

Statement of the Honorable Lynda Blanchard
Nominee for U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and
Agriculture, with the rank of Ambassador
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
July 9, 2025

Chairman Hagerty and distinguished Members of the Committee: thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am honored to have been nominated by President Trump to serve as the U.S. Representative to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Agencies in Rome.

I am joined today by my family, whose unwavering love and support have made this moment possible. I would not be here without them.

Our country has afforded me many opportunities, for which I am ever grateful. I married at 19, became a mom to a three-year-old son shortly thereafter, and earned my degree in my 30s when we were finally able to afford it. I am a proud adoptive parent of children from all over the world – my “mini-UN,” as we are affectionately called. I have served in a variety of professional roles, at times just to make ends meet. This includes serving as an orthopedic assistant, business executive and humanitarian. I have partnered with international business leaders and foreign dignitaries on projects to improve education, decrease poverty, and instill dignity and hope. Our non-profit organization has provided care to thousands of children across the globe.

I bring to this role a combination of humanitarian passion, business acumen and large-scale management experience. I was honored to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia during President Trump’s first term, where I advanced critical administration priorities -- from 5G technology deployment and U.S. energy strategy to negotiating a multi-billion-dollar memorandum of understanding for a new nuclear partnership between the United States and Slovenia. I was privileged to have also been serving as Ambassador to Slovenia when public perception of the U.S. turned notably more positive.

Today, the need for change and reform within the United Nations is more urgent than ever. Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Rubio, the United States is reevaluating its relationship with international organizations and ensuring our involvement advances American interests. The United States has

the opportunity to shape the UN's food and agricultural agencies to overcome the challenges of our time.

I understand the importance of the U.S. Mission to UN Agencies in Rome: food security is a life-or-death issue for hundreds of millions of people around the world. Moreover, these agencies directly affect U.S. farmers and producers, as billions of dollars of American agricultural exports move through their programs.

However, over the years, the United Nations and its associated agencies have continued to grow and expand their mandate beyond original intentions. With this growth, a proliferation of bloated bureaucracies has taken hold, distracting the UN from its core principles. President Trump and Secretary Rubio recognized this issue and have asked the State Department to reexamine our engagement with UN organizations.

If confirmed, I will bring everything I have to ensure that the UN organizations the United States chooses to engage with are efficient and effective stewards of U.S. taxpayer dollars. As Secretary Rubio has also said – “Every dollar we spend, every program we fund, and every policy we pursue must be justified with the answer to three simple questions: Does it make America safer? Does it make America stronger? Does it make America more prosperous?”

Chairman Hagerty and Members of the Committee: I am grateful for this nomination and, if confirmed, I will work closely with you and your staff to advance an America First-foreign policy and ensure that the United States remains a principled, effective leader on the world stage—especially in the fight against global hunger.

I look forward to your questions.