

STATEMENT BY ROSE M. LIKINS
AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO
THE REPUBLIC OF PERU
BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN
RELATIONS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 2010, 14:30

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am truly honored to appear before the Committee today as the President's nominee to serve as the next United States Ambassador to the Republic of Peru. I am deeply grateful for the trust President Obama and Secretary Clinton have placed in me.

Representing the United States is a singular privilege, one I have enjoyed for 29 years. If confirmed, I will return to a region close to my heart with great joy and a commitment to exemplify our nation's values and principles. Our relations with Peru are at a high point, anchored in trade, joint initiatives to consolidate democratic progress including the MCC Threshold program, and support for decentralization efforts and economic development, and security cooperation to stem illicit drug trafficking and terrorism. Under President Garcia's government, Peru has committed to open markets, global integration, and representative democracy. A steadfast and effective U.S. partner, Peru also has demonstrated leadership within the region – contributing to the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), hosting the OAS General Assembly earlier this month, and

advocating a pragmatic approach to the region's problems. While Peru has made impressive political and economic strides in the past two decades, it faces continuing challenges. If confirmed, I will work to advance U.S. goals of regional stability and development in Peru, and to support Peru's efforts to demonstrate that representative democracy and economic openness can deliver long-term benefits for all Peruvians. Should I be confirmed, my highest priorities will include:

- The security and protection of the 25,000 Americans resident in Peru as well as the 370,000 American tourists who visit annually.
- Strengthening Peru's democratic institutions at a pivotal moment using our programs to increase growth, bolster civil society, and build capacity in state institutions.
- Stemming illicit narcotics trafficking in close collaboration with the government of President Garcia: according to a recent United Nation's report, Peru is now the world's largest producer of coca and ties between its narcotics traffickers and those elsewhere in Latin America are growing. While a large proportion of Peruvian cocaine still flows to Europe, indications of supply to the United States are growing. So is consumption inside Peru. One success story is in the San Martin region, where U.S.-supported counternarcotics programs

focused on interdiction, eradication, and alternative development have shifted a one-time coca-cultivating and drug-trafficking-based economy known as a global epicenter of the international drug trade; to a licit agricultural production area and the booming center of Peru's organic coffee and cacao industry. The Government of Peru is a reliable partner and, if confirmed, I will support existing programs and efforts to replicate the successful San Martin model throughout Peru.

- Implementing our bilateral trade and economic agenda. With the U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement in place, deepening trade and economic relations with Peru also will support our democratic goals. Support for U.S. companies and investors will be a high priority for Embassy Lima if I am confirmed and will receive my personal attention.
- If confirmed, I will also support the Government of Peru's efforts to meet its labor and environment commitments under the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement. The United States and Peru are engaged in a close partnership to ensure that economic growth leads to increased prosperity and respect for workers and the conservation of Peru's unique natural resources. Collaboration on clean energy and

energy efficiency is also a priority issue in the U.S.-Peru bilateral relationship.

- Contributing to the social well-being the Peruvian people in concert with Peruvian government programs. Peru's integration into the world economy has derived from strong growth in recent years, but this growth is not reaching the poor in highland and rural areas as quickly as Peruvians wish. In keeping with core American values of promoting social inclusion and opportunities for all, if confirmed, I will work with the government of Peru to support efforts to extend the benefits of growth to Peru's poorest people, including its indigenous peoples.
- And finally, providing strong and vigorous leadership to the inter-agency team in Lima to ensure the success of our whole-of-government effort.

If confirmed, I will commit to working closely with members of this Committee and with your colleagues in Congress to achieve our objectives in Peru.

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to appear before you today. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

