

Opening Statement of Charles Goodman III
Nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the Togolese Republic
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
September 16, 2026

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am honored and humbled by the trust President Trump and Secretary Rubio have placed in me with this nomination, and I hope to earn your trust as well. If confirmed, I pledge to work closely with this committee and the Congress to advance the United States' interests in and priorities with Togo.

Thank you also for the opportunity today to recognize my family, Leslie, Jonathan, and Jackson. I am deeply grateful for their support, patience, and the sacrifices they have made throughout my Foreign Service career.

If confirmed, I would be honored to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the Togolese Republic during this pivotal time in our diplomatic relations with Africa. As the United States refocuses on trade and investment, and moves away from aid and dependency, we must remind countries like Togo that Africa remains strategically and economically consequential to America. If confirmed, I will work to maintain our strong relationship with Togo during this shift, emphasizing areas of mutual interest and reminding the Togolese people that we approach our partners as equals.

Togo matters to American interests in concrete ways. It is a transportation and logistics hub for West Africa – providing a commercial entry point into the Sahel – a key node in preventing the spread of terrorism to the West African coastline. Togo also has significant American commercial investments in energy and mining, and there are opportunities for increased engagement by U.S. firms in infrastructure, digitalization, and other sectors.

The Trump Administration engages Togo as a commercial and security partner with many shared interests, and we expect Togo to take American strategic priorities seriously in return.

If confirmed, the welfare of American citizens in Togo, commercial diplomacy, and deterring illegal immigration will be my top priorities. I will work to close transformational deals, open doors for American companies, and ensure that Togo's security, infrastructure, and mineral sectors are shaped by American investment, not by our competitors who play by their own rules.

Togo's vast potential as an economic and security partner makes it uniquely well-suited to pragmatic diplomacy focused on American interests. If confirmed, it would be the honor of my career to lead the men and women of U.S. Embassy Lomé in delivering exceptional results for the American people.

Thank you. I welcome your questions.