

Statement of Jackie Wolcott
Nominee to be U.S. Representative to the International Atomic
Energy Agency (IAEA) and UN Mission in Vienna
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
May 9, 2018

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Menendez, Members of the Committee for the opportunity to appear before you today. And I am grateful to President Trump for giving me the opportunity to again serve our country. If confirmed, it would be my honor to lead the men and women of U.S. Mission to the UN in Vienna and to represent the United States in two important bodies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Vienna Office of the United Nations.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge my wonderful family, friends, and colleagues, many of whom are watching these proceedings online today. I thank them for being here with me in spirit.

My first true job as a young adult began here in the Senate, just next door in the Russell Building, working for my home-state senator, Robert Taft, Jr. That position and my 32-year federal government career has instilled in me a deep appreciation for the role of Congress, the value of diplomacy, and the critical leadership role that the United States must play in multilateral diplomacy. I have served in numerous positions in Washington, New York and Geneva leading U.S. efforts in the United Nations, its specialized agencies, and our policy-making bureaus in Washington.

In all of these venues, I directed numerous campaigns to get votes from and build coalitions with governments around the world in support of our national security interests. My experience at the United Nations culminated in my service as Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs, where I represented the United States in the UN Security Council, dealing with the full range of security challenges. For more than five years in two different administrations, I served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, with responsibilities covering a broad span of UN issues.

For a major segment of my career I have engaged in multilateral work at various agencies focused on nonproliferation and arms control. I have acquired directly relevant professional experience dealing with nuclear nonproliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear technology, arms control, and challenging security issues on behalf of the United States. I was the Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and Special Representative of the President for the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons with lead responsibility for the 2005 NPT Review Conference. During that timeframe I also led our team in Vienna at several IAEA Board of Governors meetings, giving me firsthand experience with the issues, dynamics and procedural rules of that body.

My most recent executive branch experience was as Special Envoy for Nuclear Nonproliferation at the State Department. In that role I led implementation of a presidential initiative to stop the spread of sensitive nuclear fuel cycle technologies, an issue I know is important to this committee, and promoted tangible commitments to the highest standards of safety, security, and nonproliferation by emerging nuclear energy countries.

In my most recent positions as Executive Director and now Commissioner of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, I have had the opportunity to visit many countries of concern and to analyze and report on the horrible persecution of people by their own governments. I do not think it mere coincidence that several countries that deny citizens basic freedoms are also those that challenge international nonproliferation norms and commitments.

If I am confirmed to lead the U.S. Mission in Vienna, I look forward to working with the talented State Department and interagency team. UNVIE is well-positioned and indeed tasked to advance important U.S. policy in the areas of nuclear nonproliferation, safety and security, and strengthening international cooperation against many facets of transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, cybercrime, terrorism, human trafficking and wildlife crime. The peaceful use of nuclear technology is extremely important to countries around the world in the areas of energy, health, nuclear medicine, food safety and agriculture with the IAEA playing a key role in that regard.

Iran, North Korea and other countries which may be undermining the vital goal of nonproliferation remain some of the biggest challenges for the international community, including at the IAEA. With currently more than 150 missions represented at Vienna-based international organizations, if confirmed, I am committed to finding new partners and expanding coalitions to advance American interests and values. Today's threats demand such new partnerships.

In my various roles relating to the UN over many years, I have always pushed for reforms, transparency, and budget accountability. The United States contributes more than \$300 million annually to Vienna-based international organizations. If confirmed, a key objective of my job will be to make sure that U.S. tax dollars are being used wisely and effectively to meet today's threats, including urgently addressing the opioid crisis plaguing our own country, through the work of the UN Office of Drugs and Crime. My past experience has convinced me that the UN and other international bodies are only as good as their member states, and I would plan to be very hands-on in their governance. American taxpayers deserve to be well served through the work of these agencies, including having more Americans appointed to positions within the agencies we support so generously, as advanced in part by the International Gender Champions initiative launched last year in Vienna.

Mr. Chairman, I am excited by the prospect of again leading our team of experts in Vienna – from the State Department, Energy Department, Nuclear Regulatory Commission as well as our locally engaged staff. There clearly are profound challenges ahead and there is much critical work to be done. If confirmed, I promise to provide my best analysis and advice to our executive branch interagency team and to work with this Committee and Congress, to advance and implement policies that enhance the safety and security of our country and around the world. Thank you.