

Statement of Daniel Perez
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to the Federative Republic of Brazil
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
July 16, 2026

Chairman McCormic, Ranking Member Rosen, and distinguished Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, it is an honor to appear before you today, and I am grateful for your time and your service to this nation.

I am deeply honored that President Trump has nominated me to serve as the United States Ambassador to the Federative Republic of Brazil, and I thank Secretary Rubio for his confidence and his friendship. Senator Scott, thank you for your generous introduction and your dedication to Florida and to this country, it is a constant source of inspiration.

Brazil is not simply our largest trading partner in South America. It is a country of continental scale, extraordinary natural wealth, and growing strategic consequence, one whose trajectory over the coming years will shape the security, prosperity, and influence of the entire Western Hemisphere.

The stakes are high and the opportunities are real. Brazil holds vast reserves of critical minerals essential to American economic strength and national security. It sits at the center of hemispheric trade, energy, and infrastructure. And it faces real security challenges, from transnational criminal organizations that fuel drug flows threatening American communities, to the expanding footprint of outside powers competing for influence across the region. How the United States engages Brazil in the years ahead will matter enormously.

I bring to this role a deep belief in the power of relationships. Growing up and serving in Miami-Dade, one of the most vibrant multicultural communities in the world, taught me how to listen, how to find common ground, and how to build trust across cultures. As Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, I learned that clarity, integrity, and follow-through are the foundations of effective governance. I will bring those same principles to the Embassy in Brasília.

My highest priorities, if confirmed, will be the protection of American citizens in Brazil, the advancement of our national interests in trade and investment, the disruption of narcotics trafficking and transnational crime, and the building of resilient partnerships that serve the American economy and the American worker. I will also support Brazil's democratic institutions and press for conditions that

allow free and fair elections and freedom of expression, because a stable, democratic Brazil is a better partner for the United States.

The opportunity to represent the United States of America abroad is the privilege of a lifetime. I pledge to this committee that I will work tirelessly to advance our national interests, strengthen this critical partnership, and make our country proud. Thank you. I look forward to your questions.