

**Statement for the Record**  
**Terence P. McCulley**  
**Ambassador-Designate to the Federal Republic of Nigeria**  
**Before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**  
**Subcommittee on Africa**  
**July 28, 2010**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

I am honored today to appear before you as the President's nominee to be the United States Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I would like to thank President Obama and Secretary Clinton for the confidence they have placed in me and, if confirmed, I look forward to working with this Committee and other Members of Congress, as well as with a large inter-agency team on our vital relationship with Nigeria. I would also like to thank my wife Renée and my sons, Sean and Liam. Although they are on the other side of the continent at the moment, they are watching this hearing virtually, and I am grateful for their constant support. With two decades of service in Africa, I am eager to return to the continent and, if confirmed, represent the United States in one of our most strategic partners in Sub-Saharan Africa.

I believe strongly that the success of our engagement depends on our people, and I will make it my highest priority to ensure their safety, security, and well-being, as well as that of the American community in Nigeria. We have a robust and effective interagency presence in Nigeria, and we are committed to enhancing

our engagement in the critically important and predominantly Muslim North, including an expanded diplomatic presence in Kano.

While Nigeria has accomplished much in the past 10 years of civilian rule, it still faces many challenges, with good governance and accountability the keys to realizing the country's enormous potential. Nigeria's 2007 elections were marred by widespread fraud and violence, and the elections next year will be a measure of the Nigerian political leadership's commitment to the democratic process and its desire for a full partnership with the United States. If confirmed, I will ensure that we deploy our resources and engagement in support of a credible and transparent process. I am also committed to active engagement with civil society, as well as with Nigeria's anti-corruption institutions, encouraging both to play a role in fighting corruption and encouraging policies that promote transparency and good governance, development, and economic growth.

Nigeria has a long and proud history of engagement in regional security – with nearly 6,000 peacekeepers deployed worldwide, including significant contingents in Darfur and Liberia. In order for Nigeria to continue to exercise leadership in the region, however, it must address the serious problems of development and security, particularly in the Niger Delta. If confirmed, I will work to keep these issues at the forefront of our bilateral agenda.

In April, Secretary Clinton and our Nigerian partners launched the U.S.-Nigeria Binational Commission. I am committed to using this body as a

mechanism to advance our bilateral dialogue. We have a rich agenda with Nigeria, with many challenges and opportunities. If I am confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria, I will be an active advocate for America as we advance our partnership with this strategic African country.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and I welcome your questions.