President next year. One of the goals of the United States in Namibia is to see the country's young democratic institutions continue to become stronger. If confirmed, I will work with the Namibian Government and civil society toward that goal.

The United States and Namibia also share an interest in increasing economic growth and prosperity. For more than 20 years, Namibia has worked hard to create jobs, attract foreign investment, and welcome advice and assistance as it works to diversify its economy. A \$305 million Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact (MCC) with Namibia that will come to a close next year has targeted tourism and agriculture as sectors where growth can help decrease poverty, and has provided assistance to the education system in order to give more Namibians the skills employers need to be competitive in the regional economy. Namibia has one of the highest levels of income inequality in the world, and education can help narrow that divide. In its first 4 years, the MCC compact has helped Namibia benefit from a growing tourism industry, increase and improve its livestock production, and improve its national education system. If I am confirmed, one of my priorities will be to ensure that the implementation of the final phase of our MCC compact is effective and has a lasting beneficial impact in Namibia.

Namibia has a 13-percent HIV/AIDS prevalence rate among adults and one of the highest tuberculosis case rates in the world. Statistics from recent years reflect significant progress in tackling both of these interrelated diseases, and the United States continues to work actively with Namibia to combat them. Namibia received nearly \$90 million in PEPFAR funds in FY 2012 and is included in the Global Health Initiative. An important focus of the United States effort is helping the Namibian Government to strengthen its health system to sustain treatment and prevention of these devastating diseases as we work together to achieve an AIDS-free generation. Namibia has been at the forefront of PEPFAR's efforts to move its programs to a more sustainable response. Specifically, since 2004, the Namibian Government, in collaboration with PEPFAR, has achieved major success in the areas of preventing mother-to-child transmission, treatment coverage (80 percent), human resources for health, and health financing. The Namibian Government today funds over half of the HIV/AIDS response and has taken financial and supervisory responsibility for doctors, nurses, and pharmacists previously supported by PEPFAR and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Namibia stands as one of the models in the region of a host country-led HIV/AIDS response and a transitioning PEPFAR Program. If confirmed, I will do my utmost to make sure that our taxpayers' resources continue to be used effectively in this effort.

There is considerable potential for growth in trade between Namibia and the United States. The Namibian Government has ambitious plans to increase electricity generation and transmission capacity throughout the country. It also plans to expand the port at Walvis Bay and develop a transportation corridor to connect the port with neighboring countries. These efforts should provide significant opportunities for American companies to sell their products. Trade goes both ways. More exports from Namibia will help the Namibian economy grow, thus increasing demand for goods and services. If confirmed, I look forward to promoting the efforts of U.S. companies to do business with Namibia and making available the tools we can offer for Namibians to grow their economy.

Namibia has the potential to emerge as a strong leader in southern Africa. I welcome the opportunity to promote stronger diplomatic ties between our two nations and better mutual understanding among our peoples. I look forward to leading a team committed to advancing our interests and to supporting one of Africa's youngest nations as it tackles the challenges of development.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Flake, and members of the committee, thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Senator COONS. Thank you, Mr. Daughton.
Mr. Harrington.

**STATEMENT OF MATTHEW T. HARRINGTON, OF VIRGINIA,
NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO LESOTHO**

Mr. HARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Flake, members of the committee, I am honored to be considered for the position of Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho. I am grateful for the confidence President Obama and Secretary Kerry have shown in me by this nomination. If confirmed, I look forward to working with this committee and the Congress in advancing United States interests and supporting Lesotho in its efforts to strengthen demo-

cratic institutions, reverse the HIV–AIDS pandemic, and achieve sustainable broad-based economic growth.

At the outset, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my family for their support during this process. In particular, I would like to recognize my father, Tracy Harrington, who traveled from Georgia to be with me today. My mom and dad took me to Tanzania at the age of 1 and Zambia was I was 11. Those experiences instilled in me a respect and fascination for other cultures and drew me to a career in the Foreign Service.

I also appreciate the support of a number of good friends and colleagues who are here today.

I am excited by the opportunity to return to the continent where I have spent much of my life, as a child, as a Peace Corps Volunteer, and as a Foreign Service officer. If confirmed, I will draw on my knowledge of the region as well as the opportunities I have had to lead interagency teams, oversee large PEPFAR Programs and MCC Compacts, and design programs to encourage effective and accountable governance. Those experiences will enhance my effectiveness in working with the government and people of Lesotho to shape what is in our mutual interests—a country that is stable, healthy, and prosperous.

A democratic Lesotho is consistent with American interests and contributes to regional stability. The United States remains a strong supporter of Lesotho's efforts to consolidate the gains achieved since the country's embrace of democratic governance in the 1990s. The parliamentary elections of 2012 produced the country's first peaceful transfer of power between political parties since independence and the establishment of its first coalition government.

If confirmed, I will work in partnership with the Government of Lesotho to continue to strengthen democratic institutions and help ensure that the progress made so far is sustained.

One of Lesotho's biggest challenges is an HIV–AIDS adult prevalence rate of 23.6 percent, one of the world's highest. Lesotho has demonstrated a strong commitment to fighting this scourge, which has devastated the country's social and economic fabric. The government covers half the cost of the total HIV–AIDS response, while most external support comes from PEPFAR and the Global Fund. As a result, the country has made substantial progress. Sixty percent of adults who require treatment now receive antiretroviral therapy, or ART, while more than half of HIV-positive women, pregnant women, receive ART to prevent transmission of HIV to their children.

These interventions, along with the recently launched medical circumcision campaign, are critical in reducing the incidence of new infections. If confirmed, I will focus on promoting the continued expansion of these key elements of the HIV–AIDS response.

As the largest bilateral donor to Lesotho, the United States plays a pivotal role in helping promote economic development in a country whose government is strongly committed to improving the lives of its citizens. This month marked the end of the 5-year implementation period for Lesotho's \$362.5 million MCC compact. Through this partnership, Lesotho is realizing significant improvements to

its water and sanitation systems, health care infrastructure, and investment climate.

As a sign of its substantial commitment, the Government of Lesotho pledged \$150 million of its own funds to cover additional costs associated with compact projects.

If confirmed, I will work with the Government of Lesotho to ensure that MCC investments are sustained and benefit as many Basotho as possible.

Finally, Lesotho is a shining example of how AGOA stimulates economic growth. AGOA has spurred a vibrant textile and apparel industry that is the nation's largest private sector employer and sub-Saharan Africa's largest exporter of garments to the United States. Lesotho is also the most improved country in Africa in the World Bank's most recent "Doing Business" report, due in part to reforms implemented under the MCC compact.

The country continues to face substantial economic challenges, however. If confirmed, I will work to encourage the Government of Lesotho to continue policy and legislative reforms necessary to promote sustainable economic growth, empower Basotho entrepreneurs, and attract foreign investment. I will also engage with the American business community to ensure U.S. companies are aware of investment opportunities in Lesotho.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I welcome any questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Harrington follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF MATTHEW T. HARRINGTON

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Flake, and members of the committee, I am honored to be considered for the position of United States Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho. I am grateful for the confidence President Obama and Secretary Kerry have shown in me by this nomination. If confirmed, I look forward to working with this committee and the Congress in advancing U.S. interests and supporting Lesotho in its efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, reverse its HIV/AIDS epidemic, and achieve sustainable, broad-based economic growth.

At the outset, I want to recognize and thank my father, Tracy Harrington, who traveled from Georgia to be with me today. My mom and dad took me to Tanzania at the age of 1 and later to Zambia when I was 11. Those enlightening experiences instilled in me a respect for other cultures and drew me to a career in the Foreign Service. I also appreciate the support of friends and colleagues who are here today.

I am excited by the opportunity to return to the continent where I have spent much of my life—as a child, as a Peace Corps Volunteer, and as a Foreign Service officer. If confirmed, I will draw on my knowledge of the region, as well as the opportunities I have had to lead interagency teams, oversee large PEPFAR Programs and MCC Compacts, and design programs to encourage effective and accountable governance. Those experiences will enhance my effectiveness in working with the Government and people of Lesotho to shape what is in our mutual interests: a country that is stable, healthy, and prosperous.

A democratic Lesotho is consistent with American interests and contributes to regional stability. The United States remains a strong supporter of Lesotho's efforts to consolidate the gains achieved since the country's embrace of democratic governance in the 1990s. The parliamentary elections of 2012 produced the country's first peaceful transfer of power between political parties since independence and the establishment of its first coalition government. If confirmed, I will work in partnership with the Government of Lesotho to continue to strengthen democratic institutions and help ensure that the progress made so far is sustained.

One of Lesotho's greatest challenges is an HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rate of 23.6 percent, one of the world's highest. Lesotho has demonstrated a strong commitment to fighting this scourge, which has devastated the country's social and economic fabric. The government covers half the cost of the total HIV/AIDS response, while most external support comes from PEPFAR and the Global Fund. As a result, the country

has made substantial progress. Sixty percent of adults who require treatment now receive antiretroviral therapy (ART), while more than half of HIV-positive pregnant women receive ART to prevent transmission of HIV to their children. These interventions, along with a recently launched medical male circumcision campaign, are critical in reducing the incidence of new infections, but they must be expanded. If confirmed, I will focus on promoting the continued expansion of these key elements of the HIV/AIDS response.

As the largest bilateral donor to Lesotho, the United States plays a pivotal role in helping promote economic development in a country whose government is strongly committed to improving the lives of its citizens. This month marked the end of the 5-year implementation period for Lesotho's \$362.5 million Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact. Through this partnership, Lesotho is realizing significant improvements to its water and sanitation systems, health care infrastructure, and investment climate. As a sign of its substantial commitment, the Government of Lesotho pledged \$150 million of its own funds to cover additional costs associated with compact projects. If confirmed, I will work with the Government of Lesotho to ensure that MCC investments are sustained and benefit as many Basotho as possible.

Lesotho is a shining example of how AGOA stimulates economic growth. AGOA has spurred a vibrant textile and apparel industry that is the nation's largest private sector employer and sub-Saharan Africa's largest exporter of garments to the United States. Lesotho was also the most improved country in Africa in the World Bank's most recent Doing Business report, due in part to reforms implemented under the MCC Compact. The country continues to face substantial economic challenges, however. If confirmed, I will work to encourage the Government of Lesotho to continue policy and legislative reforms necessary to promote sustainable economic growth, empower Basotho entrepreneurs, and attract foreign investment. I will also engage with the American business community to ensure U.S. companies are aware of investment opportunities in Lesotho.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I welcome any questions.

Senator COONS. Thank you very much, Mr. Harrington.

We will start with 7-minute rounds, if we might, since we have three interested members of the committee and others who may join us.

Thank you for your willingness to serve. As we heard at the opening of each of your personal statements, it is either your parents, your spouses, or both who have inspired in you a passion for service in the continent of Africa, a passion for public service, are going to sustain you in the service, God willing, that lies ahead.

Let me start with something that Mr. Childress said, but that I think sets a theme across all four of you and across all seven of the countries that we are discussing today. Mr. Childress, you mentioned that Tanzania offers a new model for Africa, our relationship with Tanzania, that builds capacity based not just on aid and assistance, but on trade and partnership.

You are going to be accredited not just to the United Republic of Tanzania, but also the East African Community. Each of these four countries are countries where the Millennium Challenge Corporation, MCC, compact is either just concluding, is in the middle of being executed, they are on the threshold of their second compact, but where it has played a very central role in economic development and in creating the conditions for significant economic growth.

Please talk in turn each, if you would, about how you intend to focus on—and each of you spoke compellingly about it—how you intend to focus on strengthening the United States economic partnership with the countries in which you may be representing us? What are the tools that you most need? How can we strengthen the MCC? There are more compacts represented just amongst the

countries, the seven of you may be representing us at, than there is funding in the MCC at the moment. Given your previous experience supervising MCC compacts and teams, how would you advise us to strengthen it?

Last, are we doing enough to engage the diaspora community within the United States, which is one of our unique competitive advantages over, for example, the Chinese or Indian or Russian or Brazilian or other investors who are seeking a larger role in the countries that you would seek to represent us in? Has the United States done as much as we could to harness the real skills and abilities of the diaspora community in the United States in terms of entrepreneurship and engagement?

So how will you as Ambassador advocate for a stronger United States role with Morocco, Tanzania, Namibia, and Lesotho? Please, Mr. Bush.

Mr. BUSH. Mr. Chairman, thank you for that question. As you know, we have had a very longstanding, very close relationship with Morocco since they recognized us in 1777. The relationship has various aspects that range from coordination of military to coordination of antiterrorism activities, but is significantly toward building an economic base that is sustainable and creates opportunities for the Moroccan people.

It is my view that our ability to help them to develop in a way that they can sustain themselves as one of the most important things we can do. I am a businessman by background and training. I am very familiar with taking a long-term view on putting in place strategic initiatives that can play out over an extended period of time.

The Millennium Challenge compact that we signed will complete at the end of this month. The initial indications are that it has been a very successful program. We have been engaged in agricultural activities. We have helped to train artisans. We have helped to develop the fishing industry. We have helped small business people to develop their businesses.

One of my priorities if I am confirmed is to work closely with the Moroccan Government; to work closely with our colleagues in the Business Council, the Chamber of Commerce; to work with those companies that appear to have business that is attractive to the Moroccan people. We need to find a way to help them to sustain themselves.

One of the things I will advocate after looking at the review of the Millennium campaign is to look at what the next phase should be. I do not anticipate we will go at the same industries. I think we should expand our focus there. But that is going to be one of my priorities.

The free trade agreement that we have with Morocco has been very successful. Since it went into effect in 2007, U.S. trade with Morocco has grown by almost 400 percent. Moroccan trade with the United States has grown by 150 percent. My view, my personal view, is that we need to continue to push the free trade agreement in a way that allows us to export more products, but also we need to be mindful that the relationship has to go the other way as well. So one of the things I will do if confirmed is to help the Moroccan

Business Council to identify additional products that they should be exporting to the United States.

Also I want to help to make sure that they have the right type of infrastructure in place that promotes trade. There are still some issues with transparency. We need to work more closely with them to have in place a business regime that is as transparent and open as it can be.

Senator COONS. Thank you, Mr. Bush. Moroccan clementines make up a significant percentage of our Port of Wilmington business, so it is of particular interest to me. A delegation from Delaware is about to go to Morocco to pursue strengthening that relationship further.

Mr. Childress, the nation of Tanzania offers a very wide range of opportunities and challenges in strengthening our relationship in the EAC as well.

Mr. CHILDRESS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it sort of comes down from my perspective to answer the variety of questions that you have asked by power, because whoever has looked at the situation in Tanzania—as you know, Tanzania has enjoyed significant growth, 6-to-7 percent a year, but it has not gotten translated into the kind of economic development that you would expect.

So the MCC folks took a look at this and they said, look, the big constraint we see is power. The Partnership for Growth folks took a look at it and they said the biggest constraint is power. The Tanzanians on “Big Results Now” took a look at what the biggest constraint was and it was power. So clearly there is sort of a twofold challenge, I think.

One is the immediate demands that Power Africa is trying to meet, which is sort of transmission-based, how do we look at places where the pickle jar is loose and we just need to take those extra few steps. I think, as you know, the Tanzanians identified several dozen of these sorts of programs, both distribution, power, et cetera. I think in the short term that is a huge opportunity for American businesses, particularly if we can make sure they have open tender processes and transparent bidding, and that is critical because it has to be on the level.

But in the longer term the real answer here, as you know, Mr. Chairman—we have talked about this. A country that has less than 20 percent of its country with electrification and a significant portion of that coming from emergency power, which is incredibly expensive—in some cases it is jet fuel—cannot sustain the kind of economic development that they have as part of their ambition.

So I think American companies can help in the immediate term, and then in the longer term—and this is, as you know, what the MCC second compact really is all about—you have to have fundamental structural reforms in the energy and power sector. That is also another opportunity for us.

So I sort of feel as if one hands off to the other. I think that there are a plethora of challenges, but to me that one is one that I think answers both your questions.

By the way, on the diaspora thing, I have to tell you I do not think from my sense that we do at all what we need to do in Africa. I talked to some of my colleagues who are ambassadors in Europe. I am incredibly impressed at the programs that they use, both the

direct line programs, but the stuff that they do. I think we all have to be more creative about that because I think that is a real untapped reserve.

Senator COONS. Thank you, Mr. Childress.

Mr. Daughton.

Mr. DAUGHTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you know, Namibia is a large country with a very small population and as a result, among other things, I think has no diaspora in the United States to speak of. But it nonetheless offers, I think, opportunities that have not yet been fully exploited for the United States. We have focused most of our attention, to be honest, on HIV-AIDS relief and on the environment in Namibia over the last 15 or 20 years.

When you look at what Namibia appears to be poised to do at this point in terms of its own internal development, I think that is where the opportunities lie. I mentioned they are looking at some significant expansion in power generation because, like Tanzania, they need more electricity. They are also looking at developing the Walvis Bay port, with the idea that it might serve as a regional entrepot for materials going into a larger market. I think both of those areas offer opportunities for American business.

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency had a reverse trade mission here just a couple weeks ago looking at the power generation sector. That seems to have attracted quite a bit of interest on the part of the Namibian participants.

I think for my purposes, in terms of what I can do in addition to seeking to promote those opportunities, Namibia has also not kept up with some of its neighbors in terms of advertising itself as an attractive place to invest and do business. I do not think the situation has gotten worse, but it has not gotten any better, and a number of their neighbors have gotten better in the process, which makes them look worse.

So one of the things that I will be looking to do is work with them to see if they can streamline the investment process for businesses that are interested in setting up, even domestic businesses, because in the end the most important thing for them economically at this point is creating an employment for their huge youth bubble. That is what the MCC compact that ends next year has been aimed at doing and I think it is made some significant progress in that respect. But there is a lot of work left to be done.

Senator COONS. Thank you, Mr. Daughton.

Mr. Harrington, if you would speak also specifically to AGOA as the country that is sort of the poster child for success.

Mr. HARRINGTON. Absolutely. Mr. Chairman, AGOA has done exactly what it was intended to do in Lesotho. It has generated a vibrant textile industry, it has generated 36,000 jobs. It is the largest private sector employer. Most of those working in the textile industry in Lesotho are women, so that it is a good news story.

I think the challenge—I see two challenges going forward if confirmed. One is working with the Government of Lesotho to create the kind of environment that is attractive to the private sector and to foreign direct investment. That was one of the key elements of the MCC compact and there has been some progress made under the compact. It is easier now, for example, to register a business.

It is much quicker to do that. It is easier to register and sell property as well.

There is more work to be done in terms of ensuring better access to credit and that is an area that I would pay attention to if confirmed.

I think the down side of the AGOA success story is that there really needs to be more economic diversification. The economy relies heavily on textile exports, SACU customs receipts, remittants from Basotho working in South Africa. So there really needs to be a broadening of the economy. That is an issue that the government has recognized as a challenge, and if confirmed I would work to address that.

One of the ways I would do that I think—as a colleague mentioned, Lesotho could do a much better job of marketing some of the opportunities for American business. I will mention just three quickly.

The area of agriculture—80 percent of the country is involved in agriculture, most of that at the subsistence level. But there are some real opportunities in commercial agriculture, aquaculture, horticulture for instance.

The second sort of major opportunity I think for U.S. business is in the area of tourism. Lesotho is the only country in the world entirely above 1,000 meters above sea level. It is a pristine environment for things like ecotourism, for things like competitions at high altitudes, for athletes, elite athletes who want to train in high altitudes. The challenge is they do not have the kinds of facilities necessary to attract those kinds of activities.

The third major category is renewable energy. Lesotho currently meets about 80 percent of its energy needs through hydropower. They are about to build another dam next year. So that percentage is going to expand. They are also looking at the possibility of building a wind farm. So in the not too distant future Lesotho may meet all of its energy needs completely through renewable sources.

So I think there are some real opportunities there for U.S. business, and we will use things like direct line and bidding systems to get that word out.

Senator COONS. That is tremendous. Thank you.

Thank you, all four, and I appreciate Senator Flake's forbearance with my pursuing one question.

Senator FLAKE. No, no problem.

Mr. Harrington, I would expect that you will be entering the Marine Corps Marathon on your return after all that high-altitude training.

I did travel to Lesotho several years ago and was struck by, one, the success of AGOA. Textile factories, as you mentioned, are quite significant. Levi is there and others. But the need for diversification is certainly there, and so I hope that you are successful in helping them broaden their economy.

Mr. Daughton, with regard to investment in Namibia, there is significant Chinese investment going on in the mining sector. Do you want to address that, and is that an area that perhaps we could look for some more U.S. interests?

Mr. DAUGHTON. Thanks, Senator. It is an interesting issue because the Chinese appear at the moment to be investing primarily

in the uranium sector for their own use, which makes a certain amount of sense because I think they are trying to secure stable sources of things like uranium.

There has not been, for various reasons as far as I can tell, much interest on the part of U.S. mining firms to doing business in Namibia. My impression is it is primarily because the South Africans have had such a tight hold on the market traditionally. I think there are probably opportunities there, but I have yet to run across any American mining firms that are expressing current interest, though I would be happy to try to find some and promote it.

Senator FLAKE. Well, good.

I know that tourism is obviously important to the country, and I would love to see more U.S. tourism there, ecotourism. One thing that struck me back at the time, I think Namibia has one of the largest populations of cheetahs in the world in the wild. We have had Americans there helping them with their program, particularly with conservation and keeping the population healthy on private ranch land and what-not. So that I think there are other opportunities with regard to tourism, and I hope that the country will pursue those.

Mr. Childress, with regard to the power initiatives, you mentioned that your effort would be to see that there are tangible benefits from these initiatives, the U.S. programs. What kind of tangible benefits in the end with regard to the power initiative can you see in terms of percentage of the population that has access to power? What tangible benefits are you looking for?

Mr. CHILDRESS. One of the things I think, Senator, that is interesting about the Tanzanians "Big Results Now" effort is that one of the things that they have adopted—and I think some of this has come, frankly, from the success of our USAID programs and other programs with the Tanzanians, is that they have been very clear about sort of setting metrics and saying, these are our deadlines about how we want to achieve things.

So they, actually, as part of this "Big Results Now," for the next 3 years they have 29 specific projects. I think their ultimate goal is to try to get from, as I said, less than 20 percent of the population with electricity to 34 percent in that period of time. That is incredibly ambitious, obviously, but I think it is important that as we get involved with them, that we apply the same sort of set of standards and metrics that we have applied in our assistance to assisting them to get the private sector in.

I will also say, by the way, that one of the things that I am really concerned about—well, interested, challenged about—is that we have a number of companies, GE, other U.S. companies, that are very familiar with the terrain in Tanzania and are very enthusiastic about their opportunities there, but I think there are going to be a number of other companies that have not really thought about it. One of the jobs that I would have if confirmed, I think is to try to identify that next layer of companies, because there are enormous opportunities, but it is not necessarily a place where American companies other than some of the ones I have mentioned have made a recourse to have as one of their standard sort of places to operate.

I think it will present, particularly as these new natural gas reserves come on line, it will present new opportunities, but not if we are not there.

Senator FLAKE. Right.

Mr. Bush, you mentioned the cooperation over a long period of time between Morocco and the United States. One of the most fruitful parts of our relationship is in the area of the war on terrorism—intelligence-gathering. How important is that in the future and what will you do to continue to foster that relationship?

Mr. BUSH. Thank you, Senator. I think that with all that is going on to our neighbors to the east, it would be very naive for us to think that we are somehow insulated from the issues in the region. So with that in mind, what I know about Morocco and our partnership is that they have worked very closely with us on counterterrorism issues. They are members of the Counterterrorism Forum. They have aggressively pursued cells in their country. Over the last 12 months or so—excuse me—since 2012 they have shut down four significant al-Qaeda cells in their country.

In the future, I think that we need to continue to work very closely with them on a cross-agency basis to make sure that we are helping them to have infrastructure in place to address this issue on an ongoing basis.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Back to southern Africa for a minute. I was able to be in Namibia during those first elections in 1989 and the drafting of the constitution in 1990 and to watch that independence process and to see them go through several elections since that time. It has been heartening to see that.

We look just a couple countries away in Zimbabwe, where we have not had that experience. The poor Zimbabwean people have been through it over the past couple of decades. One thing that has been disappointing I think to all of us is that regional organizations, in particular SADC and the African Union, have not spoken out more forcefully and more on the side of democracy.

I would hope that—and we talked about this in our previous meeting. I would hope that you can impress on the governments that you will be representing us in, or with, the importance of not living up to some artificially high standard that we have set, but living up to their own documents, their own charters, with regard to SADC or the AU that they have maintained as a high standard that all of them will live up to. I can tell you, I think everyone knows that that was not the case with Zimbabwe in this last election.

As we consider trade agreements, concessionary trade agreements and what-not, that is an important thing that these countries that make representations to us with regard to compacts and charters and documents that they have set and signed and believe in, that they live up to them. So I hope that you will impress upon those governments the importance of doing that. I think that that will go a long way in Zimbabwe if we have other countries putting the right kind of pressure there.

So thank you. Thank you all.

Senator COONS. Senator Kaine.

Senator Kaine. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

To the nominees before us, congratulations. You have had distinguished careers and this is a major step you are each undertaking, and you come to the task well-qualified.

I want to focus my questions on Morocco. I am the chair of a different subcommittee of FRC and Arab North Africa is part of the Committee on the Near East, South and Central Asian Affairs. So, Mr. Bush, I am very excited about the relationship we have and about the opportunity that Morocco presents. Even though I think we are doing a lot with Morocco, I still do not think as a nation that we are doing enough to really demonstrate the opportunity.

A nation that has been an ally of the United States since the 1770s, that is a predominantly Muslim nation, with a King who is a direct descendant of Mohammed, that has a strong track record of supporting the rights of religious minorities, that has done an awful lot in recent years to promote democratic reforms, including increased inclusion of women in civic life and political office, and that has an economy that is very oriented around trade—the free trade agreement with the United States is but one of the trade agreements that Morocco has struck with nations around the world—I think offers a wonderful opportunity for us to spotlight what Morocco is doing and hold it up as an example in a part of the world that needs good examples.

Their orientation toward the West, Europe, and the United States, toward Africa, especially Francophone Africa, and toward the Middle East makes it a very pivotal player. I think that the opportunity that you will have is a remarkable one.

Could you talk a little bit about the current status of—I think the one issue that is often a point of at least some contention between the United States and Morocco is the status of the western Sahara, and what is the current status of that sort of in the United Nations? And what is the right way for the United States to play a helpful role, but not kind of overplay our involvement in that issue?

Mr. BUSH. Senator, thank you so much for that question. The western Sahara remains a very complicated story, if you will. The interests of various parties are involved—the Moroccan people, the Sahari people. It is indeed very complicated. It is also an area in which there are human rights issues that we all have to think through.

The position of the Obama administration is the same as it has been for the last five administrations, which is to support and embrace U.N. Security Resolutions 20-44 and 20-99 and to support the personal envoy, former Ambassador Chris Ross', efforts to engage on our behalf. There has not been a change in that approach and my expectation is that we will continue to work through the United Nation on that matter.

But you should know that if I am confirmed, trying to support a resolution on western Sahara will be one of my top priorities.

Senator Kaine. One of the concerns I have about the status of the western Sahara, Mr. Bush, is with the rise of al-Qaeda and terrorism in north Africa, a disputed border that is a little bit potentially porous from South Africa north, presents some real challenges, and I would not be surprised if some of the al-Qaeda oper-

ations in Morocco that you described earlier have been benefited by a border that is somewhat in dispute.

So while 20 years ago the disputed border might not have had such significant impact, I would say now it is something that I just hope that we will keep a very close eye on, because that may actually change what the United States posture should be if that disputed border is one that is exploited by terrorists, especially those that are connected with al-Qaeda. So that is something that over time I would look forward to talking to you more about and folks in the State Department as well.

Then a related issue. Because part of the complication in western Sahara is the relationship between Morocco and Algeria, what do you see that you might be able to do in the role of Ambassador to Morocco to be a bridge-builder in your way?

Mr. BUSH. Sure. Thank you, Senator. You know, I speak to my colleagues, potential colleagues, in Morocco; they make some interesting observations. Observation No. 1 is that every day there are flights from Casablanca to Algiers that are filled with business people going back and forth. At the same time, we have a border that has been closed and there does not appear to be any sign that that is likely to be opened in the near term.

It is in the mutual best interests of both of those countries to work, I believe, more closely together. It is an opportunity to build a regional economic base that can help them to shore up their defenses against external forces like al-Qaeda cells that could come and affect both of the countries as well.

If I am confirmed for this position, working with our colleagues across the State Department, working with the Moroccan Government, working with my colleague, the Ambassador to Algeria, I would expect to be actively engaged in trying to find solutions for those problems.

Senator Kaine. Thank you, Mr. Bush.

Just finally, I hope that one of the things that you might do in your capacity is to really spotlight the issues of the protection of religious minorities in Morocco and also the growing inclusion of women in political office in Morocco. Some of the recent political reforms have really advanced that, because I think both of those trends are really good examples that can be, I think, articulated in a more dramatic way, in a neighborhood where both religious liberty and the inclusion of women in political life are not what we would hope, but the fact that there is home-grown examples of it working in a positive way is something that we should spotlight.

I appreciate your testimony.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Senator COONS. Thank you, Mr. Kaine. Thank you for your strong interest and for your joining us today and for your leadership of the subcommittee.

We are honored to be joined by Senator Durbin, whose schedule in his leadership role is quite demanding. So I am grateful he is taking some time today to introduce Ambassador-nominee, Mr. Bush, who is also from East St. Louis and has acquitted himself wonderfully so far. But I look forward to your introduction and questions.

**STATEMENT OF HON. RICHARD J. DURBIN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS**

Senator DURBIN. It reminds me of when you are on an airplane and the flight attendant says as you are about to land: Let me be the first to welcome you. I thought you were on the plane with me. [Laughter.]

To the entire panel: Thank you very much for being here.

My apologies to the committee. Something is going on on the floor today and I just learned about it—no, it has been going in anticipation of some important business on the floor and I was tied up for a little while.

But my special apologies to Mr. Bush and his family, but I do want to take a moment to acknowledge a little bit about your background that I think is an indication of why this was such a good selection by the President to have you represent us in Morocco.

I do not know if you are from a suburb of St. Louis where I grew up or the actual city of St. Louis, but we are from the same region, and I thank you. I know that your wife, Antoinette, is here with you today. Are your children, Jacqueline and Dwight here as well? Glad that they have joined you. And your special guest, your mother, Jessie Bush, is here. Thank you so much for being with us today.

Your son has brought experience as a CFO and CEO in a variety of different companies, which I will enter into the record here, but in the interest of time will not list specifically. A trustee of his alma mater, Cornell; and a special interest in Africa, including many visits to Morocco, South Africa, Tanzania, Rwanda in business and philanthropic endeavors.

We have many important shared interests in Morocco. I know that you are going to—you have already answered some questions on the subject, and I know that you are going to represent the United States very well, and I am honored to be here and say a word on your behalf.

Now, Mark Childress is another person I have known and worked with for many, many years with Senator Daschle's staff and beyond. Mark, I know of your passionate interest in Africa and I am sure that you are going to be an excellent choice in your representation; and to the others as well.

I would like to ask one general question of all of you, and start with Mr. Bush. When I visit Africa, time and again the thing I hear is the increasing influence of China on the continent of Africa, the involvement of the Chinese in so many different economic activities, investments. They are in fact—I use this word advisedly—insinuating themselves in local economies in a major way.

They believe, I think, that China is not only a growing economic possibility, but also a good resource of energy and raw materials, and they send many Chinese workers into countries in Africa and establish a long-term presence in that regard.

I would like to ask each of you, if you could, to comment on this phenomenon as you have observed it, or maybe even disagree with my premise. But what do you think about China in Africa?

Mr. Bush.

Mr. BUSH. Thank you, Senator, for that question. Also, may I thank you also for your kind words of support. May I also acknowl-

edge that I am aware that now that you are here there are at least two St. Louis Cardinals baseball fans in the room.

Senator DURBIN. And we are in real trouble.

Mr. BUSH. And that brings me a great joy because I continue to be a Redbird fan.

Mr. Senator, with respect to Morocco, it is my understanding that China has not been actively engaged in many economic activities in the country as of yet. However, I would say that I would share your concern about the growing influence that they are having on the continent, and I think that we should be cognizant of that and we should therefore be cognizant that we can have an impact on these countries as well by being perhaps a little more forthright and aggressive in helping these countries from an economic perspective as well.

Senator DURBIN. Mr. Childress.

Mr. CHILDRESS. Tanzania is a little unusual in the sense that, as you know, China for many decades was in Tanzania, almost to the exclusion of the United States because of socialism and so forth. In some ways, one might argue that the dynamic is reversing significantly, because the Tanzanians are looking more and more to the United States. This is true, by the way, not only of business, but also with the military and police and training and so forth.

President Kikwete spoke to this actually just a little while ago and made the point that, you know, look, China is going to be here. He, interestingly, adverted mainly to the sort of bilateral development programs, the stadiums and that sort of thing that China does, but made the point that United States companies bring technology and expertise that is unique to America as distinct from China.

I think that is an important point. First of all, it is very important it is in their consciousness. But I also think, and I mentioned this earlier, it is vital that we have open and transparent bid processes because to the extent that processes are on the level our American companies are going to be more than able to compete. I think that from my perspective, if I were confirmed, that is something I would be very focused on as a practical response to your question.

Senator DURBIN. Mr. Daughton.

Mr. DAUGHTON. Thank you, Senator. Namibia and China have a longstanding relationship that dates from the age when the Namibian, the current Namibian leadership was a liberation movement in southern Angola. And Namibia has an important trade relationship with China that actually benefits Namibia. It is one of their largest export markets, which makes it a slightly different dynamic than I think you see in other parts of Africa.

At the same time, the Namibians do not appear to be slavish to their relationship with the Chinese. President Pohamba recently publicly criticized Chinese employers in Namibia for their treatment of Namibian workers. So I think my impression is that the Namibians have a fairly wide-eyed or open-eyed view of what the Chinese are interested in and see their relationship with China as economically important to them.

I do not think it is a threat to us, however, because the Chinese are interested as much in the extractive industries there as anything else.

Senator DURBIN. Mr. Harrington.

Mr. HARRINGTON. Senator, thank you for the question. China has one of five bilateral diplomatic missions in Lesotho. It is a very small diplomatic community. The bilateral relationship between China and Lesotho is an active and a positive one. China's interest in Lesotho seems primarily in the realm of diplomatic relationships and in funding the construction of large government buildings.

I do not see them in Lesotho as really undermining our ability to advance our national interests. We continue to be the major bilateral donor in Lesotho and our focus in working with the Government of Lesotho is on the building of a democratic, accountable government, which has certainly not been China's focus in Lesotho.

Senator DURBIN. Thank you.

After I had met with the late President of Ethiopia, who raised this issue with me, I came back and called together all of the agencies I could think of in Washington that deal with Africa—they are pretty obvious—brought them all into one room. I think it is unfair to say it is the first time they have met, but they clearly had not spent much time together thinking about a coordinated strategy of the United States on a continent that is growing in importance by the day.

We have passed out of this committee a recommendation to move toward a new export goal for Africa and it has been bottled up on the floor by some who think we should have no government involvement in this. China does not think that, and I hope that we will be more forward-leaning, not just in promoting values but also in promoting economic relations with many countries in Africa that you represent.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator COONS. Thank you, Senator.

Senator Murphy.

Senator MURPHY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you to our panel. You are all eminently qualified, about to embark on a wonderful journey for you and your families, and I look forward to your swift and timely confirmation.

I really have only one comment that maybe will prompt a response from you, Mr. Bush. I have spent some time in Morocco. I hope to be back there later this year and look forward to seeing you there. Of course, we are all struck by the relative stability that Morocco has enjoyed in a region and latitude that has seen a lot of strife over the past several years.

I guess I just ask you to pay attention to one phenomenon. You may have already talked about this and I apologize. But the JCO, which is the Islamic Justice and Charity Organization, in Morocco is in a lot of ways very unlike the Muslim Brotherhood, but it does represent sort of the largest grassroots opposition to the King. Again, though the parallels certainly are not complete, I just hope that while you are there that you will watch very carefully both the development of that organization as it rebounds from the death of its founder—they do seem to have stabilized somewhat and ushered in some new leadership rather quickly—but also watch the

King and the regime's treatment of that group. They do not participate in politics openly, but as we have seen other places the quiet but fierce repression of these groups in other parts of the region has obviously led in Egypt and other places to some very, very difficult transitions once that transition to democracy happens.

So I look forward to seeing you there. It is a country that I have taken great interest in over the years, a great U.S. partner, but an underlying issue there, one that simmers under the surface of a lot of our more worrisome conversations about the more violent smaller cell Islamic groups that exist in Morocco, but one that I hope that you will take an interest in as well.

Mr. BUSH. Senator, thank you so much for your comment. As I mentioned a little bit earlier, I think we would be naive to think that the issues there to our east are not issues that we should have a focus on in Morocco as well.

The good news is that we have a very strong working relationship with the Government of Morocco. We work with them on issues ranging from counterterrorism to empowerment through some of our USAID programs engaged in the type of activities that we hope will keep those type of influences at bay.

I would look forward to your coming to Morocco. If I am confirmed, I will keep this issue as an issue on the top of my head, and I will be back in touch with you to make sure that we are on point.

Senator MURPHY. Thank you very much, Mr. Bush. Good luck to all of you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator COONS. Thank you, Senator Murphy.

We are going to start a second round with this panel if we might. I wanted to thank Senator Durbin for his leadership on a bill that he referenced there that aims to double our exports.

My previous round of questioning was really all about the economic relationship. Now I want to talk, if I might, about our significant investment in health. In Lesotho and in Namibia in particular, we are significant contributors both through PEPFAR and through many other programs, the MCC compact in Lesotho really focusing on the health sector.

What do we need to do to achieve better results? Lesotho remains strikingly burdened by significant public health challenges, despite significant investment by the United States over a number of years. And what can we learn from Namibia, a country that, as you mentioned in your opening statement, has made the transition to significant country ownership, like South Africa is now increasingly invested in being a real partner with the United States.

So if I might, across Mr. Harrington and Mr. Daughton, what are the lessons we need to learn about how to strengthen and focus PEPFAR and our health interventions, and how do we get better results in partnership with Lesotho and Namibia?

Mr. HARRINGTON. Thank you for the question, Mr. Chairman. I would say there have been successes on the health front. Let me mention those first. In Lesotho 60 percent of those who qualify for ART treatment are receiving it. That needs to be higher. A little more than half of pregnant women are receiving ART. That needs to be higher.

The government has shown a real commitment, not only in terms of political will, but in terms of real resources that they bring to the table. They are paying about half the total cost of the HIV-AIDS response and about 70 percent of the cost of ARV's. So that is the positive side.

I think the negative side is that, as I mentioned in my opening statement, the adult prevalence rate is pretty stubborn. It has been at about 23 percent for the last 10, 12 years. So the folks on the ground, PEPFAR, some of the government partners and multilateral partners, have recognized that really more needs to happen in the area of prevention. The numbers in that—the three major interventions I mentioned, more focus on ART's, more women getting medication which prevents mother-to-child transmission, and a medical circumcision program, which is in the beginning stages in Lesotho, all of those need to be expanded as we move forward.

I would also mention in Lesotho the partnership framework implementation plan is beginning to wrap up. So I think we are talking with the Government of Lesotho and our multilateral donors about what the new kind of partnership looks like in terms of transitioning to host country leadership more than we have in the past.

So those are a few ideas.

Senator COONS. Thank you, Mr. Harrington.

Mr. Daughton.

Mr. DAUGHTON. Namibia as a role model. I think perhaps the thing that has come out most clearly from the success of the PEPFAR effort in Namibia is the need to develop sustainable—a human resource base, people locally who can take over the problem. The Namibians simply did not have that 10 years ago. They are now beginning to have it.

They are in the fortunate position in that they have the money to be able to pay for it. They are now paying for all of their ARV's. They have taken over supervision and funding of all of their health care professionals as well.

Going forward, as we look to fine-tune the PEPFAR Program in Namibia to address the remaining issues and to—in essence, to make sure that we are contributing where we have the greatest chance to add value, I think that there is going to be an increasing focus on at-risk groups, who continue to be kind of the kernel of the problem. The demography of Namibia is such that, particularly because of the movement of people back and forth across the Angolan border, it makes it challenging to develop a stable treatment and public outreach campaign.

In the end, the Namibians recognize that this is a program they will have to maintain forever, in essence, and we are now past, I think, the peak of the epidemic phase and are into a kind of long-term management phase. The lessons that we draw from that will be ones that I think can probably be applied in other countries in the region.

Senator COONS. Thank you.

If I might, Mr. Daughton, just a followup. You mentioned, in response to another Senator's question, a significant trade between China and Namibia in uranium. Has there been effort by Iran to secure access to uranium reserves from Namibia? Have they been

receptive? Is that an area of concern for you as you take over the security role as well as the development and trade role?

Mr. DAUGHTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is an interesting question and one I have looked at quite a bit, because the largest mine in Namibia is—15 percent of it is owned by an Iranian state investment corporation that has owned it since the era of the Shah actually. The mine is controlled by Rio Tinto, an Australian company. The U.S. Government as I understand it has worked very closely with both Rio Tinto and the Namibia Government to ensure both that no product from the mine reaches Iran and that no profits from the mine reach Iran. The profits in fact, their 15 percent is held by the Namibians in an escrow account, so they have no access to the money. And Rio Tinto has been punctilious, I think, in ensuring that there is no way that any product from the mine can get to the Iranians.

It is an odd situation in that they cannot get rid of them, but at the same time they do seem to have effectively walled off any Iranian access to the product of the mine.

Senator COONS. Perhaps some creative corporate lawyers from Delaware could help with the restructuring. We will see. [Laughter.]

If I could, Mr. Childress, Tanzania seems to be blessed with an abundance of U.S. Government programs. There is almost literally not an initiative that is not represented. Every initiative is represented in Tanzania in some way, at some level.

Something that really struck me in my visit to Tanzania, to Zanzibar in particular, you referenced it in your opening statement. Very proudly, one of the folks with the President's malaria initiative was announcing that we are on the verge of completely eradicating malaria from the island of Zanzibar, an island with more than a million residents about 26 miles off the coast. And I was very pleased, and we visited a number of sites and this was very encouraging. Someone sitting next to me leaned over and said, "Yes, just like we did in 1964."

I said, "Excuse me?" They said, "Yes, you know, with the help from the Americans we had eradicated malaria in 1964. It might have been 1965. All I remember is it was right around when I was born."

How do we sustain investment and development? This follows on the questions about transition to country ownership. Apparently that success wasn't sustained over time. There were other distractions.

And how, as the Ambassador, will you be able to reduce some of the siloed nature of our investments there? My trip to the PEPFAR facility there was heralded as the first time that the logos of all three of the main cooperating entities had appeared on the same sign. But if we are going to have six, seven, eight different entities from MCC to PEPFAR to PMI to Power Africa all operating under the American umbrella, how do you coordinate them, focus them, and make them more effective?

Mr. CHILDRESS. By the way, I was told by the experts apparently there has been not just the one occasion when you talked about where we apparently got into preelimination phase; there has been another one between the one in the early 1960s and this. So this

is a real and ongoing problem. But I do think our folks with respect to that specific issue are trying to be aware of the fact of what went wrong before and how to follow through.

I think you are absolutely right. One thing I know you know is that the current Ambassador, it is something of an *idée fixe* for him, this idea of having these different logos and different ideas of who is acting where within the country, and that it is all from the American people. I think he has done a lot in terms of trying to make sure at a branding level that message is delivered.

Now, in terms of programs, it is interesting. I actually think you are absolutely right, people have begun to understand that the sheer weight of the number of programs—there is a requirement that we have some synergies develop. Some of that is happening. For example, as you know, one of the key elements of the MCC Program was to build roads, also to do electricity. They took a look at some of the activities that the Feed the Future folks were doing in the southern agricultural corridor and realized if we put certain electrical distribution points in these particular places we can give cold storage facilities, we can give irrigation facilities to the Feed the Future Program. It seems simple, but it is a huge deal.

A corollary to that, the Feed the Future Program, although obviously agriculture-focused, is building and maintaining thousands of kilometers of roads in its next go-around, which is, in fact, one of the MCC's objectives. So I think that is happening.

I think as Ambassador, if I were confirmed, I think it would be really important that we do a lot more of that very rigorously.

The other thing—and this references what we were talking about before and you and I have talked about this—it really is critical, with respect to these programs, that we make the point to our friends in Tanzania that we are here today, and we are going to be here tomorrow, but that we do want to be looking for opportunities for country ownership.

As you and I also talked about, I think the Tanzanians have begun to really understand this. With respect to the MCC challenge compact, it was about a \$700 million compact.

The Tanzanians are putting in about \$130 million of their money to make sure that all the activities are completed as agreed to.

So I think there is a willingness there. They do not, obviously, have the resources of South Africa, for example, to take over the PEPFAR Program. But we have got to be looking for ways and being creative. For example, since PEPFAR has been successful in Tanzania, there are some moneys that have been released from the health care system. Can we look at maybe reinvesting those in certain programs in Tanzania?

So I really think this is an exciting opportunity for us to work with the Tanzanians and something I really look forward to.

Senator COONS. Thank you, Mr. Childress. I believe Zanzibar was the second after Morocco to begin diplomatic relations with the United States.

If I might, my last question for this panel. Mr. Bush, you bring to the table significant experience with the GAVI Alliance. Talk more broadly, if you would, about your experience in terms of their effort to vaccinate millions around the world and the benefits of

public-private partnerships in the provision of relief, as well as in economic development?

Mr. BUSH. Senator, thank you for that question. I am pleased that you have this on record because my involvement in GAVI has been one of the most significant experiences of my life. The GAVI Alliance was formed specifically as a public-private partnership to try to prove the theory that the public sector and private sector working together could be more effective than either working apart.

It has been in existence for about almost 11 years now. The initial seed money came from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. They provided \$750 million, which was subsequently matched by another \$750 million. We have subsequently raised billions of dollars from countries across the world, principally in Europe, the United States. We have also raised additional moneys from the private sector.

We are active in the 72 poorest countries in the world at all times, and the population shifts as some countries graduate out or they exceed the income guidelines.

GAVI has helped to basically eliminate some childhood diseases in countries across the world. We have been extraordinarily successful. If you were to go to South Africa you could see the rates of measles going down almost to zero percent now because of what GAVI has been able to do.

I think it is a structure that should be replicated for other types of initiatives. As you know, the Gates Foundation has some similar initiatives that they have put in place, and I would encourage in a lot of the countries that are represented at this table that they think about how they can have this type of engagement to address the issues in their countries.

Senator COONS. Tremendous.

I would like to thank all four of the members of our first panel—Mr. Bush, Mr. Childress, Mr. Daughton, and Mr. Harrington—thank you, your spouses, your parents, all who have supported you in your service. I am grateful for your willingness to move forward, and I will simply echo what was said by a record number of colleagues on this committee, that we will work diligently for your swift confirmation and look forward to hearing from you in your service and to hopefully visiting you in the time that you are serving us overseas.

Thank you very much.

We will now move to the second panel, and I will mention while we are in transition Senator Flake is currently on the floor and will be returning. But we have a vote scheduled at 11:45, so we will begin the second panel if we might and we may end up suspending for a few minutes so that I might go cast a vote and return.

[Recess from 11:27 a.m. to 11:31 a.m.]

Senator COONS. We will now resume the hearing and go to our second panel, whom we are equally excited to hear from and who are going to be representing us, should they be confirmed—I know I am supposed to put it in the conditional tense—to countries that also present a wide range of development and strategic and democracy challenges.

If we could encourage folks to allow us to focus on the second panel, that would be great.

First, Ambassador Eunice Reddick, who is seeking confirmation to a post in Niger; second, Mr. John Hoover, seeking a post in Sierra Leone; and Mr. Michael Hoza, who has been nominated for a post in Cameroon. As I stated at the outset, all three of you bring a wide range of previous service, both in Africa and in the Foreign Service, and I am very eager to hear from you.

Again, I will invite you to recognize any members of your extended family or your colleagues who you would like to or who might be with you today or who you would like to recognize.

Ambassador Reddick, please.

STATEMENT OF HON. EUNICE S. REDDICK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO NIGER

Ambassador REDDICK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am honored to appear before you as President Obama's nominee for United States Ambassador to Niger. I deeply appreciate the confidence and trust the President and Secretary of State have shown in nominating me for this position. Thank you as well to the committee for your consideration, and I look forward to working with the Congress to advance our relationship with Niger.

My adult children are unable to be here today, but I would like to introduce Melissa Cline, who is the head of the Sahel Unit in the Office of West African Affairs, the office I just left. And I have other colleagues here from the Africa Bureau who have given me great support through the years and who I consider part of my Foreign Service family.

During my more than 30 years in the Foreign Service, I have had the great fortune to serve and travel throughout Africa, including as Ambassador to Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe. If confirmed, I will draw upon my experience to expand the close relationship between Niger and the United States as we continue to work toward our mutual goals of combatting extremism throughout the region, strengthening democratic governance, and fostering inclusive economic growth.

Despite being one of the poorest countries in the world, Niger has made such significant progress in developing democratic institutions, combating corruption, and promoting human rights that the Millennium Challenge Corporation selected Niger in December 2012 as eligible to develop a proposal for a compact. If confirmed, I will work closely with the Nigerien Government and civil society to continue this momentum for reform.

Despite some encouraging progress, Niger faces great challenges. The collapse of security in southern Libya and conflict in Mali and northern Niger have placed Nigeria at a dangerous crossroads. Extremist groups and international criminal networks exploit Niger's porous borders and long-used smuggling routes to move people and weapons between the Sahel and North Africa.

Niger has also been a victim of terrorism. In May, coordinated al-Qaeda-associated terrorist attacks against a military barracks in Agadez and a uranium mining company in Arlit took the lives of over 20 Nigerien soldiers and civilians. The United States and Niger share a common goal of combating terrorist groups and denying extremist ideology an environment to thrive. We are committed

to supporting Niger's efforts to protect its borders and build capacity to interdict illicit material and people.

Niger also has been a leader in the international response to the Mali crisis, both by providing critical support for Mali's political process and committing ground troops to the African force deployed in Mali and the follow-on U.N. stabilization mission. The United States provided Nigerien troops logistical support, training, and equipment through the Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance Program. Niger is also a strong partner in our Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership.

On top of great security threats, Niger also continues to face serious humanitarian challenges and persistent food insecurity. Despite its own serious humanitarian situation following a severe drought in 2011, Niger generously opened its borders to over 50,000 Malian refugees. Since fiscal year 2012 the United States has provided over \$172 million in humanitarian assistance in Niger to address food insecurity and the needs of Malian refugees.

The United States and Niger partner across a variety of programs to address the needs of Niger's most vulnerable people and build resilience to the Sahel's constant cycle of droughts.

In addition to addressing food insecurity, Niger must generate sustainable economic growth. Economic diversification, investments in infrastructure, and improvements to education are all needed to create real economic opportunities. If confirmed, I will continue to encourage the Nigerien Government to implement the economic reforms needed to attract investment and promote trade.

I will also seek to build new relationships between Nigerien and American companies, to create opportunities for trade that benefit both our countries. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that our bilateral relationship remains firmly rooted in our shared vision for a democratic and prosperous Niger. Through this partnership, I look forward to fulfilling my priorities of protecting American citizens and interests, advancing U.S. national security interests in the Sahel, and expanding mutual understanding between our citizens.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for inviting me to appear before you today. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

[The prepared statement of Ambassador Reddick follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR EUNICE S. REDDICK

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Flake, and distinguished members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you as President Obama's nominee for United States Ambassador to Niger. I deeply appreciate the confidence and trust the President and Secretary of State have shown in nominating me for this position. Thank you as well to the committee for your consideration, and I look forward to working with the Congress to advance our relationship with Niger.

I began my Foreign Service career in Zimbabwe over 30 years ago, and have since had the great fortune to serve and travel throughout Africa, including as Ambassador to Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe, and most recently, as the Director of West African Affairs in the Department of State's Africa Bureau. During my career, I have witnessed firsthand Africa's great challenges, including the effect on populations of conflict, drought, floods, and famine. More importantly, I have also witnessed an incredible growth in vibrant democracies and economies driven by phenomenal human capital. If confirmed, I will draw upon my experience to expand the strong friendship between Niger and the United States, as we continue to work toward our mutual goals of combating extremism throughout the region, strengthening democratic governance and fostering inclusive economic growth.

Niger is a committed partner of ours, who has invested its own limited resources to combat the scourge of extremism, both within its own borders and across the Sahel region. Despite being one of the poorest countries in the world, President Issoufou has—in 2½ years since Niger’s return to democracy—invested in concrete steps to break Niger’s destructive cycle of conflict and coups. Niger has made such significant progress in developing democratic institutions, combating corruption, and promoting human rights that the Millennium Challenge Corporation selected Niger in December 2012 as eligible to develop a proposal for a Compact. If confirmed, I will work closely with the Nigerien Government and civil society to continue this momentum for reform by creating strong and responsive democratic institutions, improving the delivery of government services and promoting food security.

Despite some encouraging progress, Niger faces great challenges. The country’s expansive and harsh terrain would be difficult to protect under the best of circumstances. The collapse of security in southern Libya and conflict in Mali and northern Nigeria have placed Niger at a dangerous crossroads, as extremist groups and international criminal networks exploit porous borders and long-used smuggling routes to move people and weapons between the Sahel and North Africa. Niger has also been a victim of terrorism. In May, coordinated al-Qaeda-associated terrorist attacks against a military barracks in Agadez and a uranium mining company in Arlit took the lives of over 20 Nigerien soldiers and civilians. The United States and Niger share a common goal of combating terrorist groups and denying extremist ideology an environment to thrive. We are committed to supporting Niger’s efforts to protect its borders, build capacity to interdict illicit material and people, and help return security and stability to northern Mali.

Niger has been a leader in the international response to the Mali crisis, both by providing critical support for the political process and committing a battalion of ground troops to the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA) and an even larger 850-ground-troop contingent to the follow-on U.N. Multidimensional Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). The United States provided those troops logistical support, training, and equipment through the African Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA) Program.

Niger is also a strong partner in our Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership (TSCTP), through which we are working together to increase security sector capacity, address underlying causes of radicalization, and increase the voices of moderate leaders to positively influence populations potentially vulnerable to radicalization. If confirmed, I will seek to advance our already strong security cooperation to further our shared goal of denying extremist groups space to operate.

On top of great security threats, Niger also continues to face serious humanitarian challenges and persistent food insecurity. A severe drought in 2011 resulted in a humanitarian crisis in 2012 as 6.4 million of Nigeriens were at risk for food insecurity, including more than 330,000 children at risk for severe acute malnutrition. Despite its own serious humanitarian situation, Niger generously opened its doors to over 50,000 Malian refugees, who they continue to host. Since fiscal year 2012, the United States has provided over \$172 million in humanitarian assistance in Niger to address food insecurity and the needs of Malian refugees.

The United States and Niger partner across a variety of programs to address the needs of Niger’s most vulnerable people and build resiliency to the Sahel’s constant cycle of droughts. The Nigerien Government has created innovative programs to address food security, including the “3N Initiative” (Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens) that empowers local communities to work together to improve agricultural productivity. USAID selected Niger as one of its priority countries for the new Sahel Joint Planning Cell effort, which focuses on combating food insecurity and building resiliency among vulnerable populations through layering, integrating and sequencing humanitarian relief and development programs. In fiscal year 2012 and fiscal year 2013, the United States provided \$66.4 million in bilateral development-focused assistance to Niger for programs supporting democracy, governance, health and nutrition, and agriculture. If confirmed, I look forward to supporting these efforts and exploring new areas of cooperation.

In addition to addressing food insecurity, Niger must generate sustainable economic growth to tackle high poverty rates and improve health indicators that place Niger at the bottom of most measures of well-being. Rapid demographic growth driven by the highest fertility rate in the world threatens to overwhelm the government’s ambitious plans for development. Economic diversification, investments in infrastructure, and improvements to education will all be needed to create real economic opportunities. If confirmed, I will continue to encourage the Nigerien Government to implement the economic reforms needed to attract investment and promote trade. I will also seek to build new relationships between Nigerien and American companies to create opportunities for trade that benefit both our countries.

If confirmed, I will work to ensure that our bilateral relationship remains firmly rooted in our shared vision for a democratic and prosperous Niger that respects human rights and provides economic opportunities for all. Through this partnership, I look forward to fulfilling my priorities of protecting American citizens and interests, advancing U.S. national security interests in the Sahel, and expanding mutual understanding between our citizens.

Thank you for inviting me to appear before you today. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Senator COONS. Thank you, Ambassador Reddick, and thank you for your long service across a number of countries and across a number of functions within the State Department. I look forward to our exchange.

Ambassador REDDICK. Thank you.

Senator COONS. Mr. Hoover.

**STATEMENT OF JOHN HOOVER, OF MASSACHUSETTS,
NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO SIERRA LEONE**

Mr. HOOVER. Mr. Chairman, thank you for this opportunity to appear before you and for your consideration of my nomination by President Obama to be the next U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone. I want to thank President Obama and Secretary Kerry for their trust in me to lead the U.S. Embassy and to manage our relationship with Sierra Leone. If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, I shall uphold that trust.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your comments about family members. I would like to acknowledge several colleagues from the State Department who are here from the African Bureau. We consider them to be family members also. I have an aunt and uncle here who are also observing the proceedings. And most of all, I am honored and pleased to be joined by my wife, Kathy, who is sitting behind me. She and I were married 1 day after I was sworn in to the Foreign Service 25 years ago and she has had my back and been at my side ever since then.

In the aftermath of its devastating civil war, which ended only a little more than a decade ago, much progress has been made in Sierra Leone toward consolidating peace and stability, establishing and strengthening democracy, and generating sustainable economic development. Indeed, in some respects, despite meager resources, Sierra Leone is emerging as a model for post-conflict recovery and development.

The country has held three rounds of successful parliamentary and Presidential elections since 2002, including most recently in November 2012 when the country held elections widely judged to be free, fair, and transparent.

Sierra Leone is also implementing economic reforms and opening itself up to investment. The results are encouraging, as the economy grew by around 15 percent last year. The IMF predicts the economy will continue to grow at similarly high rates for the remainder of this decade and that Sierra Leone stands poised for an economic takeoff that could propel the country to middle income status after 2020.

On the security front, whereas Sierra Leone had the dubious distinction of hosting the then-largest U.N. peacekeeping mission during its civil war, the country is now a contributor of peacekeepers to regional stability. Earlier this year a battalion of Sierra Leonean

soldiers, trained and equipped by the United States, deployed to the African Union mission in Somalia.

Yet, even as Sierra Leone rises and rebuilds, the country still faces daunting challenges. Despite rapid recent economic growth, Sierra Leone is still one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking only 10 from the bottom of the U.N.'s Human Development Index. The country also faces many tests in terms of strengthening governance and rule of law. Despite recent encouraging progress in pursuing corrupt officials, corruption remains entrenched and poses a major threat to Sierra Leone's nascent democracy and still-fragile social stability.

If confirmed, I will continue our focus on strengthening democratic institutions and norms in Sierra Leone, including continued support for anticorruption efforts. I will also work to continue U.S. support for market-oriented small farmer agricultural activity to increase employment and food security, and I will also continue our support to strengthen Sierra Leone's capacity to deliver basic health care services.

I will also promote greater transparency, accountability, and economic sustainability as Sierra Leone begins to earn significant new revenues from its abundant stock of natural resources. I will work closely with the U.S. business community to encourage greater trade and investment between our two countries as a way to spur prosperity for Americans and Sierra Leoneans alike.

In December 2012, Sierra Leone became eligible to develop a compact program with the Millennium Challenge Corporation, opening an opportunity for significant new U.S. Government investment in Sierra Leone's future. If confirmed, I will work to support successful compact development.

In addition to these policy priorities, I take as my most important responsibility the safety and security of the hundreds of U.S. citizens in Sierra Leone and the entire U.S. Embassy team, including our officers, their families, and our invaluable Sierra Leonean colleagues.

In the interest of time, I will stop there and refer you to my written statement for details of my background and experience working in Africa. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hoover follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF JOHN HOOVER

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Flake, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to appear before you and for your consideration of my nomination by President Obama to be the next United States Ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone. I would like to thank President Obama and Secretary Kerry for their trust in me to lead the U.S. Embassy and manage our relationship with Sierra Leone. If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, I shall uphold that trust. I am also honored to be joined here today by my wife, Kathy.

In the aftermath of its devastating civil war, which ended a little more than a decade ago, much progress has been made in Sierra Leone toward consolidating peace, establishing and strengthening democracy, and generating sustainable economic development. Indeed, in some respects, despite meager resources, Sierra Leone is emerging as a model for post-conflict recovery and development. The country has held three rounds of successful Presidential and parliamentary elections since 2002, including most recently in November 2012, when the country held elections widely judged to be free, fair, and transparent. Sierra Leone is implementing economic reforms and opening itself up to investment. The results are encouraging

as the economy grew by around 15 percent last year. The IMF predicts the economy will continue to grow at similarly high rates for the remainder of this decade, and that Sierra Leone stands poised for an economic takeoff which could propel the country to middle income status after 2020. On the security front, whereas Sierra Leone had the dubious distinction of hosting then-largest U.N. peacekeeping mission during its civil war, the country is now a contributor of peacekeepers to regional stability. Earlier this year, a battalion of Sierra Leonean soldiers, trained and equipped by the United States, deployed to the African Union Mission in Somalia.

Yet, even as Sierra Leone rises and rebuilds, the country still faces daunting challenges. Despite rapid recent economic growth, Sierra Leone is still one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking only 10 countries from the bottom of the U.N.'s Human Development Index. Sierra Leone also still faces many tests in terms of strengthening governance and rule of law. Despite recent encouraging progress in pursuing corrupt officials, corruption remains entrenched and poses a major threat to Sierra Leone's nascent democracy and still fragile social stability.

If confirmed, I will continue our focus on strengthening democratic institutions and norms in Sierra Leone, including continued support for anticorruption efforts. I will also work to continue U.S. support for market-oriented small-farmer agricultural activity and education to increase employment and food security, and basic health care. I will continue also to promote greater transparency, accountability, and economic sustainability as Sierra Leone begins to earn significant new revenues from its abundant stock of natural resources. I will work closely with the U.S. business community to encourage greater trade and investment between our two countries as a way to spur prosperity for Americans and Sierra Leoneans alike. In December 2012, Sierra Leone became eligible to develop a compact program with the Millennium Challenge Corporation, opening an opportunity for significant new U.S. Government investment in Sierra Leone's future. If confirmed, I will work to support successful compact development.

In addition to these policy priorities, I take as my most important responsibility, the safety and security of hundreds of U.S. citizens resident in Sierra Leone, and the entire U.S. Embassy team, including U.S. citizen employees, their dependents, and our invaluable Sierra Leonean colleagues.

I first served in Africa as a junior officer at the U.S. Embassy in Mbabane, Swaziland. I returned to Africa later in my career to Nairobi, Kenya, as the Counselor for Economic Affairs, and then as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Kampala, Uganda. Most recently, I was the Director of the Africa Bureau's Office of Regional and Security Affairs. If confirmed, I would bring a strong understanding of the African Continent and the needs of its people, as well as the knowledge and experience to successfully advance our national interests in Freetown.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to appear today. I would be pleased to respond to your questions.

Senator COONS. Thank you, Mr. Hoover. Your background does include a number of impressive and relevant areas of service in East Africa as well as throughout the continent.

Mr. Hoza, if I might, to your opening statement.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL S. HOZA, OF WASHINGTON,
NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO CAMEROON**

Mr. HOZA. Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Flake, members of the committee, I am deeply honored to appear before you today as the President's nominee to be the next Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Cameroon. I thank President Obama and Secretary Kerry for the trust they have shown by nominating me for this position.

I would like to acknowledge the service and support of my wife, Suzanne, currently overseas advancing U.S. Government health programs in Ethiopia, and our two sons, Paul and Christopher. They have supported me through challenging overseas assignments, endured hardship, shared risks, and ably represented our country with pride and unflagging enthusiasm. I am truly grateful for their support, without which I would not be before you today.

I have had the privilege of serving in Africa for 14 of my 28 years of service with the Department. I have seen our diplomatic efforts yield tremendous gains in difficult places. If confirmed, I look forward to using my experience in the region to help further U.S. interests in Cameroon as well.

With one of the largest economies in sub-Saharan Africa and a landscape rich in natural resources and biodiversity, Cameroon has the potential to become an economic stalwart and serious regional player. Despite this rich endowment and notwithstanding 53 years of relative political and economic stability, the country struggles to attain food security and to combat disease. Moreover, concerns related to human rights, weak governance, and pervasive corruption continue to serve as impediments to meaningful economic growth and development.

Cameroon is a relatively stable country in a region that is decidedly less so. Recent events in both Nigeria and the Central African Republic continue to spill over into Cameroon, where an influx of new refugees is taxing local resources. The insecurity in neighboring countries, compounded with the growing threat of extremism by Boko Haram in Cameroon's Far North Region, has the potential to threaten Cameroon's security and stability.

Cameroon has taken a leading role in combating piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and is active in regional and domestic efforts against wildlife trafficking. If confirmed, I will continue to support U.S. efforts to strengthen Cameroon's military capacity to confront terrorism, piracy, and wildlife trafficking, and to encourage greater Cameroonian engagement in regional security matters.

On April 14 Cameroon took an important step toward maintaining its long-term political stability by holding the first Senate elections in its history. Cameroon is also expected to hold municipal and legislative elections on September 30. I look forward to the opportunity to build on this momentum and work in partnership with civil society and the government to support efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, enhance transparency, and promote democracy, human rights for all persons, and the rule of law.

Bilateral trade between our countries exceeded \$557 million in 2012 and U.S. exports to Cameroon have more than doubled since 2010. Should I be confirmed, I hope to build on these gains and further strengthen our economic relationship.

The kidnapping of French expatriates in Cameroon's Far North Region earlier this year demonstrated that, even in a seemingly stable and safe country as Cameroon, the threat of violence and extremism can be a reality. It has also reaffirmed that now more than ever the safety and security of our American staff and citizens overseas needs to be at the forefront of our mission. If confirmed, I will ensure that this remains a top priority for the Embassy.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I thank you for this opportunity to appear before you. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the committee and others in Congress to advance U.S. interests in Cameroon. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hoza follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT BY MICHAEL S. HOZA

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Flake, and members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you today as the President's nominee to be the next Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Cameroon. I thank President Obama and Secretary Kerry for the trust they have shown by nominating me for this position.

I would like to acknowledge the service and support of my wife, Suzanne, currently overseas advancing U.S. Government health programs in Ethiopia, and our two sons, Paul and Christopher. They have supported me through challenging overseas assignments, endured hardship, shared risks, and ably represented our country with pride and unflagging enthusiasm. I am truly grateful for their support, without which I would not be before you today.

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Bilateral trade between our countries exceeded \$557 million in 2012, and U.S. exports to Cameroon have more than doubled since 2010. Should I be confirmed, I hope to build on these gains and further strengthen our economic relationship—one of the cornerstones of United States-Cameroon ties. Achieving this goal, as well as Cameroon's goal of promoting increased U.S. investment in Cameroon, will require continued attention to improving the country's business climate, addressing endemic corruption, and improving transparency.

The kidnapping of French expatriates in Cameroon's Far North region earlier this year demonstrated that even in a seemingly stable and safe country such as Cameroon, the threat of violence and extremism can be a reality. It has also reaffirmed that, now more than ever, the safety and security of our American staff and citizens overseas needs to be at the forefront of our mission. If confirmed, I will ensure that this remains a top priority for the Embassy.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I thank you for this opportunity to appear before you. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the committee and others in Congress to advance U.S. interests in Cameroon. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Senator COONS. Thank you, Mr. Hoza.

We are, as ever, juggling a little bit since it is not quite clear how soon our vote will be called or not. If I might, with the forbearance of Senator Flake, I am going to invite Senator Markey to ask an initial question or two, and then I may go to vote while Senator Flake questions, and then I may return, since of the three of us I have the most time to dedicate to this as a panel. Any objection?

[No response.]

Senator COONS. Senator Markey.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you.

Mr. Hoover, thank you today for appearing before the committee. I know that you are going to make Massachusetts proud if you are confirmed as Ambassador to Sierra Leone. I just wanted to ask you this. What would be your one or two top specific goals as Ambassador?

Mr. HOOVER. Thank you, Senator, and Go Sox. That is all I can say about that.

Sierra Leone really has a great deal of needs across the spectrum. But one of the keys I see on this, Senator, is because there is a lack of institutional capacity and human capacity, in addition to a lack of resources, financial resources to fuel economic development. A key really is going to be supporting Sierra Leonean efforts to improve governance and specifically economic governance.

As I noted in my statement, the country is moving now to generate revenues from its abundant stock of natural resources. It is very important that Sierra Leone gets that right so that those resources can be used to help develop the economy in a very sustainable way that benefits all Sierra Leoneans.

Senator MARKEY. Countries in the developing world with major extractive industries are often regarded as suffering from the so-called "resource curse," where the growth of such countries is constrained because the wealth created by the industry goes to an elite few in the country. It was to combat this situation that Congress mandated that the Securities and Exchange Commission enact increased transparency rules on resource extraction projects as part of the Dodd-Frank Act, and Senators Cardin, Leahy, Levin, and I, along with former Senator Lugar, recently wrote to the Securities and Exchange Commission to urge that they release strong rules in line with Congress' mandate.

In Sierra Leone the diamond industry actually played a large role in fueling the civil war. In fact, the war began in the impoverished region that was the source of most of the country's diamonds. How has in your opinion Sierra Leone's Government sought to reform the diamond sector, a source of wealth that helped fuel the civil war, and the mining sector generally?

Mr. HOOVER. Thank you again for that question. That is an excellent question. On diamonds specifically, Senator, after the end of the civil war, as you may know, Sierra Leone and a group of other countries established the Kimberley Process, which is a certification scheme to ensure that diamond exports from countries like Sierra Leone are not used to fuel conflict. So the conflict diamond issue has essentially gone away in Sierra Leone.

Much of the diamond mining is still artisanal, which is to say informal, which is to say illegal, and the country continues to lose 15 to 20 percent of its diamond export revenues through smuggling. So that remains a problem.

More broadly, I should note that Sierra Leone joined the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, which is an international initiative to increase transparency in natural resource revenue flows. They are temporarily suspended, but I understand the government is working hard now to get back into compliance with EITI.

Senator MARKEY. OK, great.

Mr. HOOVER. Thank you.

Senator MARKEY [presiding]. My time has expired. The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you. Now I can stage a coup. Chairman Coons is finally gone here. [Laughter.]

I appreciated meeting with all of you in my office earlier and I appreciated the discussion there.

Mr. Hoza, a followup with regard to Cameroon. Can you describe some of the antipiracy efforts that the United States is contributing to there?

Mr. HOZA. Yes, Senator. I appreciate that question. It talks to one of the true success stories in our bilateral relationship. U.S. personnel have combined with a special unit of the Cameroonian military to address piracy in Cameroonian waters. That program has been sustained over the course of 2 years, and in the course of 2 years incidents of piracy within Cameroon waters have been eliminated.

That is not necessarily a harbinger for success in the future without continued effort, and we look forward to sustaining that.

Senator FLAKE. Good. It is hoped that in the Gulf of Guinea we can, I think we have, move to intercept the issue before it gets as bad as it did off the coast of Somalia certainly. So that's important and we want to make sure that that continues.

With regard to the antipoaching initiatives that we have, can you describe those? Are we looking more on the finance side? How are we combating at this point the poaching activities there?

Mr. HOZA. Senator, as you are aware, Cameroon is in a unique position in that it has such a wide range of fauna, endangered species, throughout the country, but it is also on the border between the Sahel and the Congo Basin, which means it is right on the frontier of poaching. In 10 years the Cameroonian elephant population has declined from 80,000 to 5,000. So the time for action is now and it is across the spectrum.

First and foremost, we must stop the organized poaching of the savannah elephants. Last year in December, you may be very aware, professional poachers came across the desert and slaughtered 300 elephants in one raid. These are organized operations, and this is what we will work with with the Cameroonian military, to stand up an ability to receive early warning of these raids and to thwart them.

Beyond that, though, sir, the poaching, as you point out, requires a full spectrum approach. So we will be working with the Cameroonian justice system to make sure that penalties for poaching are raised to the same level as penalties for, say, drug trafficking or trafficking in persons. And we will help them to prosecute cases more successfully.

Finally, there is a third act and that is to intercept all of the routes by which the produce of poaching is transported out of the country. These are the same routes that transport people, the same routes that transport drugs, the same routes that transport arms and explosives for terrorism in the north. So it is an essential part of our program to work with the Cameroonian military to stop this traffic.

Senator FLAKE. To what extent are Cameroonians complicit in this, or is it outsiders typically that are involved? Or is there some knowledge or help received by either the military or other institutions?

Mr. HOZA. Cameroon has a very strong commitment on the part of its military, through a special unit that is committed to antipiracy, antipoaching, and counterterrorism, and we are very impressed with this unit. We are also impressed with the commitment of the Cameroonian Government to thwarting all three of these activities in their country.

Much of it comes from outside the country, but of course there are problems within the country that have to be addressed. If confirmed, this is one of the areas that I intend to focus on with much of my attention and time and much of the time and attention of the Embassy.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Mr. Hoover, in Sierra Leone there is significant Chinese investment going on there. Can you describe that, and should we—is this an area that there is a U.S. alternative? I have found that most African countries, if given the choice between U.S. investment and Chinese investment, will choose the former because it is much—the local population is typically better off and more involved, whether it is resource extraction or whatever it is. But can you describe the Chinese investment there and what our response should be?

Mr. HOOVER. Certainly. Thanks, Senator, for that question, a very important question. Chinese companies are investing heavily in Sierra Leone. They are in a number of sectors, including the power sector. They are building roads. There is some talk of Chinese concerns building a new airport closer to the capital, which is a great need in Sierra Leone right now. And of course, they are investing also or looking to invest in extractive industries as well.

These are investments that in principle we should welcome. These are investments which should help Sierra Leone further its own economic development goals, which we share. The trick I think is in—and this goes back to Senator Markey's question—is supporting Sierra Leone on efforts to make sure that they have the tools in terms of economic governance to make sure that they get a good deal when they negotiate these investments, that there is accountability, that there is transparency in these investments, that these investments are socially responsible, that they meet international standards in terms of labor rights, environmental protection, et cetera.

The other piece of it is, as you alluded to, Senator, is we need to get more U.S. companies out there to compete with Chinese and other companies from around the world, because, as you say, all the good things we can do as a government I think are far outdone by what our private sector can do in these countries.

So if confirmed I will work very hard with our private sector to at least try to make them aware of the opportunities that are there in Sierra Leone in extractive industries, agriprocessing, tourism, and other sectors—power.

Senator FLAKE. We talked about tourism. I did not realize there was such potential there, but it seems to be so.

Mr. HOOVER. There is. It is a beautiful country with beautiful beaches. But because of the unfortunate legacy of the civil war, all the earlier tourism infrastructure was destroyed, and so there is an opportunity now for foreign companies. In fact, a couple of U.S. hotel chains are looking to invest or are presently investing in Sierra Leone.

Senator FLAKE. Ms. Reddick, we spoke in my office about the impact of the situation in Mali on Niger. Can you describe that? Presently, looking forward, what do we need to—specifically, let me say, we do have a drone presence, unarmed drones. It seems to be welcomed in the country, but how is it going to be perceived as you know and understand it now? You will know more on the ground there, I am sure. But what diplomatic efforts are going to have to accompany that program of the use of drones in Niger?

Ambassador REDDICK. Thank you, Senator. Niger is in what could be called a difficult neighborhood, with Mali, Libya, and Nigeria on its borders. The Nigeriens understand that they are faced with a great problem, in part because convoy routes pass through northern Niger and convoys traditionally have carried drugs, weapons, and illicit goods. We know they also are carrying extremists and terrorists involved in the conflict in northern Mali.

Nigeriens have reached out to the United States and other international partners for assistance. The political will is there. It is a democratic government that is trying to satisfy the needs of its own population. They have worked very closely with minority populations like the Tuareg. They are attempting to create a more inclusive government.

The Government of Niger has reached out for assistance to build their capacity to monitor their borders and to interdict these convoys, to try to stop the spread of extremism and the terrorist threat. We have responded with training. We are working with various types of assistance to help Niger build a crisis response unit, and a counterterrorism unit. They are working with their own population to ensure that their young people are not attracted to the extremist groups operating in the region.

I mentioned we have a number of security programs to assist Niger. We do have unarmed remotely piloted aircraft in Niger. The Niger Government has welcomed our presence and has explained to the population why we are there, and we have not had problems.

If confirmed, I do intend to make sure that I am well informed before I go out to post, but also while I am there, to ensure that the programs we have in place are coordinated with the Government of Niger. Also, as Chief of Mission, I intend to work very closely with the Combatant Commanders involved in our programs in Niger. I have already met with General Rodriguez, who heads our Africa Command, and I do look forward to maintaining close contact with him.

I think this is a partnership that serves Niger well, but also serves our own interests in stopping the terrorism threat in the region. We are working with countries in the region that have the political will and want to be part of the solution. Niger has played an important role in the political process that has led to elections and a return to a democratic government in Mali. I think the Nigeriens also want to be part of the political process that looks at

the needs of minority populations and tries to find way to make more inclusive governments in the region.

Senator FLAKE. Well, thank you.

With regard to physical security there with the Embassy, what upgrades has the Embassy gone through over the past decade in terms of setbacks and everything else? Are we where we need to be or do we still—is that a continuing process there?

Ambassador REDDICK. Yes, the Embassy in Niamey is not one of the newer embassies. It is going through a major renovation right now, which will continue into the next year, with additional security measures to be constructed in the Embassy.

I also would like to point out that following the terrorist attacks in May the Government of Niger was very responsive to the Embassy's request for certain security measures to be added to the neighborhood, and I am very pleased that we have established that type of relationship with the Government of Niger.

But I do intend, if confirmed, once I arrive at post, to get together with my security team and take a look at the renovations, what lies ahead, and what is still needed. If there are things that need to take place to better secure the Embassy for Americans and our locally employed staff, I want to make sure that information gets transmitted back to Washington as soon as possible.

Senator FLAKE. Well, thank you.

Mr. Hoza, with regard to the perception of the U.S. in Cameroon, have the programs, be it PEPFAR, be it aid with antipiracy or antiterrorism cooperation, antipoaching, have these programs bought us good will in the country? How are we perceived there?

Mr. HOZA. Senator, I think we enjoy a very positive image in the Republic of Cameroon amongst the people, first and foremost from our efforts to combat HIV-AIDS along with the Ministry of Health. Many implementing partners there are very, very effective at their programs and they are demonstrating an expertise derived from our best practices that we brought to them. Their own initiative has been impressive in trying to slow the rate of increase in the prevalence of HIV-AIDS in the country.

As far as the military to military relationship on counterterrorism, antipiracy, and antipoaching, all of these are welcomed by the Cameroonian Government and the Cameroonian people. I think they are very much aware of the terrorism threat. The recent kidnapping of a French family from northern Cameroon brought home the fact that Cameroon is not immune to the extremism that is running rampant in the neighborhood.

The important thing, though, is the way our personnel conduct themselves in the course of their interaction with military counterparts and with their professional counterparts in the health sector. We must transmit American values of respect for human rights, democracy, civilian leadership over the military in terms of the military side, but on the health care side, human rights respect for all individuals regardless of their ethnic affiliation, their religion, or their sexual preferences.

So these are the sort of values we must convey and we hope that these values will become common values with our Cameroon partners.

Senator FLAKE [presiding]. Well, thank you.

You will have to excuse me. I have got to go vote before they close it out in a minute here. We will just recess the hearing for about probably 3 minutes, until Senator Coons returns. I am going to have to stay there at a meeting afterward. I appreciate your willingness to serve and the service you have already given to the country, and I think all of you are well qualified and will represent the country well.

We will not have to recess at all, because here's Senator Coons. So thank you.

Senator COONS [presiding]. Thank you, Senator Flake.

All three of you will, if confirmed, be representing the United States in countries where the MCC plays a somewhat different role than it did in the previous and where the opportunities for economic development are significant, but not yet fully realized, and for economic partnership between the United States and the countries to which you will hopefully be appointed.

So please, if you would, just speak about how you see having been invited or being MCC-eligible playing a role and how you think we might do a more effective job at sustaining and building relationships, in particular in Niger, and then what we need to do in Cameroon in order to move toward a place where we can have a sustained economic relationship?

One of the values I place on MCC compacts, threshold compacts and then full compacts, is it requires transparency, commitment to democracy, commitment to certain sort of core principles. If I remember correctly, Cameroon is not MCC-eligible, but the other two nations are. So if you would speak to how that mechanism helps and what you see as being the best or likely focus as the countries to which you may well be confirmed go through the MCC process?

Just in order, if you would, Ambassador Reddick, Mr. Hoover, Mr. Hoza.

Ambassador REDDICK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for that question. In Niger the Millennium Challenge Corporation has been a motivating factor. With a democratic government in place with the political will to do better by its population, to deliver more services, to become more democratic, I think MCC has acted as a motivation to do more.

Niger has had an MCC Threshold Program that has focused on areas of investing in people, governing justly, and doing business in Niger. After the return of a democratic Government in Niger, we were able to restart the Threshold Program and construct many of the schools that were scheduled to be completed under the Threshold. That has been a very important part of investing in people. Many of these schools will bring more women and more young girls into the education system.

There has been a focus on corruption in the Threshold Program and this issue is also important to the current government of President Issoufou, so I think we are walking hand in hand down the same path with the Nigeriens under the MCC Threshold Program.

Senator COONS. Is the prospect of an MCC compact a significant incentive or is it a rounding error in the greater context of the concerns facing President Issoufou?

Ambassador REDDICK. My sense is, from my experience working in the West Africa Office and also with Sao Tome-Principe as an

MCC Threshold Program country, it is a great incentive, very much so. We have continued to see a push by Niger to continue to meet the criteria, and I am sure they are looking forward to being eligible again when the indicators are published over the next couple of months.

MCC is in Niger now considering what a good proposal for a compact will look like. I understand they are looking, in particular, at livestock, one of the major exports of Niger. Livestock depend upon water. MCC is focusing on where water sites are available for the livestock. What happens to the livestock? Well, a lot of the livestock have traditionally been exported to Nigeria. What are the constraints to maintaining these exports or increasing them? What are the trade barriers, for example? This is another area that MCC is looking at with the Nigerien Government.

The government understands very well that, for example, they do need to reduce trade barriers. They still need to work on corruption and they are doing so through new agencies within the government to attack corruption by developing cases and prosecuting those individuals involved in corruption.

I see MCC working hand in hand with governments with the political will to invest in their people, expand the economy, strengthen democracy and good governance, and bring prosperity to their citizens. Niger a very good example, and if confirmed I look forward to working closely with MCC there. From what I have seen, from my experience, what works well is when there is a development team that brings together MCC and USAID. I look forward to working with such a team when I am in Niamey, if confirmed.

Senator COONS. Thank you, Ambassador Reddick.

Mr. Hoover, does eligibility for an MCC compact have much of an impact in Sierra Leone? And if so, how would you see the trajectory playing out?

Mr. HOOVER. Thank you, Senator. I am a big fan of the MCC. Eligibility itself has already had an impact without a single dollar really being disbursed yet in Sierra Leone. Just the prospect of becoming compact-eligible has been used by the administration there in Sierra Leone, to their credit, as a way to improve their political and economic governance.

When they were made eligible last year in December, their performance on their MCC score card had improved dramatically, and that was specifically because the government had identified the MCC compact or threshold program as an incentive that they chose to pursue. So it has had a great benefit already without any money even being spent.

Currently, MCC and the Government of Sierra Leone are working toward compact development. I do not want to prejudge how that is going to come out. There are huge needs across the board in Sierra Leone. We do not know what our budget will be for the MCC compact if one materializes. But I can see investments in governance, in anticorruption efforts, in the power sector, education, health. It really is kind of the whole gamut. Again, I do not want to prejudge that, where those resources might go. But I look forward, if confirmed, to using MCC and using the compact development again to continue to shape incentives to encourage further

economic reform. And at the end of the day we hope actually to disburse some money, so that we can invest in the country's future.

Senator COONS. That is encouraging. I have noticed both in a recent trip to Liberia and a previous trip to Benin sort of a real significant focus by national leadership on what an MCC compact, or a second compact in Benin's case, could mean, not just the raw dollar value, but sort of the prestige of being deemed eligible and then deemed a partner, and the way it is delivered in terms of real partnership for the long term.

So, Mr. Hoza, Cameroon President Biya in some ways epitomizes entrenched power in Africa. It is, as you mentioned in your statement, a relatively speaking stable country, but one where the reach of its natural resources has not yet been fully developed to the benefit of its people.

What are the tools you might use in Cameroon? Is MCC even on the horizon as one of them, or are there others, to help encourage liberalization, steady progress toward democracy? And what do you think of the prospects for elections soon, if at all this year?

Mr. HOZA. Thank you, Senator. We have to be very, very clear-eyed about the challenges in Cameroon and maintain a very clear-eyed perspective on some of the shortcomings that need to be overcome. But we also have to keep in mind the importance of Cameroon to the region. Stability in a very unstable region is valuable. They are custodians of great biodiversity and custodians of much of the Congo Basin. So there is a lot at stake here.

Progress has been made. In April of this year, a senate was elected. Of 100 senators, 20 are women and 18 are members of the opposition. So we are beginning to see some steps forward.

On September 30 there will be parliamentary and municipal elections and there have been some electoral reforms, not least of which is biometric voter registration and publishing of the voter rolls on the Internet. These are all positive steps forward towards what we hope will be a democratic process of transparency that will have the confidence of the Cameroonian people.

We are looking at Presidential elections in 2018.

We have also seen some greater press freedom, particularly in the area of Cameroonian politics, and these are encouraging. Again, we must be clear-eyed. There are still severe challenges to the democratic process in Cameroon and it will be important for us to bring to bear all of our influence to improve that situation.

Senator COONS. We often face challenges when advocating for values that are rooted in America, whether it is democracy, transparency. Cameroon is a country that Human Rights Watch has identified as having one of the most aggressive anti-LGBT prosecution and enforcement efforts. What would you do as Ambassador to raise the issue of human rights broadly and also specifically to advance the rights of those whose sexual orientation makes them subject to harassment or abuse in Cameroon?

Mr. HOZA. Cameroon recently witnessed two very tragic murders of LGBT activists. Ambassador Jackson attended the funerals and has commenced a program, with the assistance of various offices back here in Washington, commenced a program to address legislation, to attempt to change legislation in Cameroon to protect the rights of LGBT individuals.

He has pressed also for a proper investigation into those murders and to bring the perpetrators to justice. If confirmed, I will continue those efforts.

Senator COONS. Thank you. I would look forward to hearing updates on your progress in that important work.

Last, you mentioned there are significant resources in Cameroon, but some real challenges in terms of transparency. Tell me about how EITI or other initiatives that are designed to improve transparency—I think Senator Markey asked about some of the SEC rules—might be applied in the private sector, in particular in extractive industries, both the transmission and the development of oil resources from Chad and then within Cameroon?

Mr. HOZA. EITI has been a very, very helpful tool. We import—the largest amount of exports from Cameroon to the United States is from their oil industry, and a significant portion of our exports to Cameroon have to do with the oil industry, whether it is in surveying for oil and natural gas or actually extracting the product from the ground. The pipeline, of course, as you mentioned, is also another important factor in Cameroon's economy.

We see a number of ways to impact transparency and a way to reduce the corruption that is endemic in the private sector in the market in Cameroon. We have seen a doubling in U.S. exports to Cameroon and we are selling things like civilian aircraft and diesel-electric locomotives, important to the development of their industries from the eastern portion of the country, drawing out the mineral and forest resources responsibly, to the new deepwater port in Kribi.

So Cameroonians see the advantage of trade with the United States and know that we have the technology and the products that they need to develop their economy. We need to capitalize on that. We need to press them to make sure that there is a level playing field, that all tenders are open and transparent, and that corruption will not be tolerated. The more we can press that issue and the more that we can ensure that our corporations adhere to all of our rules and regulations and all the rules and regulations of Cameroon, the better the trade will be.

Senator COONS. I think you are right, Mr. Hoza.

Mr. Hoover, if I might. If confirmed, you will be overseeing a relatively small embassy, mostly first or second-tour officers, in somewhat challenging, at times even difficult, living circumstances. How do you support the professional development of your staff in that kind of an environment? How do you maintain morale and ensure their safety?

Mr. HOOVER. As you pointed out, Senator—thank you for that question—it is a difficult environment in Freetown. The Embassy is pretty much supplying all of its own water, its own power, and much of its own infrastructure because of the context there of underdevelopment. So maintaining morale, maintaining unity of purpose, I think will be one of my biggest challenges if confirmed and one of my biggest areas of focus.

As you also noted, we have a lot of one-person sections at that Embassy, and often those one or two people in those sections are quite junior. I have already spoken to the deputy chief of mission there, a person I have worked with before. She and I share a very,

very strong belief in developing those younger officers. That will be one of my—in terms of the internal management and leadership of the mission, that will be one of my highest priorities, is providing those younger officers with the support they need, the guidance they need, to be fully successful, not just at the mission there in Freetown, but throughout their careers.

How do we go about doing this? It is just what you do every day, day in and day out, working with people, encouraging them and giving them the guidance they need to do good work.

Senator COONS. I know that is a challenge for all chiefs of mission.

But if I might, Ambassador Reddick. As someone who is going to a country that both faces significant challenges and has real opportunities, if I might by way of a closing question, In your opening you referenced the regional environment and how Niger has been exposed to increased violence and the potential of real terrorism, both because of southern Libya's instability, because of developments in Mali, and developments more regionally relating to Nigeria.

How do we ensure that Niger, currently a relatively staunch U.S. ally with which we have built some strong partnerships, does not become the next Mali? What are the steps we need to be taking to ensure that it remains stable and a key ally in our work in the Sahara and the Sahel?

Ambassador REDDICK. That is an excellent question, Mr. Chairman. I think we frankly need to continue what we are already doing in Niger. We have important programs in place through USAID, through MCC, that allow us to work with the Government of Niger in key areas of strengthening democratization, focusing on good governance, and improving the situation of the people of Niger.

I think this will make a big difference. It will create a more stable Niger. It has had a history of political fragility and that is why I think we need to continue to work with the Nigerien government on strengthening institutions, and also continue to work with civil society. We do work through a number of NGOs, including local NGOs, through USAID. All this empowers the people of Niger. It gives them a voice to hold their own government accountable. And the government of President Issoufou, I think, hears them and is trying to respond. We need to help them with the tools to become more resilient to these cycles of drought, and focus on diversification of crops, so if one crop fails, such as millet, then perhaps there can be a successful onion crop.

We are doing these things through USAID to make a difference for the people of Niger so that they can become more resilient to the environmental shocks of drought and famine and also flooding, which they recently experienced.

We are working in the area of education, not only building schools but focusing also on women, especially young girls, to improve the human resources of Niger so that women can fully participate in the economy.

These are just a few examples. Our government is headed in the right direction; we are doing the right thing. We need to do more of it perhaps. We could always use more resources, not only in

Niger but also in the Sahel region. We are looking at working more regionally. We have started a special unit of USAID based in Dakar that focuses on the Sahel as a region. I think this will have resonance as USAID also develops activities that will strengthen each of the countries in the region.

I am very pleased to be going out to Niger, if confirmed because there is a lot we can do. I think we are already doing some good things that will have an impact, and we are working with a very cooperative partner with the Government of Niger and the people of Niger.

Senator COONS. Great. Thank you, Ambassador Reddick. Thank you, Mr. Hoover. Thank you, Mr. Hoza. All three of these countries are countries that are valued American allies and where we have some real challenges, in stabilizing Sierra Leone and ensuring its ongoing recovery from what was a devastating civil war, and in ensuring transparency and progress toward tackling very significant human poverty challenges; in Cameroon, preserving the value of stability while still really promoting our values, democracy and openness in the economy and protecting vulnerable minorities; and in Niger, ensuring that we are helping them deal with the likely impact of climate change and become more resilient and become better able to fight poverty, but also to continue to be a real stalwart ally for us in the region.

Thank you, all three of you. Thank you to your families and co-workers and colleagues who have come today to support you.

I am going to leave the record open for a week for those members of the committee who were not able to join us today, but who may want to submit questions.

With that, this hearing is hereby adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:24 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

RESPONSE OF DWIGHT L. BUSH TO QUESTION SUBMITTED BY SENATOR ROBERT MENEZDEZ

Question. Morocco's claim to the Western Sahara has caused friction in United States-Morocco relations, with its neighbor Algeria, and within the African Union. Its claim stymies regional economic and security cooperation.

♦ How can the United States facilitate political discussions around this contentious issue?

Answer. The U.S. Government continues to support the process led by U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara, Christopher Ross, to find a peaceful, sustainable, and mutually agreed solution to the Western Sahara conflict. The U.S. Government, along with all the other members of the Security Council, unanimously adopted Resolution 2099 (2013), which took note of the Moroccan autonomy proposal presented to the Secretary General on April 11, 2007, and welcomed the serious and credible Moroccan efforts to move the process forward toward a resolution. It also took note of the Polisario proposal presented on April 10, 2007.

In November 2012 and March of this year, the U.N. Secretary General's Personal Envoy held broad-based consultations with the parties to the conflict, Morocco and the Frente Polisario, as well as with important regional stakeholders Algeria and Mauritania. He also consulted with the Friends on Western Sahara (France, Spain, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States). Ambassador Ross' work to bring the two parties together continues to hold promise and inspires hope for progress toward the resolution of this conflict. The United States supports Ross' approach of bilateral talks with the parties with the aim to launch shuttle diplomacy to work toward finding a just, lasting, and mutually acceptable political solu-

tion. If confirmed, I will work diligently to translate that support into tangible improvements.

RESPONSE OF MATTHEW HARRINGTON TO QUESTION SUBMITTED
BY SENATOR ROBERT MENEDEZ

Question. Lesotho has flourished under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to become the act's top nonenergy exporter to the U.S. of goods, exclusively textiles. Labor disputes, including over minimum wage, have accompanied the growth of the textile industry.

♦ Can you describe Lesotho's institutional capacity to resolve future labor disputes? What role can and should the United States play in helping to resolve these disputes?

Answer. Lesotho's primary institutional mechanism for labor mediation and dispute resolution is the Directorate of Dispute Prevention and Resolution, an independent government agency established in 2000. The Directorate effectively resolves most disputes through conciliation or arbitration, although the process can be lengthy.

The United States plays a leading role in helping Lesotho resolve labor disputes in the textile industry, which employs more than 36,000 Basotho, mainly women. The majority of textile firms exporting to the United States under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) participate in the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Better Work Lesotho Program (BWL), which was established in 2009. BWL works with factories and unions to improve compliance with ILO core labor standards and the Lesotho national labor law, with the goal of maintaining Lesotho as an ethical sourcing destination. American buyers like Gap, Levi's, and Walmart support industry participation in the program by encouraging all of the factories they source from to enroll in the program. In addition, these buyers rely on Better Work Lesotho assessment reports rather than conducting their own periodic audits. A U.S. Department of Labor grant of \$3.3 million solely funds Better Work Lesotho for the period 2010–2014.

In 2012, the U.S. Embassy worked with Better Work Lesotho and the U.S. Department of Labor to bring experts from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) to Lesotho to train union officials and employers on communication skills and dispute resolution. FMCS returned to Lesotho in September 2013 to provide additional training in collective bargaining and problem solving at the factory level.

The labor movement in Lesotho's textile industry is fragmented, with multiple unions competing for membership; as a result, unions have reduced bargaining power with employers. Nonetheless, labor relations in Lesotho are generally positive—the textile industry experiences relatively few strikes or other mass labor actions. While in prior years unions concentrated on industrywide minimum wage negotiations, more recently their efforts have been focused on negotiations with individual factories.

RESPONSE OF EUNICE S. REDDICK TO QUESTION SUBMITTED
BY SENATOR ROBERT MENEDEZ

Question. Niger struggles with security issues due to ongoing threats from Boko Haram, AQIM and affiliated groups, and broad regional security challenges. What are Niger's existing counterterrorism capabilities? What is the extent of United States-Niger counterterrorism efforts? Do they meet the needs of the United States to protect U.S. interests in the region?

Answer. Niger is a committed partner in combating terrorist groups and extremist ideology throughout the Sahel. Our relationship enjoys broad-based support from the government and people of Niger and is cognizant and reflective of Nigerien priorities, interests, and concerns.

The United States has long supported the Government of Niger's efforts to secure its borders and counter the threat of extremism. Under the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Program (TSCTP), the United States provides training and equipment to Niger. Support under this program aims to increase security sector capacity, address underlying causes of radicalization, and increase the voices of moderate leaders to positively influence populations potentially vulnerable to radicalization.

We are also working closely with Niger to support the deployment of the U.N. Multidimensional Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Niger has committed an 850-ground-troop contingent to the mission, almost all of which have already

deployed to Mali. The United States provided those troops logistical support, training, and equipment through the African Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA) Program.

Niger provides critical support for U.S. regional security goals throughout the region. U.S. Africa Command has positioned unarmed remotely piloted aircraft in Niger to support a range of regional security missions and engagements with partner nations. This effort is designed to promote regional stability, and to strengthen relationships with regional leaders committed to security and prosperity.

RESPONSE OF DWIGHT L. BUSH TO QUESTION SUBMITTED
BY SENATOR JOHN BARRASSO

Question. The United States is the most competitive supplier of soda ash in the world, due to the abundance of the raw material trona in our country. U.S. natural soda ash is refined from the mineral trona. The Green River Basin in Wyoming has the world's largest known deposits of naturally occurring trona. Soda ash is a key component of glass, detergents, soaps, and chemicals. American soda ash has long been regarded as the standard for quality, purity, and energy efficiency in production.

As I have discussed in this committee before, soda ash continues to face significant trade barriers around the world. Since 2009, the U.S. soda ash industry has urged the administration to press the Government of Morocco to live up to the U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement by permitting U.S. origin soda ash to enter duty-free. Instead, Morocco imposes a 2.5 percent duty while this country's European competitors enter their soda ash duty-free under the EU-Morocco Free Trade Agreement.

In your testimony before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, you committed to "working to increase commerce with this key ally."

- ◆ Will you commit to me that you will strongly advocate to resolve the problem of the duty being levied on U.S. soda ash to Morocco?
- ◆ Please outline what efforts you will take as U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco to ensure that Morocco finally lives up to its free trade agreement with the United States by granting U.S. origin soda ash duty-free treatment.
- ◆ As Ambassador, will you diligently pursue every opportunity to eliminate trade barriers and increase exports for all U.S. industries?

Answer. I will commit to you that I will strongly advocate to expand wherever possible opportunities for the U.S. soda ash industry to penetrate the Moroccan market. The U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement (FTA) came into force in January 2006, and on the first day that the treaty came into effect, 95 percent of goods and services became tariff-free. All remaining tariffs are to be eliminated by 2015. From entry into force through the end of 2012, the FTA increased overall trade by 244 percent, from \$927 million to \$3.2 billion; exports of U.S. products to Morocco soared 369 percent from \$481 million to \$2.3 billion and U.S. investment in Morocco jumped sharply.

The United States Trade Representative leads the Joint Committee on the Free Trade Agreement to discuss the implementation of the FTA. During these committee meetings, the United States Trade Representative will work diligently to ensure that Morocco fully lives up to its commitments under the FTA. Recent bilateral discussion on joint principles for investment as well as a new agreement to facilitate trade through common customs procedures should help further open the Moroccan market to U.S. exports and investment. If confirmed, I will diligently pursue every opportunity to eliminate trade barriers and increase exports for U.S. industries.