

**Statement of Mark Boulware  
Ambassador-Designate to the Republic of Chad  
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
September 22, 2010**

Mr. Chairman 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 of America to the Republic of Chad. I thank President Obama and Secretary Clinton for the confidence and trust they have shown by nominating me for this position.

I am pleased to introduce my wife, Nora Jean Boulware, a constant companion and a full partner in 35 years of public service.

Chad is an enormous country bordered by six others. Some of those six countries share a history of conflict with Chad. The effect of this regional violence is seen in the faces of some 270,000 refugees who have fled the conflict in Darfur, Sudan for shelter in Chad.

Beyond the regional problems, Chad faces daunting internal challenges. Its vast spaces and porous borders make it vulnerable to terrorists and its people suffer from levels of poverty, illiteracy, disease and infant mortality that are among the highest in the world. Authoritarian traditions of government and a history marked by coups, civil wars, and widespread human rights abuses, are factors that complicate the consolidation of democracy and the institutionalization of good governance.

My own introduction to Chadian affairs came a dozen years ago when, as Deputy Chief of Mission in Cameroon, I was involved with initial planning for the Cameroon-Chad pipeline project. Producing for a few years now, this ExxonMobil project is the largest single U.S. private-sector investment in Sub-Saharan Africa. I well remember the enthusiasm of those days when the prospects of oil revenue gave hope that Chad could break definitively with a past too often marred by misery, poverty and violence and could invest in development and poverty reduction. Sadly, this hope has not been realized.

To the extent that conflict has detracted from Chad's ability to capitalize on its oil wealth in the interest of the Chadian people and to reinforce democratic institutions and good governance, one such distraction appears to be disappearing. On January 15, 2010, Chad and Sudan signed an historic accord to normalize relations and to end support for rebel movements in each other's country. Both countries have taken significant steps to implement the agreement and some key Chadian rebel leaders are returning home to contest power at the polls.

In this newly auspicious environment, if confirmed, I hope to address three strategic goals in Chad. First, I would seek to maintain adequate levels of protection and assistance to Sudanese and Central African refugees and displaced Chadians while encouraging Chad to contribute to a durable solution to the Darfur conflict. Second, I hope to advance democratic good governance and respect for human rights. Third, I will seek to assure adequate US counter terrorism support to help Chad strengthen its capacity to deal with legitimate terrorist threats.

Should I be confirmed, my highest priority as U. S. Ambassador will be to ensure the safety and welfare of all Americans in Chad.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you, and I welcome any questions you may have.