

**Statement of Todd Steggerda**  
**Nominee for Representative of the United States of America to the Office of**  
**the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva,**  
**with the rank of Ambassador**  
**Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
**April 16, 2026**

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee – I am honored to have been nominated by President Trump to serve as Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the Rank of Ambassador.

I am joined today by my wife, Trish, a Neonatal Nurse who was working at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia when we met 37 years ago. I am so thankful for her support on this lifelong journey together.

Reflecting on the long path that led me here – now spanning six decades – it became clear that the most profound influences in my life occurred during the first two.

I was born in April 1965 during a tumultuous time in history – on the eve of an expanded military draft for the Vietnam War. And in 1971, our family adopted the first of two Korean children – my sisters – victims in the long aftermath of the Korean War.

Coming of age in the 1970s, I remember the Fall of Saigon in 1975, helicopters trying to rescue Americans from rooftops – an indelible image from my youth. And I remember the Iranian Hostage crisis in 1979, and the failed military mission to rescue them, dominating the news for 444 days. As my political identity was forming, it appeared to me that America had grown weak – seemingly unable to protect its citizens.

In 1982, I applied to the U.S. Naval Academy. I wanted to serve my country and do my part in making it strong again.

At Annapolis, I studied leadership and obtained an Aerospace Engineering degree. Later, as a Naval Aviator, I had the honor to serve as a Navy F-18 pilot in one of the Navy’s most heralded squadrons: the VFA-105 “Gunslingers”, and in 1992, my

squadron deployed to the Mediterranean aboard the USS John F. Kennedy at the start of the Bosnian civil war.

In 1994, I transitioned to the law, and over the next 30 years, built an investigations practice at the intersection of business, law, and politics – with a strong focus in the waste, fraud and abuse arena, including procurement matters with an international dimension.

As a Washington lawyer, I built strong teams and held leadership positions, including Chair of a Government Contracts Practice and a Government Investigations Department – and as a Deputy Managing Partner for Strategic Development of a Powerhouse law firm with 1,000 attorneys and revenues exceeding \$1B.

My leadership, military, political, national security, procurement, investigations, and negotiations experience provides a solid foundation to address the challenges at the UN in Geneva.

And the most fundamental challenge is this: Although the UN was founded with a noble mission to promote peace and security, it has strayed from that core purpose. In Geneva, strong U.S. leadership is essential to protecting America's vital national interests and advancing a robust UN Reform agenda.

As the U.S. Ambassador in Geneva, I intend to focus on two over-arching priorities:

First, I will steadfastly advance the values and interests of Americans and protect our sovereignty across the UN System and International Organizations based in Geneva, including by ensuring a level playing field for American businesses.

Unfortunately, many Geneva-based organizations, including Specialized and Technical Agencies, which set global standards of great consequence to the American people and our great businesses, have become overtly political, with ever-expanding mandates, and with growing opportunities for U.S. adversaries to impose their own agendas. I will leverage U.S. influence to ensure that America's voice, expertise, and values stay at the forefront, including through leadership positions, and that we effectively counter the prolific efforts of our adversaries.

As my second priority, I will support the ongoing focus on reforms across the UN System. And nowhere is reform more important than in the humanitarian agencies,

which perform some of the UN's most critical work and where significant reform is already underway.

The landmark MOU with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) signals President Trump's commitment to remaining the world's most generous nation while supercharging reforms to make life-saving humanitarian aid more impactful and accountable – a critical step in reforming the way we fund, oversee, and integrate with UN humanitarian efforts.

And I will also focus on long-term sustainability through compensation reform – an unfathomable gap in UN80 efforts.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Shaheen, Members of the Committee: thank you for your consideration. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this Committee to ensure the United States is well represented in this critical Geneva Post.

I look forward to your questions. Thank you.