

Statement of Karen F. Kornbluh
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Senate Foreign Relations Committee
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Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am honored to appear before this distinguished Committee today as President Obama's nominee to represent the United States at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

In speaking to the Turkish parliament about the challenges of our new century, President Obama said, "No one nation can confront these challenges alone, and all nations have a stake in overcoming them. That is why we must listen to one another, and seek common ground. That is why we must build on our mutual interests, and rise above our differences." For that reason, I am grateful for the confidence and trust that the President and Secretary Clinton have placed in me and hope, if I am confirmed, to take advantage of the rich opportunities for the U.S. in a reinvigorated relationship with the OECD.

In my work in the private sector, as an economic forecaster and then a management consultant to Fortune 500 manufacturing and technology companies, I saw how important sound economic policy is to businesses' ability to increase productivity and create good jobs. When I came to work in government, first to work for the Chairman of this committee, Senator John Kerry, it was to work on creating these kinds of policies. I then moved to the Federal Communications Commission, where we devised strategies that connected the nation's classrooms to the Internet, opened telecommunications markets to competition, and successfully concluded the WTO telecommunications agreement. Later, I served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the Treasury Department.

During this time, I became a mother and learned how tough today's global, 24x7 work-world is on families. I founded the New America Foundation's Work and Family Program to argue for updating our out-of-date policies to meet the needs of today's families.

I then came back to the Senate, in 2005, to work for a then freshman Senator from Illinois, Senator Barack Obama, as his policy director.

Today, when economies around the world are rapidly transforming, the OECD can play a pivotal role in developing consensus on some of the economic rules of the road to reignite global economic growth and create broad-based prosperity. The OECD's core strengths are in producing well-regarded economic and statistical analysis -- allowing countries to benchmark against each other and learn from best practices -- and in serving as the venue where networks of regulators and government officials and agree on market-enhancing rules on export credits, anti-bribery, sovereign wealth funds, international investment and competition policy.

The OECD can leverage its strengths in new areas of importance for the US. The newly adopted Declaration on Green Growth could provide an opportunity for the OECD to support members' efforts to realize the win-win opportunities of moving to a clean energy economy and lower barriers to technology transfer.

I hope that through the OECD's Development Assistance Committee, we can work with other nations on the Administration's development priorities including the DAC's important work on improving aid effectiveness and support for the Millennium Development Goals. At the DAC and more broadly at the OECD, there are opportunities to encourage economic empowerment of women in the developing and developed world.

The Investment Committee can build on the OECD's strong record in preventing barriers to international investment, resisting protectionism and establishing accountability through peer monitoring.

I also look forward to working with the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), the two sister agencies of the OECD,

which help us deal with supply, security, technology, and, more recently, climate-related issues.

The OECD's Enhanced Engagement outreach to Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, and South Africa is a powerful tool for reengineering this important international organization for the 21st Century and it complements the dialogues the US is having with these nations bilaterally and in other venues. The organization's gradual reform will continue with the accession of Chile, Estonia, Israel, and Slovenia next year, and the beginning of the process of Russia's accession review over the new few years.

Through follow-on work to the recent report, *Growing Unequal*, the OECD can help countries learn how to create economic opportunity for all in the developed and developing worlds. The current OECD work on innovation also holds promise for contributing to the understanding of what countries can do to set conditions for private sector innovation.

Madam Chair, if confirmed, I look forward to continued consultations with this Committee and its staff, both here in Washington and during the visits of congressional delegations to Paris.

I am pleased to respond to any questions. Thank you.