

**Statement of Dennis W. Hearne**  
**Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique**  
**Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**  
**September 26, 2018**

Chairman Flake, Ranking Member Booker, and distinguished Members of the Committee, it is an honor for me to appear before you today as the President's nominee to be the next United States Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique. I am profoundly grateful for this opportunity and the confidence President Trump and Secretary Pompeo have placed in me. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you to advance and protect American interests in Mozambique.

I was sworn into the Foreign Service in 1985, and my 33-year career has spanned six countries and two wars, affording me the extraordinary honor of serving my country, alongside many distinguished and heroic colleagues. I am deeply grateful – I cannot imagine a more rewarding life. Yet this would be my first time in Mozambique and Africa, and I am professionally and personally inspired by that prospect. On a personal level, while my son Christopher is busy with college here in Virginia and won't be joining me at post, he is also excited about the chance to visit me and get to know a wonderful country and continent. My parents, in their 80s, are also planning to come over.

On a professional level, I believe that I have a blend of experience that, while gained in other places, is particularly relevant for Mozambique at this time.

I have been speaking the Portuguese language for three decades -- that can be a key facilitator for my engagements with both officials and people from all walks of life. If they chuckle a bit at my Brazilian accent, that's OK -- it will be a good ice breaker. In addition, I have served in wartime in the Balkans and Afghanistan and understand the challenges of recovery from and prevention of future armed conflict. My familiarity with these issues and extensive background in working with our military will be helpful in supporting Mozambique's political leadership both to implement their recent peace agreement and to consolidate democracy.

I believe we have a moment of opportunity now to consolidate encouraging gains in political stability in Mozambique, following the 2016 cessation of hostilities and recent peace agreement, and to get ahead of developing threats in the northern part of the country. We would accomplish this in cooperation with Mozambique's leaders and using a whole of U.S. government approach that could also leverage resources from the private sector and civil society. I am eager to move ahead creatively, knowing from experience that building a solid platform of improved governance and effectively fighting corruption will be as critical for success in Mozambique as they are elsewhere.

Reconciliation and stability will allow the country to capitalize on its vast natural resources, including one of the world's largest natural gas deposits. U.S. companies are preparing to invest \$40 billion to develop liquefied natural gas in

northern Mozambique, among the largest investments in sub-Saharan Africa. Mozambique's expanding economy also depends on its ability to address significant development challenges, and Mozambique values the development assistance the United States provides to support peace and security, strong democratic institutions, respect for human rights, a healthy and educated population, and sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The United States is the top bilateral donor to Mozambique with the majority of our support focused on health programs, notably the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), our largest assistance program in Mozambique. Thanks to the generosity of the American people, more than one million people living with HIV are now on life-saving treatment, and if confirmed, I will continue to vigorously support these efforts. In all of these areas, if confirmed, I will be fortunate in building on the superb work of Ambassador Pittman and his team.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I want to thank you for the privilege of appearing before you today. If confirmed, I will aim to exemplify the highest standards of our great nation and look forward to partnering with you to advance America's interests in Mozambique. It is a duty and responsibility I would be honored to accept. Thank you and I welcome any questions you might have now and in the future.

