

Statement of Ambassador-designate Jennifer Marie Adams
Republic of Cabo Verde
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
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Chairman Van Hollen, Ranking Member Ricketts, and Distinguished Members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you today. I am deeply grateful to President Biden and Secretary Blinken for the confidence they have shown in me as the President's nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Cabo Verde. If confirmed, I will work closely with you and other Members of Congress to advance our nation's security and foreign policy interests. I would like to thank my family - especially my husband Dr. Wayne Quillin and my three sons, Eugene, Sam and Kelly - for all their support and sharing our family life overseas.

Mr. Chairman, my interest in economic development in Africa began with my college education and deepened as a Marshall Scholar in the UK, where I completed a Ph.D in Economics at Cambridge after fieldwork in a rural area of Zimbabwe. I have proudly served the American people for the past 32 years as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development. With USAID, I successfully advanced U.S. goals in sub-Saharan Africa, Brazil and Asia, and managed large, complex inter-agency programs such as PEPFAR, PMI, Power Africa, Feed the Future, anti-wildlife trafficking and humanitarian disaster relief. I have enjoyed mentoring and promoting employees of every color, race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation and have focused on listening to and working closely with our locally employed staff overseas. If confirmed, I will continue to support and enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in our workforce and our programs.

Cabo Verde is a long-standing partner and the site of our first consulate in Africa over 200 years ago. Cabo Verde is a success story in terms of economic development and improving the lives of its people, having progressed from deep poverty at independence from Portugal in 1975 to lower middle-income status today. Cabo Verde is also a thriving democracy with a multi-party system, free and fair elections, and a vibrant civil society, and a strong partner on promoting respect for human rights in the region and on the international stage. The United States, especially the Northeast, is home to many people of Cabo Verdean descent and this diaspora community is an important link between our countries. I know from my one visit to Cabo Verde in the mid-2000s that the warm and hospitable Cabo Verdean people admire American culture and traditions and welcome further partnership with the United States.

Strengthening security cooperation is a key objective between the United States and Cabo Verde, including maritime security and law enforcement partnerships that protect the country's exclusive economic zone, combat drug and other illicit trafficking, reduce illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and oppose transnational crime. Increasing U.S. investment and bilateral trade is similarly a key objective that will deepen commercial ties and support Cabo Verde as its economy recovers from the COVID pandemic. Further engagement with Cabo Verde, a small island nation, on climate action will promote greater economic resilience, social and economic inclusion of remote and vulnerable populations, and progress toward development goals.

Given the opportunity, I will support these key U.S. policy objectives. If confirmed, I would seek to leverage Cabo Verde's strong historical links and shared values with the United States to foster a cooperative environment for increased partnerships in security cooperation, commerce, education, and

public diplomacy.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to address you today. I am happy to answer any questions.