

# **BUSINESS MEETING**

*Wednesday, April 15, 2026*

U.S. Senate  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
*Washington, D.C.*

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:10 a.m., in room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. James E. Risch, chairman of the committee, presiding.

**Present:** Senators Risch [presiding], Ricketts, McCormick, Daines, Hagerty, Barrasso, Lee, Cruz, Scott, Curtis, Cornyn, Shaheen, Coons, Murphy, Kaine, Merkley, and Van Hollen.

## **OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES E. RISCH, U.S. SENATOR FROM IDAHO**

**The Chairman:** The United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations will come to order.

Thank you for everyone's cooperation. We have a very brief business meeting to move some nominees, thank you to the minority for their cooperation.

We will start with Ms. Cate Dillon of Maryland to be an Assistant Secretary of State, Educational and Cultural Affairs. Is there a motion to send her to the floor with a -- recommendation that she be confirmed?

**Senator Ricketts:** So moved.

**The Chairman:** Second?

**Senator Scott of Florida:** Second.

**The Chairman:** Moved and seconded. Is there debate? Senator Shaheen.

**Senator Shaheen:** Yes, I would like to express my reservation about Ms. Dillon. Her responses to the questions at the hearing left me concerned over her willingness

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to work with this committee. She did not outline a plan to protect the ECA Bureau against unprecedented efforts by the Office of OMB to undermine important programs, and she was completely unresponsive when I followed up with her to understand who in each regional bureau is responsible for functions once carried out by the Office of Global Women's Issues. So, I intend to oppose her nomination.

**The Chairman:** Thank you, Senator. Is there further debate on the nomination?  
Senator, yes.

**Senator Coons:** If I might, I did not have a chance to meet with her individually, but my staff did and conveyed their alarm at the lack of relevant experience and qualifications. This is a critical Bureau for the State Department, a critical assistant secretary position, and I will also oppose and hope that we will see a nominee who has the skills and relevant ability to lead at a critical moment in our world and for this Department.

**The Chairman:** Thank you, Senator Coons. Is there further debate?

[No response.]

**The Chairman:** There being no further debate, the clerk will call the roll.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Ricketts?

**Senator Ricketts:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. McCormick?

**Senator McCormick:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Daines?

**Senator Daines:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Hagerty?

**Senator Hagerty:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Barrasso?

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**Senator Barrasso:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Lee?

**Senator Lee:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Paul?

[No response for Senator Paul.]

**The Clerk:** Mr. Cruz?

**Senator Cruz:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Scott?

**Senator Scott of Florida:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Curtis?

**Senator Curtis:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Cornyn?

**Senator Cornyn:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mrs. Shaheen?

**Senator Shaheen:** No.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Coons?

**Senator Coons:** No.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Murphy?

**Senator Murphy:** No.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Kaine?

**Senator Kaine:** No.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Merkley?

**Senator Merkley:** No.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Booker?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

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**The Clerk:** Mr. Schatz?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Van Hollen?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Ms. Duckworth?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Ms. Rosen?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Chairman?

**The Chairman:** Aye. The clerk will report.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 11. The noes are 10.

**The Chairman:** Her nomination will be sent to the floor with a do-pass recommendation.

We now have before us the proposed nomination of Mr. Adewale-Sadik of New York to be the United States Director of the African Development Bank for a term of 5 years. Is there a motion to send him to the floor?

**Senator Ricketts:** So moved.

**The Chairman:** It has been moved.

**Senator McCormick:** Second.

**The Chairman:** And seconded that we send the nomination to the floor with a do-pass confirmation -- recommendation. Is there debate? Senator Shaheen.

**Senator Shaheen:** Mr. Chairman, I am -- I intend to vote for this nominee, and I am glad the administration has nominated somebody to be the executive director of the African Development Bank. But I just want to point out that the administration has also proposed zeroing out funding for the African Development Bank, which I

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think is inconsistent with not only the nomination, but the policy that we should be pursuing. So, I hope that the nominee, Mr. Adewale-Sadik, will address the administration's concerns with the Fund and not just walk away.

**The Chairman:** Thank you, Senator Shaheen. Is there further debate?

[No response.]

**The Chairman:** There being no further debate, the clerk will call the roll.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Ricketts?

**Senator Ricketts:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. McCormick?

**Senator McCormick:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Daines?

**Senator Daines:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Hagerty?

**Senator Hagerty:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Barrasso?

**Senator Barrasso:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Lee?

**Senator Lee:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Paul?

[No response for Senator Paul.]

**The Clerk:** Mr. Cruz?

**Senator Cruz:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Scott?

**Senator Scott of Florida:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Curtis?

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**Senator Curtis:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Cornyn?

**Senator Cornyn:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mrs. Shaheen?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Coons?

**Senator Coons:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Murphy?

**Senator Murphy:** No.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Kaine?

**Senator Kaine:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Merkley?

**Senator Merkley:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Booker?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Schatz?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Van Hollen?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Ms. Duckworth?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Ms. Rosen?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Chairman?

**The Chairman:** Aye. The clerk will report.

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**The Clerk:** Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 16. The noes are 5.

**The Chairman:** The motion is passed. The nominee will be referred to the floor with a do-pass recommendation.

We have before us Mr. Kevin Kim of Texas to be representative of the United States of America to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, with the rank and status of ambassador. Is there a motion?

**Senator Ricketts:** So moved.

**Senator Hagerty:** Second.

**The Chairman:** It has been moved and seconded that we send him to the floor with a do-pass recommendation, and is there debate?

[No response.]

**The Chairman:** There being no debate, the clerk will call the roll.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Ricketts?

**Senator Ricketts:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. McCormick?

**Senator McCormick:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Daines?

**Senator Daines:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Hagerty?

**Senator Hagerty:** Hagerty is aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Barrasso?

**Senator Barrasso:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Lee?

**Senator Lee:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Paul?

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[No response for Senator Paul.]

**The Clerk:** Mr. Cruz?

**Senator Cruz:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Scott?

**Senator Scott of Florida:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Curtis?

**Senator Curtis:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Cornyn?

**Senator Cornyn:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mrs. Shaheen?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Coons?

**Senator Coons:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Murphy?

**Senator Murphy:** No.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Kaine?

**Senator Kaine:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Merkley?

**Senator Merkley:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Booker?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Schatz?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Van Hollen?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

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**The Clerk:** Ms. Duckworth?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Ms. Rosen?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Chairman?

**The Chairman:** Aye. The clerk will report.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 18. The noes are 3.

**The Chairman:** Thank you very much. The motion is passed. The nomination will be sent to the floor with a do-pass recommendation.

Now, the ranking member and I have negotiated on three lists, and they are FSO lists, Number 89 -- PN893, PN894, PN895, consisting of a couple hundred or so people, and we have gone through these. We believe these are -- we need -- we really want to get these people moved. They are important positions they would be sent to. So, with that, is there a motion to send the three lists to the floor with a recommendation that these people be confirmed to their positions?

**Senator Ricketts:** So moved.

**Senator Shaheen:** Second.

**The Chairman:** It has been moved and seconded that these three lists be sent to the floor, as indicated. Is there debate? Senator Shaheen.

**Senator Shaheen:** Mr. Chairman, I think it is very positive progress that we are finally getting these Foreign Service Officer lists, but it has taken way too long. We are a year and a half into this administration. We still have ambassadors in places around the world who we do not even have nominees for, and I think it is well past time this committee receives and approves the Foreign Service promotion list. And I hope we will send a very strong message to the State Department that we expect to see these lists

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moved much more expeditiously in the future.

**The Chairman:** Thank you very much, Senator Shaheen. On the bright side, it is not often we get to move --

**Senator Shaheen:** That is a bright side?

[Laughter.]

**The Chairman:** We do not get -- we do not often get to move a couple hundred like this, so that is very significant progress. So, with that, is there further debate?

[No response.]

**The Chairman:** There being no further debate, the clerk will call the roll.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Ricketts?

**Senator Ricketts:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. McCormick?

**Senator McCormick:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Daines?

**Senator Daines:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Hagerty?

**Senator Hagerty:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Barrasso?

**Senator Barrasso:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Lee?

**Senator Lee:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Paul?

[No response for Senator Paul.]

**The Clerk:** Mr. Cruz?

**Senator Cruz:** Aye.

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**The Clerk:** Mr. Scott?

**Senator Scott of Florida:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Curtis?

**Senator Curtis:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Cornyn?

**Senator Cornyn:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mrs. Shaheen?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Coons?

**Senator Coons:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Murphy?

**Senator Murphy:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Kaine?

**Senator Kaine:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Merkley?

**Senator Merkley:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Booker?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Schatz?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Van Hollen?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Ms. Duckworth?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Ms. Rosen?

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**Senator Shaheen:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Chairman?

**The Chairman:** Aye. The clerk will report.

**Senator Shaheen:** Oh, it is unanimous.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 21. The noes are zero.

**The Chairman:** Please note we have a unanimous vote to send 200 of these to the floor, great cooperation and progress. Thank you very much. The nominations will be sent to the floor to move forward with a recommendation that they do pass.

Thank you very much. Thank you, everyone.

**[Whereupon, at 10:18 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]**