

**Opening Statement of Dan Negrea**  
**Nominee for U.S. Representative to the United Nations Economic and**  
**Social Council, with the rank of Ambassador**  
**Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
**September 3, 2025**

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, distinguished Members: Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am honored to be nominated by President Trump to serve as the U.S. Representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

I am blessed with a great family - please allow me to introduce my wife Nikki, my daughter Victoria, and my sons, Peter and Michael. A special note about Peter, a lieutenant in the Connecticut National Guard. Accompanied by our prayers, he will leave soon on a one-year deployment to the Middle East. Also attending is family friend Brad Browne.

In my early 20s, I came to this country as a political refugee from Communist Romania with just \$200 to my name. I would be very grateful for the opportunity to serve again this great country that accepted me so generously.

I would bring to this position relevant business, diplomatic, and research experiences. I worked on Wall Street for 35 years, served in the Department of State on economic affairs, and wrote extensively on geostrategy and development matters.

The United Nations is at a critical juncture: it must reform to become a more effective institution. Under President Trump and Secretary Rubio's leadership, UN reform is not only possible—it is an imperative.

Eighty years ago, the founding members of the United Nations set out to solve world "problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character." The Ambassador to ECOSOC is responsible for these matters across the UN system, whether in the 54-member Economic and Social

Council, the 193-member General Assembly, or the executive boards of the operational agencies.

If confirmed, I will use my voice to refocus the organization on its core mission. I will advance President Trump's America-First, peace-through-strength foreign policy and I will ensure that every taxpayer dollar spent at the UN makes America safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

We know that freedom and prosperity go hand in hand. ECOSOC's historical purpose was to foster peace by building socio-economic ties. To complement the peacebuilding efforts of the Security Council, ECOSOC was intended to build bridges between nations and find areas of mutual cooperation in trade, commerce, and human rights.

However, it has strayed into socially divisive programs, has promoted worldviews antithetical to America's founding ideals, and has drifted into an obsessive anti-Israel bias. If confirmed, I will bring common sense, purpose, and belief in American exceptionalism back to ECOSOC. Through my leadership, I will promote economic opportunity, free-market capitalism, and an unapologetic defense of America's sovereignty.

If confirmed, I will work to fulfill Secretary Rubio's vision to prioritize trade over aid, opportunity over dependency, and investment over assistance. We can thereby usher in a new era of global partnership, peace, investment, and prosperity. We need to elevate the voices of the U.S. private sector at the UN and create business opportunities for American companies.

Instilling change at the UN and advancing American objectives cannot come without greater accountability, transparency, and reform within the UN system – all of which I pledge to pursue. We must ensure that authoritarian countries like China do not exploit the UN to advance their interests or set technical standards that undermine U.S. businesses - we can do so by forming coalitions of like-minded countries and pursuing leadership roles for Americans within the UN.

We also reject China's claim that it is a developing country and is therefore entitled to the aid and benefits the UN organizations extend to such countries. China has made great progress in its development and has the world's second largest economy. If confirmed, I will advocate for recognizing China as a developed country and for an increase in Chinese voluntary financial contributions.

Demands for more burden-sharing at the UN should not be limited to China. President Trump was successful in convincing our NATO allies to meet their spending commitments. If confirmed, I will work to move other countries, particularly the richest nations of Europe, to pay more for projects around the world.

I understand that the United States is reviewing its participation in all international organizations. While the U.S. role in the multilateral system may evolve, it does not mean the U.S. will disengage. As Secretary Rubio has stated, "America First does not mean America alone" - America will continue to be one of the most generous countries in the world when it comes to foreign assistance.

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, distinguished Members – Representing the United States at the United Nations would be the honor of a lifetime.

I echo Ambassador nominee Mike Walz's call to Make the UN Great Again.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.