

# NOMINATION HEARINGS OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

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## HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

## COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION—MARCH 10 THROUGH DECEMBER 2, 2015  
SECOND SESSION—FEBRUARY 11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

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S. HRG. 114-612

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## NOMINATIONS

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2015

U.S. SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,  
*Washington, DC.*

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- Hon. Robert Porter Jackson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Ghana
- Hon. Harry K. Thomas, Jr., of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe
- Julie Furuta-Toy of Wyoming, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea
- Dennis B. Hankins, of Minnesota, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea
- Linda I. Etim, of Wisconsin, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development
- 

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:04 p.m., in room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Jeff Flake, presiding.

Present: Senators Flake, Gardner, Barrasso, Markey, Murphy, and Kaine.

### OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JEFF FLAKE, U.S. SENATOR FROM ARIZONA

Senator FLAKE. This hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will come to order.

I welcome you all to this hearing.

I was pleased to meet with all of you in my office earlier. I appreciate you making that effort to get to know you better and talk about your history and what you hope to accomplish. As you know, I have long had an interest in African affairs and had some opportunity to spend time there, including in Zimbabwe where one of the nominees is headed.

Today we will hear from nominees for Ghana, Zimbabwe, Equatorial Guinea, and Guinea, and from the nominee to serve as Assistant Administrator at AID in its Africa Bureau. We will also examine a wide variety of issues.

Ghana has embarked on its second MCC compact to address energy issues facing the country while it tries to diversify its economy away from oil.

Zimbabwe's aged dictator, Robert Mugabe, is beginning to show signs that his age may give way to succession at some point, and we will be watching that leadership struggle in that country.

Equatorial Guinea continues to struggle with human rights and developing its resources in a way to benefit all of its citizens.

Guinea, of course, is picking up the pieces from the Ebola outbreak that wrought such devastation there and is looking forward to building a post-Ebola health care system.

Lastly, we will look at how the Africa Bureau and USAID can bridge the gap from this administration to the next one while ensuring little or no disruption in the work that it is doing in sub-Saharan Africa.

I thank all of you for your time, for sharing your experiences and your expertise with us. I look forward to your testimony. We have a PAC scheduled around this today, and so I hope you do not take our desire for brevity in this hearing as anything other than we have a busy schedule and we appreciate you being here and also appreciate—I know many of you have family members sitting behind you, and hopefully you will recognize them in your testimony.

But I would like to recognize Senator Markey for his comments.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS**

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, very much. And thank you for your leadership on the subcommittee and for convening this hearing to consider the nomination of these distinguished public servants to serve as United States Ambassadors to countries in Africa and one to lead USAID's Africa Bureau.

And to all the nominees who are here today, thank you for dedicating your lives in service to our country. Every one of you has served with a commitment and a dedication that we appreciate and admire.

These are important nominations. Africa presents much opportunity but also many challenges.

Mr. Chairman, when you and I joined the President in Africa this summer, we saw firsthand the possibilities to spark Africa's existing entrepreneurial spirit to create unprecedented economic opportunity and growth. We can and we should spur this growth by supporting expanded access to sustainable sources of power, innovative telecommunications, and Internet connectivity. All of these are fundamental requirements for commercial and social success in this modern 21st century era.

At the same time, Africa faces tremendous challenges. We must strongly support efforts to prevent trafficking in persons, protect human rights, including the right of LGBT people, and strengthen democracy and good governance.

So I look forward to the hearing today, and again, we thank all of you for being here and your willingness to serve our country.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you, Senator Markey.

Our first nominee is Robert Porter Jackson, career member of the Senior Foreign Service, most recently at the State Department and prior to that Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon, with previous postings in Morocco, Cote d'Ivoire, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Nigeria, Burundi. It is just about all of Africa there.

Our second nominee, Harry K. Thomas, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, currently serving as Diplomat in Residence at Arizona State University. A smart man. [Laughter.]

I understand your wife enjoys it there as well. That is a good place to be. Everybody ends up in Arizona at some point, I should mention.

Prior to that he served as Ambassador to the Philippines, previously posted in Washington, DC, and also around the world.

Our third nominee is Julie Furuta-Toy, who is a career member of the Foreign Service as well. Her current posting is at our Embassy in Oslo, previous posts in Ghana, Washington, DC, and around the world. We talked in my office about springing from the equator up to Scandinavia and back. So that is quite a trip. I do not know what kind of clothes you pack wherever you go, but it has to be a variety.

Our fourth nominee is Dennis B. Hankins, career member of the Senior Foreign Service also. He currently serves at our consulate in Brazil, prior postings in Sudan, Mauritania, Mozambique, DRC, and elsewhere.

And also, the last as well, but Linda and I traveled in Africa recently, Linda Etim from Wisconsin, Assistant Administrator to USAID, the Africa Bureau there. I enjoyed being with you and Senator Markey as well and Kenya and Ethiopia. So I look forward to hearing your testimony.

We will start with Ambassador Jackson.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT PORTER JACKSON, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

Ambassador JACKSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member. I am honored to appear before you today, and I am grateful for the confidence that President Obama and Secretary Kerry have placed in me as their nominee to be the Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana.

I am joined by my wife, Babs Jackson, and other friends and colleagues this afternoon.

Since I joined the Foreign Service 33 years ago, as you noted, I have served on three continents, as well as here at home. In these assignments, I have endeavored to promote human rights, strengthen civil society, foster development, and expand U.S. exports. I have repeatedly returned to Africa because I have found that in the course of 2 or 3 years, one can see what one has accomplished. I found that especially true as Ambassador to Cameroon. If confirmed as the next U.S. Ambassador to Ghana, I will draw upon these experiences to advance U.S. interests in Africa.

Ghana is a strong partner of the United States, sharing democratic values and goals of human rights, economic growth, and regional stability. If confirmed, my priorities will be to promote democracy, good governance, peace, trade, education, and health, to unlock Ghana's potential for sustained, inclusive, broad-based eco-

conomic growth, and to help it graduate from traditional development assistance.

Ghana is widely considered one of the leading democracies on the African Continent, with active political parties and civil society organizations. Ghana's democracy benefits from a lively media, a history of peaceful political transitions, an apolitical military, and a good human rights record. Celebrating 58 years of independence in 2015, Ghana has held six national elections since 1992, and power has alternated between its two largest political parties. If confirmed, I look forward to witnessing Ghana achieve its seventh consecutive peaceful and transparent national democratic elections in December of 2016.

Ghana has been hit hard by low prices for its three major exports: cocoa, gold, and oil. Nonetheless, Ghana has the potential to become one of sub-Saharan Africa's leading economies and provides enormous opportunities for bilateral trade and investment. While Ghana takes advantage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, continued assistance to increase domestic capacity and market competitiveness is needed to help Ghanaian businesses take full advantage of trade benefits provided by this legislation. The recently launched Trade Africa Expansion Initiative, along with USAID's West African Trade Hub, will play key roles in building the capacity of Ghanaian institutions and supporting Ghana's efforts to expand exports. Along with the USAID-led Feed the Future programs, the Trade Hub will also increase regional trade in agricultural products to improve food security. If confirmed, I will explore new and innovative approaches to expand commercial ties.

One of the brakes on Ghana's growth has been inadequate infrastructure, especially in the energy sector. Ghana completed a 5-year Millennium Challenge account compact in 2012 focused on agricultural and rural development, and Ghana signed a second compact during the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit last August, this one focusing on the power sector.

The summit itself highlighted U.S. ties with Africa. People-to-people links between the United States and Ghana have grown ever stronger over the last 50-plus years, and we have enjoyed a continuous and vibrant Peace Corps presence, as well as other exchange programs. Ghana is the original Peace Corps country, and Ghanaians are proud to say that while Peace Corps was born in the United States, it learned to walk in Ghana. More than 4,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in Ghana since 1961, and there are currently 136 Volunteers in agriculture, education, and health projects. In fact, Ghana has made steady but uneven progress in improving health over the last decade.

Ghana and the United States share an interest in countering terrorism, securing maritime borders, and promoting regional stability. We are also working together to combat drug and human trafficking. Ghana is an important supporter of peacekeeping and law enforcement through the Kofi Annan Peacekeeping Center and a regional training center, respectively. A longtime participant in peacekeeping operations, Ghana is also a partner in the Security Governance Initiative and the African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Initiative. And its stability has contributed to peace and security in West Africa.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, I thank you for the opportunity to address you this afternoon, and I welcome your questions. [The prepared statement of Ambassador Jackson follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF ROBERT P. JACKSON

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, and other members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you today. I am grateful for the confidence that President Obama and Secretary Kerry have placed in me as their nominee for Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana. I am joined today by Babette Pollard Jackson, my wife and partner for the last 26 years.

Since I entered the Foreign Service 33 years ago. I have served in Canada, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Portugal, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Morocco, and Cameroon, as well as here at home. In these assignments, I have endeavored to promote human rights, strengthen civil society, foster development, and expand U.S. exports. I have repeatedly returned to Africa because I have found that, in the course of 2 or 3 years, one can see one's accomplishments; I found that especially true as Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon. If confirmed as the next U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana, I will draw upon these experiences to advance U.S. interests in Africa.

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Ghana is widely considered one of the leading democracies on the African Continent, with active political parties and civil society organizations. Ghana's democracy benefits from a lively media, a history of peaceful political transitions between the two main political parties, an apolitical military, and a good human rights record. Celebrating 58 years of independence in 2015, Ghana has held six national elections since 1992, and power has alternated between its two-largest political parties. If confirmed, I look forward to witnessing Ghana achieve its seventh consecutive peaceful and transparent national democratic elections in December 2016.

Ghana has been hit hard by low prices for its three major exports: cocoa, gold, and oil. Nonetheless, Ghana has the potential to become one of sub-Saharan Africa's leading economies and provides enormous opportunities for bilateral trade and investment. While Ghana takes advantage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), continued assistance to increase domestic capacity and market competitiveness is needed to help Ghanaian businesses take full advantage of the trade benefits provided by this legislation. The recently launched Trade Africa Expansion Initiative, along with USAID's West African Trade Hub, will play key roles in building the capacity of Ghanaian institutions and supporting Ghana's efforts to expand exports. Along with the USAID-led bilateral Feed the Future programs, the Trade Hub will also increase regional trade in agricultural products to improve food security. If confirmed, I will explore new and innovative approaches to expand commercial ties between the United States and Ghana.

One of the brakes on Ghana's growth has been inadequate infrastructure, especially in the energy sector. Ghana completed a 5-year \$547 million Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) compact in 2012 focused on agriculture and rural development. Ghana signed a second MCC compact to transform the power sector on August 5, 2014, during the U.S.-Africa Leaders summit.

The summit highlighted U.S. ties with Africa. People-to-people links between the United States and Ghana have grown ever stronger through more than 50 years of a continuous and vibrant Peace Corps presence, as well as Fulbright, Humphrey, Community College Initiative (CCI), and Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) exchange programs. Ghana is the original Peace Corps country and is proud of the fact that while Peace Corps was born in America, it learned to walk in Ghana. More than 4,410 Peace Corps volunteers have served in Ghana since the program was established in 1961. There are currently 136 volunteers in Ghana working with their communities on projects in education, agriculture, and health.

Ghana has made significant but uneven progress in improving health over the past decade. One of the key bottlenecks across almost all health indicators is the uneven distribution of wealth between Ghana's impoverished North and the more affluent South. Many of our programs, including basic education, health, and agricultural assistance, therefore, focus on the North.

Ghana and the United States share an interest in countering terrorism, securing the maritime borders, and promoting regional stability. We are also working

together to combat escalating drug and human trafficking. Ghana is an important supporter of peacekeeping through the Kofi Annan Peacekeeping Training Center and law enforcement-oriented efforts through the Regional Training Center. A long-time participant in the Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA) program, Ghana is also a partner country in the Security Governance Initiative and the African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership (A-PRRP). Stability in Ghana has contributed to peace and security in West Africa, and if confirmed, I will support Ghana's efforts to promote regional and global stability. Of course, as is the case for all Ambassadors, protecting the safety and welfare of U.S. citizens will be a top priority.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for the opportunity to address you today. I welcome your questions.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you, Mr. Jackson.  
Mr. Thomas.

**STATEMENT OF HON. HARRY K. THOMAS, JR., NOMINATED TO  
BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE**

Ambassador THOMAS. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you today and grateful to President Obama, Secretary Kerry, and Assistant Secretary Linda Thomas-Greenfield for the confidence they have placed in me as their nominee for Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Permit me to thank my family for their support, especially my wife and partner, Mithi Aquino-Thomas; my sister, Nelda Canada; my cousins, Jen and Sharon Boyd; Comitrik and Leslie Smith; and my niece, Alya Thomas. We are also joined by friends from around the globe, and I very much appreciate their attendance to witness how our democracy functions.

I would like to add my sincere appreciation to my mom who is here today, Hildonia Thomas, robust at 91, and my late father, Harry Thomas, Sr., whose guidance and love gave me the opportunity to be before you today.

A special thanks to my in-laws, Colonel Aquino and Dr. Aquino, for their faith and trust in me.

Finally, our three children, Casey, Emmanuel Miguel, and Zoe are away at university but with us today in spirit.

Mr. Chairman, I will summarize my remarks as the entire testimony has been entered into the record.

Mr. Chairman, if confirmed, my top priorities will be to ensure the security and safety of American citizens and to advance the interests and values of the United States and the American people.

I am excited at the possibility of returning to Zimbabwe where I previously served our Nation during a time of relative harmony. It is the land where our daughter, Casey, learned to walk, talk, and respect the wonderful people of Zimbabwe. It is where I visited the beautiful and important game parks that must be protected, saw the great historic Zimbabwe ruins, experienced the wondrous Victoria Falls, and witnessed the excitement the entire world shared when Nelson Mandela was released from prison and paid his initial visit to Harare as an example of forgiveness, tolerance, and respect for human rights.

With full recognition of the complex challenges Zimbabwe faces, I remain optimistic about the country's future and believe that the United States has an important role to play in helping the people of Zimbabwe build a just, free, and prosperous nation. The trajectory of Zimbabwe's recent past should not obscure the nation's tre-

mendous potential. Though battered by more than a decade of political strife, economic decline, and challenges to its health system, Zimbabwe retains a foundational human and physical infrastructure upon which it can build a strong future. It is in the interest of the United States to be a partner in that process, and if confirmed, I will continue the work of building productive and respectful relationships with all Zimbabweans of good will.

The United States has shown its deep and abiding concern for Zimbabwe through the nearly \$1 billion in humanitarian relief and health-related assistance we have provided to its people just in the last decade. There is no more explicit expression of our support for the people of Zimbabwe than our standing by them through their times of greatest need. We need, however, to prepare to move beyond a relationship defined by aid.

U.S. policy in Zimbabwe is not about regime change. Only the people of Zimbabwe have the ability to change their government. Our policies support principles not parties or people. When, however, self-determination is denied, as it is in Zimbabwe through political violence, fraudulent and mismanaged elections, and restrictions on the rights and opportunity to take part in the conduct of public affairs, the United States cannot ignore such human rights violations. We have taken principled steps to demonstrate our concern about the actions of those responsible for and those who profit from miscarriages of the promise Zimbabwe offered at independence. We will consistently stand for the rights of Zimbabweans to participate fully in their nation's political process.

If confirmed, I will work to enable Zimbabwe to become a just, prosperous, and democratic state that meets the needs of its people, contributes to security and development in the region, and plays an important role in world affairs. We will not always agree with the Government of Zimbabwe, but we will always attempt to maintain a respectful and open dialogue.

The United States seeks the full implementation of the 2013 Constitution: credible, lasting democratic reforms; and respect for human rights and the rule of law. If confirmed, I will work toward those objectives which could be a trigger for the United States to open a much more dynamic relationship.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

[The prepared statement of Ambassador Thomas follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HARRY K. THOMAS, JR.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am honored to appear before you today, and grateful to President Obama, Secretary Kerry, and Assistant Secretary Linda Thomas-Greenfield for the confidence they have placed in me as their nominee for Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe. Please permit me to thank my family for their support especially my wife and partner Mithi Aquino-Thomas, a human resources instructor, my sister, Nelda Canada, a retired paralegal, my cousins, Ray and Jen Boyd, retired U.S. Government officials, and Sharon Boyd, who works for the Fairfax County Police. I would like to add my sincere appreciation to my mom, Hildonia Thomas, a former teacher and social worker, and my late father, Harry Thomas, Sr., whose guidance and love gave me the opportunity to be before you today. A special thanks to my in-laws, Col. Aquino and Doctor Aquino, for their faith and trust in me. Finally, our three children Casey, Emmanuel Miguel, and Zoe are away at university but with us today in spirit.

Mr. Chairman, if confirmed, my top priorities will be to ensure the security and safety of American citizens and to advance the interests and values of the United States and the American people.

I am excited at the possibility of returning to Zimbabwe where I previously served our Nation during a time of relative harmony. It is the land where our daughter, Casey, learned to walk, talk, and respect the wonderful people of Zimbabwe. It is where I visited the beautiful and important game parks that must be protected, saw the historic Great Zimbabwe ruins, experienced the wondrous Victoria Falls and witnessed the excitement the entire world shared when Nelson Mandela was released from prison and paid his initial visit to Harare as an example of forgiveness, tolerance, and respect for human rights. With full recognition of the complex challenges Zimbabwe faces, I remain optimistic about the country's future and believe that the United States has an important role to play in helping the people of Zimbabwe build a just, free, and prosperous nation. The trajectory of Zimbabwe's recent past should not obscure the nation's tremendous potential. Though battered by more than a decade of political strife, economic decline, and challenges to its health systems, Zimbabwe retains a foundational human and physical infrastructure upon which it can build a strong future. It is in the interest of the United States to be a partner in that process and, if confirmed, I will continue the work of building productive and respectful relationships with all Zimbabweans of good will.

The United States has shown its deep and abiding concern for Zimbabwe through the nearly 1 billion dollars in humanitarian relief and health-related assistance we have provided to its people just in the last decade. There is no more explicit expression of our support for the people of Zimbabwe than our standing by them through their times of greatest need. We need, however, to prepare to move beyond a relationship defined by aid. Zimbabweans are fully capable of feeding themselves, meeting the nation's health and education needs, building a dynamic political system, and restoring what was once one of the strongest economies in Africa. Zimbabwe can and should be a nation of economic opportunities, of respect for the rule of law and the human rights of all people. Those are values that reflect the core of what Americans share with Zimbabweans and that we should pursue together.

U.S. policy in Zimbabwe is not about regime change. Only the people of Zimbabwe have the ability to change their government. Our policies support principles, not parties or people. When, however, self-determination is denied, as it is in Zimbabwe through political violence, fraudulent and mismanaged elections, and restrictions on the right and opportunity to take part in the conduct of public affairs, the United States cannot ignore such human rights violations. We have taken principled steps to demonstrate our concern about the actions of those responsible for, and those who profit from, miscarriages of the promise Zimbabwe offered at independence. We will consistently stand for the rights of Zimbabweans to participate fully in their nation's political processes.

If confirmed, I will work to enable Zimbabwe to become a just, prosperous, and democratic state that meets the needs of its people, contributes to security and development in the region, and plays an important role in world affairs. That was U.S. policy in 1980 when we were the first nation to recognize Zimbabwe's independence, and it continues to be our policy. We will not always agree with the Government of Zimbabwe, but we will always attempt to maintain a respectful and open dialogue.

The United States seeks the full implementation of the 2013 Constitution; credible, lasting democratic reforms; and respect for human rights and rule of law by the Government of Zimbabwe. If confirmed, I will work toward those objectives, which could be a trigger for the United States to open a much more dynamic relationship.

If confirmed, I will give special attention to the welfare and security of American citizens in Zimbabwe and to meeting with people from across the rich spectrum of Zimbabwe's society, making an assessment of the situation there and offering recommendations on the best way forward. As we continue to urge democratic development, we must also continue to invest in the people of Zimbabwe—the health, people-to-people exchanges, humanitarian aid, and business development work—to preserve the human capital needed to rebuild Zimbabwe in the years ahead. I have faith that with this support, once given the opportunity to communicate, organize, and express their will, the people of Zimbabwe will find the best path forward and pursue it successfully.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you and I would be happy to answer questions.

Senator FLAKE. Well, thank you, Mr. Thomas. As they say in Zimbabwe, makorokoto. Congratulations for this nomination.

And before Ms. Furuta-Toy says something, we have a home State Senator who wanted to say something.

Senator BARRASSO. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity to congratulate all the nominees and thank you for your commitment to service.

I absolutely do want to take a moment to welcome Julie Furuta-Toy to the committee. I would love to stay. I am chairing a Public Lands Subcommittee hearing this afternoon, but I did want to come and congratulate each of you and to talk specifically about a proud resident of the great State of Wyoming. A number of years ago, Julie and her husband Steven made the wise decision to make Cody, WY, their home. As many of you know, Cody is a wonderful town, full of natural beauty. It is the gateway to Wyoming's crown jewel, Yellowstone National Park, and the home of former Wyoming U.S. Senator Alan Simpson. So if you need any advice, call Al. [Laughter.]

He will put it in terms and he will be able to make it very clear to anyone listening exactly what he has in mind.

But I will just tell you as a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Julie Furuta-Toy has worked in many critical countries across the globe, including Mexico, the Philippines, Haiti, Russia, Ghana, India, Norway. Her 29 years of service has provided her with the knowledge, the skills, the experiences to address the many challenges and adventures ahead. I am very grateful for her willingness to serve our country and to provide strong leadership in implementing the foreign policy goals of the United States. It is clear that she will make her family, the people of Wyoming, and our Nation very proud.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator FLAKE. Well, thank you. You are right to be proud.

Mr. Hankins? Oh, I am sorry. [Laughter.]

I thought he was speaking for you.

Senator BARRASSO. She will take questions later. [Laughter.]

Senator FLAKE. I apologize. Ms. Furuta-Toy.

**STATEMENT OF JULIE FURUTA-TOY, NOMINATED TO BE  
AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

Ms. FURUTA-TOY. Thank you very much, Chairman Flake, Ranking Member Markey, Senator Barrasso, Senator Kaine. I am very pleased today to have the opportunity to testify before you. It is a great honor for me to appear this afternoon as the nominee to be the next United States Ambassador to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. And I am grateful for the confidence that President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry have placed in me. If confirmed by the Senate, I will do my best to uphold this trust and further the U.S. national interests.

Mr. Chairman, I regret that my husband, Steve, is in Wyoming today and my daughter, Sara, is unable to be here, but I am pleased to introduce to you my son, Eliot. He was born during my first tour in the Foreign Service 27 years ago in Manila, the Philippines.

And since then, as Senator Barrasso has noted, I have served in many places around the world, a disparate group of countries that has demonstrated to me similar disparate attitudes towards the rule of law, good governance, and transparency.

While serving as the Deputy Chief of Mission in Ghana, I am proud to have implemented U.S. foreign policy focused on reducing and eliminating the worst forms of child labor and trafficking in persons. And through interagency dialogue and strong support from the Department of State and U.S. Congress, we were also able to promote important educational exchanges, target assistance towards the country's impediments to growth, and support U.S. commercial interests.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Markey, if confirmed, I look forward to working with you and the honorable members of this committee similarly to advance U.S. interests in Equatorial Guinea. U.S. policy priorities in Equatorial Guinea are to encourage the government there to open democratic space to the opposition, increase respect for human rights and civil liberties, strengthen our commercial ties and diversify its economy, and to increase economic, health, and educational opportunities for all its citizens.

Equatorial Guinea, with a population of about 1 million people, is located on the strategic Gulf of Guinea. Although the country is nominally a multiparty, constitutional republic, President Obiang's Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea has been in power since a military coup in 1979. The party controls all but one seat in the Chamber of Deputies and one seat in the Senate. Opposition political parties are severely restricted, and opposition leaders have faced harassment, intimidation, and arrest.

Equatorial Guinea is the third-largest producer of oil in sub-Saharan Africa and has one of the highest per-capita income rates in Africa. Despite this, much of its population lives below the poverty level and official corruption is widespread. Should I be confirmed, I will stress and encourage the country's leadership to respect human rights and rule of law. I will also urge that government leaders pursue multi-party democracy and facilitate the growth of a strong civil society. And I will stress that promoting transparency and ending corrupt practices are key to Equatorial Guinea's long-term growth and stability.

The United States has a robust economic relationship with Equatorial Guinea and remains its largest trading partner. The U.S. Embassy plays a critical trade facilitation and promotion role for U.S. investors in Equatorial Guinea. U.S. oil companies are Equatorial Guinea's largest investors, and they have the lead role in oil and gas exploration and extraction. Moreover, last year, Equatorial Guinea was the ninth-largest African market for U.S. exports. Should I be confirmed, I will continue to work to protect the commercial interests of U.S. oil companies invested in Equatorial Guinea.

Mr. Chairman, while our bilateral dialogue and engagement pays heed to Equatorial Guinea's sovereignty and traditions, we must also be frank in discussing our concerns. If confirmed, I will continue to promote U.S. interests and encourage Equatorial Guinea's further political, economic, and social development while vigilantly protecting the safety of our Embassy personnel and their families.

And finally, if confirmed, no goal will be more important to me than protecting the lives, interests, and welfare of American citizens living and traveling in Equatorial Guinea.

I promise to work closely with you and the members of this committee in this endeavor.

I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Furuta-Toy follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF JULIE FURUTA-TOY

Thank you very much Chairman Flake, Ranking Member Markey, and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify before you today. It is a great honor for me to appear before you this afternoon as the nominee to be the next United States Ambassador to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. I am grateful for the confidence that President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry have placed in me. If confirmed by the Senate, I will do my best to uphold this trust and further U.S. national interests.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to introduce my son Eliot. He was born during my first tour in the Foreign Service 27 years ago in Manila, the Philippines.

Since then, I have had the honor to serve in Haiti, India, Russia, Ghana, and Norway. Such a disparate group of countries has demonstrated to me similarly disparate attitudes toward rule of law, good governance, and transparency. While serving as Deputy Chief of Mission in Ghana I am proud to have implemented U.S. policy focused on reducing and eliminating the worst forms of child labor and trafficking in persons. Through interagency dialogue and strong support from the Department of State and U.S. Congress, we were also able to promote important educational exchanges, target assistance toward the country's impediments to growth, and support U.S. commercial interests.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Markey, if confirmed, I look forward to working with you and the honorable members of this committee similarly to advance U.S. interests in Equatorial Guinea. U.S. policy priorities in Equatorial Guinea are to encourage the government there to open democratic space to the opposition, increase respect for human rights and civil liberties, strengthen our commercial ties and diversify its economy, and to increase economic, health, and educational opportunities for all its citizens.

Equatorial Guinea, with a population of fewer than 1 million people, is located on the strategic Gulf of Guinea. Although the country is nominally a multiparty, constitutional republic, President Obiang Nguema's Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea has been in power since a military coup in 1979. The Party controls all but one seat in the Chamber of Deputies and one seat in the Senate. Opposition political parties are severely restricted, and opposition leaders have faced harassment, intimidation, and arrest. Equatorial Guinea is the third-largest producer of oil in sub-Saharan Africa, and has one of the highest per-capita income rates in Africa. Despite this, much of its population lives below the poverty level; and official corruption is widespread. Should I be confirmed, I will stress and encourage the country's leadership to respect human rights and rule of law. I will also urge that government leaders pursue multiparty democracy and facilitate the growth of a strong civil society, and I will stress that promoting transparency and ending corrupt practices are key to Equatorial Guinea's long-term growth and stability.

The United States has a robust economic relationship with Equatorial Guinea, and remains its largest trading partner. The U.S. Embassy plays a critical trade facilitation and promotion role for U.S. investors in Equatorial Guinea. U.S. oil companies are Equatorial Guinea's largest investors, and they have the lead role in oil and gas exploration and extraction. Moreover, last year Equatorial Guinea was the ninth-largest African market for U.S. exports. Should I be confirmed, I will continue to work to protect the commercial interests of U.S. oil companies invested in Equatorial Guinea.

Mr. Chairman, while our bilateral dialogue and engagement pays heed to Equatorial Guinea's sovereignty and traditions, we also must be frank in discussing our concerns. If confirmed, I will continue to promote U.S. interests and encourage Equatorial Guinea's further political, economic, and social development, while vigilantly protecting the safety of our embassy personnel and their families.

And, finally, if confirmed, no goal will be more important to me than protecting the lives, interests and welfare of American citizens living and traveling in Equatorial Guinea.

I promise to work closely with you and the members of this committee in this endeavor.

I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.  
Mr. Hankins.

**STATEMENT OF DENNIS B. HANKINS, NOMINATED TO BE  
AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA**

Mr. HANKINS. Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, I am deeply honored to appear before you today and grateful to President Obama and Secretary Kerry for the confidence they have placed in me as their nominee for Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea.

I want to recognize my wife, Mira, who is here today. She has been by my side through 31 years in the Foreign Service, and I credit her for providing support for any success I may have had. My son, Danu, cannot be here today due to his service commitments with the United States Navy.

It has been my honor to serve in 16 assignments during my Foreign Service career, with six of those assignments spanning 14 years focused on Africa. Many of my assignments have been in countries in the midst of or emerging from crisis. Despite the challenges of these postings, I have relished the opportunity to engage in diplomacy that can dramatically affect a country's future and advance American interests.

My experience in a number of young African democracies tells me that the transition from dictatorship to an open society requires constant sustained attention and commitment by national leaders and all segments of society. Guineans have made it clear that they want to see the United States working hand in hand with all three branches of the Guinean Government to reinforce Guinea's democratic architecture. Our work to strengthen media reforms and civil society is just as important. As part of our work with the executive branch, we continue to work with Guinea's security apparatus, the military and police, to strengthen its professionalism and bring it firmly under elected civilian authority. Finally, we must sustain our efforts to reduce poverty and disease in Guinea, including by strengthening the health system. Responsible management of Guinea's mineral wealth is key to Guinea's long-term poverty reduction efforts. The challenges are many and will only be overcome through true Guinean commitment, but we need to support those who wish to help their country.

The Republic of Guinea achieved a landmark election in 2010, its first free and democratic Presidential election. If confirmed, I will work hard to ensure U.S. support for Guinea's nascent democracy continues in a meaningful and impactful way. Guinea will hold its second Presidential elections in 11 days. If confirmed, my priority will be to work with the newly elected administration and opposition parties in building an inclusive and constructive political dialogue. Looking toward the new year, my focus will shift to local elections. These upcoming elections provide Guinea the concrete opportunity to further deepen its transition to democracy.

In the midst of Presidential elections, Guinea continues to battle the Ebola outbreak. If confirmed, I will remain firmly committed and fully committed to helping Guinea get to zero in its fight against Ebola. The persistent transmission of Ebola over the past 18 months highlights the fragility of primary health care facilities in the country and deep-rooted public health challenges. The United States continues to provide significant technical assistance to Guinea on restoring and improving the health care system, as well as ending the Ebola epidemic. I look forward to supporting the efforts of USAID, CDC, and NIH in Guinea.

In the long term, if confirmed, I will encourage the Guinean Government to remain a constructive regional and international actor and will work with the government and all segments of society to foster better political and economic decisionmaking at home. In the Republic of Guinea, we have a willing partner on regional and international issues, yet the government's capacity is limited. If confirmed, I will work with the Guinean Government to further strengthen its approach to regional crises. I will also work to strengthen cooperation on counternarcotics issues, as well as other forms of transnational crimes such as trafficking in persons and money laundering. I will make the safety and welfare of my staff and all U.S. citizens my highest priority and seek out commercial opportunities for U.S. companies.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for the opportunity to address you today. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you and representing the interests of the American people in Guinea.

I am happy to answer any questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hankins follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DENNIS B. HANKINS

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am deeply honored to appear before you today, and grateful to President Obama and Secretary Kerry for the confidence they have placed in me as their nominee for Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea. I want to recognize my wife, Mira, who is here today. She has been at my side through my 31 years in the Foreign Service, and I credit her for providing support for any success I may have had. My son, Danu, cannot be here today due to his service commitments in the United States Navy.

It has been my honor to serve in 16 assignments during my Foreign Service career with 6 of those assignments—spanning 14—focused on Africa. Many of my assignments have been in countries in the midst of, or emerging from, crisis. Despite the challenges of these postings, I have relished the opportunities to engage in diplomacy that can dramatically affect a country's future and advance American interests.

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support for Guinea's nascent democracy continues in a meaningful and impactful way. Guinea will hold its second Presidential elections in 11 days. If confirmed, my priority will be to work the newly elected administration and opposition parties in building an inclusive and constructive political dialogue. Looking toward the new year, my focus will shift to local elections. These upcoming elections provide Guinea with a concrete opportunity to further deepen its transition to democracy.

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for the opportunity to address you today. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you in representing the interests of the American people in Guinea. I am happy to answer any questions.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Ms. Etim.

**STATEMENT OF LINDA I. ETIM, NOMINATED TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Ms. ETIM. Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Markey, distinguished members of the committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as the nominee to be the next Assistant Administrator for USAID's Bureau for Africa.

I want to express my appreciation for the confidence that President Obama has placed in me with this nomination and for the strong support of Secretary Kerry and Acting Administrator Lenhardt. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Earl Gast, the Africa Bureau's former Assistant Administrator who ably led the bureau of 3 years.

Most importantly, I would like to thank my family, my sister, Ann Etim, who is here today taking her day off of work, as well as parents and our other sister, Jennifer Etim, who recently passed away but remains a constant source of motivation and strength.

My nomination to this post is deeply personal. As the daughter of an immigrant who fled Nigeria for the United States during the Biafran war, I am intimately familiar with the pressures that a country's fragility places on its citizens. After more than a decade of working on African issues for the United States Government, I have seen development improve people's lives and their ability to take their destiny into their own hands. This is why I believe in USAID's mission to end extreme poverty, to promote democratic societies, to bolster security, and to help encourage prosperity for all.

My professional life has been devoted to supporting U.S. efforts to empower Africa's people to fulfill the promise that resides on

every corner of the continent. I spent the first few years working for the U.S. Government as a security specialist in African affairs, but more recently at the White House as the National Security Director for Sudan, South Sudan, and East African Affairs. I helped to coordinate U.S. policy on security issues, governance, economic growth, and humanitarian crises. In that position, I saw firsthand the important role that development plays for efforts on the continent.

I was then honored to be appointed as Deputy Assistant Administrator to Africa for USAID, and for the past 3½ years in that position, I have stood side by side with the agency's committed men and women. Many of our staff work in difficult environment and tackle really difficult challenges throughout the world.

If confirmed, in addition to focusing on the management for the bureau, I will concentrate on three objectives. First, I believe we need to continue to invest in Africa's greatest resource, which is its people, to further development, democracy, humanitarian, and governance for this and for future generations.

Second, I will continue USAID's focus on accelerating sustainable development through African-led partnerships.

And third, I will ensure that our work is implemented effectively and that we evaluate the results and apply lessons learned going forward.

Although a number of Africa's challenges can seem intractable, I see both the challenges and the remarkable progress that the African Continent has sustained as bright lights of opportunity. With the strong bipartisan support from Congress, our initiatives across the continent have actually led to some really great results. For example, and as you know, Feed the Future has helped more than 2.5 million African farmers using improved technologies and management practices and has led to increased food security. Through Power Africa, U.S. commitments of \$7 billion have mobilized more than \$20 billion in private capital which is financing access to energy and will add six million new connections across the continent.

Africa is the fastest-growing continent in the world, and its population in the coming decades will double. Many of its citizens will be under the age of 18. We have the opportunity now to harness the intelligence, creativity, and drive of these young Africans who ignited growth and lead reforms throughout the region. They need enhanced skills. They need access to capital. They need jobs. They need the innovations that will help drive tomorrow's development solutions. This is why I am so supportive of the initiatives that we have here today.

There is no denying that Africa is important to the United States, both from the standpoint of our moral imperative to help solve the biggest development challenges on the planet and because of its impact on our own national security and economic growth. USAID is committed to collaborating with donors and private sector partners to amplify the impact of U.S. investments in development, and if confirmed, I am eager to advance this approach to doing business.

If confirmed, I look forward to continuing to deepen our relationship with Congress. Your long-standing and bipartisan support to

the African people has provided the foundation for our programs and is the springboard for our future success.

I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and I welcome any questions you might have. Thanks.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Etim follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF LINDA I. ETIM

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Markey, distinguished members of the committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as the nominee to be the next Assistant Administrator for Africa at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

I want to express my appreciation for the trust and confidence President Obama has placed in me by nominating me for this important position and for the strong support of Secretary Kerry and Acting Administrator Lenhardt. I would also like to thank Earl Gast, the Africa Bureau's former Assistant Administrator who ably led the Bureau for 3 years. Most importantly, I would like to thank my family—my sister, Ann Etim, who is here today, as well as our parents and our other sister, Jennifer Etim, who, although no longer with us, remain my rocks.

My nomination to this post is deeply personal. As the daughter of an immigrant who fled Nigeria for the United States during the Biafran war, I am intimately familiar with the pressures that a country's fragility places on its citizens. After more than a decade working on African issues, I have seen development improve people's lives and help countries grow. That is why I believe USAID's mission to end extreme poverty, promote democratic societies, and bolster security and prosperity for all is essential. If confirmed, I look forward to continuing my support for USAID's new model for sustainable development, one built on partnerships with governments, businesses, universities, and civil society, as well as with the new generation of African leaders, thinkers, entrepreneurs, and innovators, who are leading the transformation of their societies.

My professional life has been devoted to empowering Africa's people to fulfill the promise that resides in every corner of the continent. Throughout my career, I have had the honor to work on some of Africa's most pressing challenges. I spent the first years of my career working for the U.S. Government as a specialist in African security affairs. More recently, as the Director for East African Affairs and Sudan, South Sudan at the National Security Council, I coordinated U.S. policy on civilian-military affairs, governance, economic growth and humanitarian crises in the Horn of Africa. In that position, I saw firsthand the important role of development in Africa and was honored to be appointed Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa at USAID. During the past 3½ years at USAID, I have stood side by side with the Agency's committed men and women, many of whom work in difficult environments, to tackle critical development challenges. After nearly 15 years working on African affairs I am intimately familiar with the complex fabric that makes up sub-Saharan Africa's 49 countries.

If confirmed, in addition to focusing on the management of the Bureau, I will concentrate on three objectives for the Africa Bureau that I believe are critical to the sustainability, growth, and success of our development goals. First, I believe we need to continue to invest in Africa's greatest resource—its people—to further development, democracy, opportunity, rights and governance for this and future generations. Second, I will continue USAID's focus on accelerating sustainable development through African-led partnerships. Third, I will ensure that our work is implemented effectively, that we evaluate the results, and that we apply those lessons learned going forward.

Although many of Africa's challenges may seem intractable, I see both the challenges and the remarkable progress, led by our African counterparts, as bright lights across the continent. Both Zambia and Nigeria held successful elections this past year. Nigeria's elections were historic, marking the first-ever democratic transfer of power in Africa's most populous nation. With strong bipartisan support from Congress, our initiatives on the continent are bearing fruit. In fiscal year 2014, Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative, helped nearly 2.5 million African farmers use improved technologies and management practices while spurring \$306 million in new agricultural sales on the continent. Recent data suggest that Feed the Future and other efforts contributed to a 9-percent reduction in stunting in Ethiopia between 2011 and 2014 and a 16-percent decrease in poverty in the rural areas of Uganda between 2009–2010 and 2012–2013. Through Power Africa, the United States is working with a range of partners to accelerate private-sector energy transactions, by leveraging the assistance, financ-

ing, commercial and diplomatic tools of the U.S. Government, as well as the tools and expertise of our bilateral and multilateral partners and the private sector with the aim of expanding access to electricity by 60 million new connections. Two years after Power Africa's launch, the U.S. Government's commitment of \$7 billion has mobilized more than \$20 billion in private capital from more than 100 private sector partners.

As the fastest-growing continent, Africa's population in the coming decades will double, and many of its people will be under 18. We have a tremendous challenge but also an opportunity to harness the intelligence, creativity, and drive of these young Africans who will introduce disruptive technologies, ignite growth, and lead reforms throughout the region. They will need enhanced skills and access to capital, jobs, and innovations to help address tomorrow's development challenges. Partnerships are key to this engagement. For example, through the Global Development Alliance agreement with USAID, as part of Feed the Future, Partners in Food Solutions (PFS) transfers technology and knowledge to African processors. PFS is a non-profit organization formed by General Mills that harnesses the global technical expertise of General Mills, Cargill, Royal DSM, and Bühler. Since its inception, PFS has linked 765 volunteers to 119 food processors in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia, impacting 829,000 smallholder farmers. We must also promote inclusive development that recognizes women as key drivers of economic growth. In order to end extreme poverty, feed the planet, and build vibrant economies, women and girls must gain access to capital, land, markets, training, and leadership opportunities. That is why I am so supportive of the President's Young African Leaders Initiative, which is investing in the next generation of leaders, who are eager and able to shape Africa's future.

We are building on the successes of the last generation and accounting for new realities, opportunities, and future challenges. With roughly half of the world's extreme poor residing in fragile and conflict affected states, we are remiss to discuss sustainable development gains without emphasizing the realities, needs, and capabilities of those societies in conflict and those trying to emerge from it. In fragile countries like South Sudan, we are assessing how best to help countries experiencing recurring cycles of conflict. South Sudan's peace agreement, signed in late August, while tenuous and fragile, presents an opportunity to mitigate the impact of the conflict on the people of South Sudan and support strategies for sustainable security.

There is no denying Africa's importance to the United States, both for our moral imperative to help solve the biggest development challenges on the planet and because of its impact on the United States own national security and economic growth. USAID is committed to collaborating with donors, private sector partners, and faith-based organizations to leverage our relative strengths and amplify the effect of U.S. investments in development. These efforts are already having an effect on our work in Africa, and if confirmed, I am eager to advance this new approach to doing business.

I know the road ahead is not an easy one. Nowhere does development show more promise yet pose such challenge than it does today in sub-Saharan Africa.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with my talented colleagues at USAID, our partners throughout the U.S. Government, the private sector, multilateral and nongovernmental organizations, and our counterparts in Africa to address critical development and humanitarian needs on the continent. I also look forward to continuing to deepen our relationship with Congress, whose long-time bipartisan commitment to the African people has provided the foundation for our programs and the springboard for our success.

In conclusion, I am honored to be considered for this position and to contribute to the goal of ending extreme poverty and promoting resilient, democratic societies while advancing security and prosperity for both Americans and Africans.

I am deeply committed to USAID's goals and the integrated role that it plays with the Department of State and the Department of Defense in advancing U.S. policy and national security objectives, and if confirmed, I will work diligently toward advancing these goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I welcome any questions you might have.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you, Ms. Etim.

I will start with a round of questions, and if you could keep your answers as short as possible, we will get as many questions in as we can with five of you there.

Mr. Jackson, with regard to Ghana, you mentioned the challenges on the energy side. Where are most investments needed and how can that be facilitated through the programs that we have? Is it on generation or distribution, transmission, all of the above? Give us a sense of what is needed there.

Ambassador JACKSON. Senator, it is actually all of the above. The Millennium Challenge compact is focused on distribution and construction of an additional gas plant. The Overseas Private Investment Corporation has also invested in an additional gas plant. But there is much more work needed to ensure that many underserved areas of Ghana have access to electricity, and through the Power Africa program, we are attempting to supplement the gains that will be made through the compact. Thank you.

Senator FLAKE. Well, thank you.

Mr. Thomas, as we talked about in my office, I actually wrote my master's thesis on Robert Mugabe and his ability to hold onto power at the end of the 1980s. And here we are almost 30 years later with some of the same issues.

But you mentioned in my office that it will take a generation of work to turn Zimbabwe around. Where do we start? What is the place where the United States needs to start?

Ambassador THOMAS. Well, Senator, you make an excellent point. It will take time. And I think working with the business community in Zimbabwe and the United States to lower economic obstacles, to increase opportunity, to reduce corruption, to make more transparency will be an excellent start for our bilateral relationship and to increase their economic opportunity. Over 65 percent of the people of Zimbabwe are under 40 years of age. Eighty-five percent unemployment rate. So they need this opportunity through business and education, and those are the things that we would look at if I am confirmed. Thank you very much, Senator.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Ms. Furuta-Toy, you talked about the issues with regard to government corruption and the lack of distribution of the oil wealth that comes there. Let me turn to security for a minute, maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea. How much of an issue is that, and what contributions is Equatorial Guinea making to that? And is that a partnership with other nations, and are we doing enough in the United States to make sure that we do not have a situation there that we had in the Horn of Africa earlier on?

Ms. FURUTA-TOY. Senator, thank you for that question.

The issue of security in Equatorial Guinea is one that involves all of the nations in the Gulf of Guinea. We have encouraged the Government of Equatorial Guinea to collaborate with its neighbors on maritime security and have supported the participation of Equatorial Guinea on a self-funded, funded by the Equatorial Guinea-Guinean Government, in maritime joint practices in the region.

Beyond that, the Government of Equatorial Guinea really prides itself on being able to provide security and safety for its citizens. And we are encouraging the government to try to take that in a bigger point of view of you are providing security and safety, but you also need to be able to provide a larger democratic space for the opposition for the political process so that the future of the country is better secured.

Approximately half of the country is under the age of 19. So the future really is in the youth and in those future generations.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Mr. Hankins, between the three countries that have the biggest issue with Ebola, Guinea has had the most difficult time I guess in stamping it out, and some worry that it will be the most likely place for it to flare up again. What can we do on the public health side that we are not doing already to ensure that that does not happen?

Mr. HANKINS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It is correct then that Ebola started in Guinea and has passed through. We have had more than 3,200 confirmed cases in Guinea of Ebola, and even this past week, we have had four new cases. Where there has been success—and I give great credit to my colleagues from USAID, from CDC—we have helped the government build the capacity to quickly isolate and limit expansion. We are now looking—and if confirmed, I believe I will arrive at a point of transition from Ebola crisis to long-term health care, and we are looking in terms of the global health security agenda in terms of continuing to focus on Ebola but building the other parts of the health system particularly in terms of the vaccination systems. In 2013, the vaccination rate for the country was only 63 percent, putting it in the bottom 10 percent of developing countries. We saw the effect of that recently with a polio case. That carried on into Mali. So we will be looking closely at building these basic systems while not losing sight of Ebola and the risks that that poses.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Ms. Etim, you talked in your testimony—and we talked about before the benefits of USAID's action in Africa, alleviating poverty, helping development, improving the quality of life. Those things are important, and that is the first and foremost reason that we take action there. But there are also knock-on effects and impacts from USAID with regard to the security sphere and our ability to work with countries and their willingness to work with us.

Can you talk a little bit about that? Our constituents need to know that story more. Obviously, the reason we want to help with USAID is to help development and improve the quality of life, but there are other benefits as well. Talk about those for a minute.

Ms. ETIM. Thank you, Senator. We did have that conversation. And I think that you can see very clearly with the case that Dennis just brought up with Ebola, when you have health systems that are not strengthened and when you have country governance systems that are not trusted, the possibility and the potential of starting pandemics that cannot be contained and that actually might have flared to actually affect us here in the United States is very real and present.

We are dealing with, I think, a lot of transnational trafficking issues.

I think the migration crisis that we are seeing right now in other parts of the world—Africa is home to 38 percent of the world's refugees. It is hugely expensive for the international community not only to respond but I think as we look at people moving over borders as well, addressing and dealing with a lot of the root causes becomes increasingly important.

I think I will stop there. It could go on for a really long time.

Senator FLAKE. Address for just a second not just the migration issues and refugee issues but arrangements that we have with Kenya to battle terrorist groups, lot of those relationships helped by our other assistance through USAID.

Ms. ETIM. Absolutely. USAID works in partnership with the larger U.S. Government efforts on work on countering violent extremism. As you mentioned, Kenya is a prime example right there. There, USAID works on addressing some of the root causes and so is part of an overall interagency effort. For example, we work on combating wildlife trafficking, and through our community-based programs there and assisting communities and developing plans to work on economic growth, sustain livelihoods, we offer alternatives to moving into violent extremism. We also work in partnership there with a number of wildlife trafficking institutions and the national police services. So USAID is an integral part of that overall interagency effort.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you much.

Senator Markey.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, very much.

Ambassador Jackson, earlier this year, the State Department named Ghana as the first country in which to implement the child protection compacts, which have a specific focus to prioritize the rescue of children in slave labor conditions and hold perpetrators of child labor accountable for those crimes. Talk a little bit about that and what the role is of the U.S. Government in ensuring that this is a successful program.

Ambassador JACKSON. Thank you very much, Senator.

In fact, Ghana has a strong tradition of working to combat trafficking in persons and child labor. It remains a problem. The Ghanaian Government has traditionally been focused on preventing the outflow of trafficked people. We have encouraged, through this new partnership program, which is valued at \$5 million, to have Ghana work more on the inside. We have provided assistance for protection, prevention, and prosecution. The prosecution part has worked reasonably well, but we need to do much more on the protection front and I am hopeful that this partnership will allow us to do so.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you.

Ambassador Thomas, the United States has sent a tremendous amount of aid to Zimbabwe to fight HIV/AIDS. Could you update us in terms of what the status is and maybe recommendations that you might make in terms of other health care assistance that we could help to provide to Zimbabwe?

Ambassador THOMAS. Well, thank you for that question, Senator.

Yes, the American taxpayer has been extremely generous in helping the people of Zimbabwe. This year, we have provided over \$120 million to combat the scourge of HIV/AIDS. We are looking at not just transmission but prevention through nutrition, through education. And those are programs we have to continue. Under Ambassador Bix's leadership, we are looking at an aggressive way of auditing our program to make sure the taxpayer moneys continue to be well spent.

If confirmed, sir, I would be looking forward to working with the Senate and the House in developing new ways of assisting the peo-

ple in a country where over 15 percent of the population is suffering from HIV/AIDS.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you.

Ms. Furuta-Toy, Equatorial Guinea is—and I did not know this—the third-largest producer of oil in Africa, and yet 75 percent of their people live in poverty. And unfortunately, that is an all too frequent statistic around the world with countries that have oil resources.

Do you have any recommendations as to what help we could give to Equatorial Guinea to diversify their economy to broaden a base of growth so that it affects more families positively in that country?

Ms. FURUTA-TOY. Senator, thank you for that.

The disparities between the income and the poverty levels in Equatorial Guinea are extreme, and it is something that, should I be confirmed, I would like to be able to focus a little bit of the U.S. Government attention on trying to make sure that the revenues from the oil industry and from other businesses are better distributed across the country.

One of the ways that I think we can encourage the government to move forward is by supporting it in its reapplication actually to the Extractive industries Transparency Initiative, EITI. The government announced last year that it would reapply to EITI, and this will mean that it has to bring in civil society. It has to declare its revenues. And the result of that should be that the public will better understand what actually is out there and how better they can benefit across the board.

Should I be confirmed, we will continue to support the improvement in education, health, sanitation, and other social issues that many of the U.S. companies that are in Equatorial Guinea right now are supporting through their corporate social responsibility programs.

Senator MARKEY. Good. Thank you.

Ms. FURUTA-TOY. Thank you.

Senator MARKEY. Mr. Hankins, could you take us back to the outbreak of the Ebola crisis and look at the three countries and give us a little tutorial on why it was that Guinea was so much less effective in its response, in its health care infrastructure capacity to be able to deal with this issue than the other countries?

Mr. HANKINS. Yes, Senator. It started there and it started in the area of the country in the Forestiere region, which is the part that is hardest to reach and historically has been one of those least served. In some sense, there was a basis of a health system. It is the only country of the three where we did not evacuate our personnel because we saw a basis to continue than protection of our personnel there.

It is also a country where there was a huge problem in terms of public acceptance of government response. It is a country where we saw health care workers killed by villagers who were afraid of the response. And when that happened, then the Government of Guinea, trying to figure out how to respond and initially responding with a very heavy military presence, which only exacerbated the situation.

It is also one where, frankly, we do not have and we did not have that strong a French-speaking component within our CDC and

USAID. Those elements were found and eventually helped build then the response.

So it has been a country where trying to get past public distrust of facilities has been difficult. I know Peace Corps staff in the country were, in fact, very important because they had the contacts with traditional leaders, with imams, which eventually helped turn the situation in terms of having a more effective government approach to the population.

Thank you, Senator.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you.

And, Ms. Etim, when Chairman Flake and I were with the President in Ethiopia, we were part of the signing of a deal to produce 1,000 megawatts of geothermal power, which was just potentially the beginning of that incredible potential growth in electricity from indigenous sources inside of Ethiopia. Can you talk a little bit about, going forward, what you see as the biggest challenges to making it possible to unleash all of this capacity, which is latent, on that continent using USAID and other agencies as kind of the fulcrum, the lever to ensure that we telescope the time frame to ensure that that electrical generation does reach the business and consumer sectors in each of those countries?

Ms. ETIM. Thank you for raising that question.

As you mentioned, being in Ethiopia at the signing of the first phase of Corbetti's power project was very exciting.

We, I think, could only identify two major challenges going forward to the sustainability of Power Africa. One I think is the continued commitment of partners and of people's willingness to stay the course. I think that we have seen tremendous successes over the past few years of Power Africa, but we also know that governance is going to be a major issue. And so when you start coming up against these barriers and looking at where, going forward, the results are—we have a tremendous goal of tripling access to power now—we are very concerned that people will start backing away from the commitments. And I think if you look at the challenge of governance and countries not being as transparent as they need to and not being able to unlock some of the power there but also I think on our partners' and I think the general public's commitment to staying the course and making sure that we have a long-term vision for this initiative.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Senator KAINE.

Senator KAINE. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

And thanks to all the witnesses. Your records individually are quite extraordinary. And I think we do a good job of always thanking especially now members of our armed services who serve repeated deployments often to places that might not have been their first choice, sometimes in high threat areas where they cannot bring their family, but I do not think we do a good enough job of thanking those like you who are in State or some of the other agencies where you are small "a" ambassadors for us every day. So thank you for your careers in this area. And congratulations on your nominations.

I am on the Armed Services Committee and I sort of have an armed services question. In the aftermath of the horrible tragedy at Benghazi, decisions were made to augment embassy security around certain high-threat posts. A number of those posts are in Africa. So we have built up a little bit of additional military capacity.

But at the same time, there have also been increasing requests from African governments for U.S. presence in joint operations or training. There is a number of special purpose Marine air-ground task forces that are assigned out of AFRICOM that are working in different countries in Africa on joint exercises and counterpoaching, countertrafficking, counterterrorism. I just am curious, especially for my four over on this side in the countries where you are going to be. I would love to know anything about the kind of current state of mil-to-mil relationships, and is U.S. military presence in these kind of exercises accepted, and is it working to our benefit.

Ambassador JACKSON. Thank you, Senator Kaine, and it is great to see you again. I hope you will visit Ghana, just as you visited Morocco when I was there.

Security cooperation in Ghana is excellent. Ghana is a member of the African contingency operations and train and assistance program. It is a member of the African Rapid Preparedness Initiative. And we have done a number of major military exercises there. We deployed about 300 marines there earlier this year as we looked at events in the region on a contingency basis, and there will be a major international exercise there next year. So I am very satisfied with our security cooperation in Ghana. And Ghana's contribution to peacekeeping has meant that our people are safe which is my highest priority.

Thank you.

Senator Kaine. Ambassador Thomas.

Ambassador THOMAS. Thank you, Senator.

Senator, we have sanctions against Zimbabwe and its military because of the pernicious use of the security forces during the elections. This is something that hailed from even the Rhodesian days when the security forces were used to intimidate people. So at this time, we do not have relations. However, if Zimbabwe's Government establishes reform in the future, has free and fair elections, transparency, reduces corruption, and endorses human rights, that is something that we would be willing to talk to the United States Senate and President Obama and the administration about.

Senator Kaine. Thank you, Mr. Ambassador.

Ms. FURUTA-TOY. Senator, thank you.

Because of the current concerns about the human rights situation in Equatorial Guinea, we do not have direct military support for the Government of Equatorial Guinea, but as I mentioned earlier to Senator Markey, we have supported the Government of Equatorial Guinea's participation in some regional exercises.

Senator Kaine. Thank you.

Mr. Hankins.

Mr. HANKINS. Senator Kaine, in Guinea, we are building a new relationship with the military. It is only in the last 5 years that the military came under civilian authority, having suffered from coups in the past. Our main emphasis right now is using Guinean

troops or helping support Guinean troops for peacekeeping operations in Mali where they have accepted then one of the more difficult regions right on the border with Algeria. But we are still well aware that you have members in the military that were implicated in the September 2008 stadium massacre. So it is a careful relationship on building a democratic military and security system while still taking advantage of Guinea's willingness to participate in regional crises.

Senator KAINE. Thank you.

Ms. Etim, the United Nations adopted sustainable development goals last week, sort of setting out for the next 15 years a whole series of efforts to reduce extreme poverty, promote public health, educational opportunities, and advance other human development goals. These goals sound very similar to some of the main areas of focus for USAID. But I just wonder if you have thoughts about how in your position in Africa you and your team will work to advance the U.N.'s recently announced goals.

Ms. ETIM. As you rightly point out, Senator, it is not a coincidence that the goals reflect the newly revamped mission statement for USAID. Working in the leadup to the sustainable development goals summit over the course of the past week, USAID has been in partnership with a number of countries to actually come on line and basically say what would happen if the world focused its attention in a coordinated manner with the World Bank, other donors, private sector partners, civil society organizations to look at measuring sustainable ways in the next generation of actually ending extreme poverty. It is an extremely ambitious goal. I think that the agency, coming online with that, has changed the way it has been doing business by really looking at a lot of institutional causes of poverty from looking at food security, through Feed the Future, or looking at infrastructure, poverty, energy, poverty through Power Africa, I think looking at how we deliver relief assistance in effective ways through resiliency—this has been a major goal of ours, and it is something that we are thinking that, as you codify this worldwide, we will be able to take forward and have guiding principles and shared understandings and lessons with the rest of the world in this partnership as we go forward.

Senator KAINE. Excellent. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

Senator Murphy.

Senator MURPHY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I wanted to stay with you, Ms. Etim. When I travel around the developed world and talk about opportunities for U.S. businesses and U.S. exports, it is rule of law, rule of law, rule of law. And so I wanted to just inquire to you as to the effect of some of the budget decisions we are making here on the ability to promote democracy and governance initiatives in Africa. The amount of money available to USAID and a larger sum to State has been declining to the point now where I think in 2015, it was about \$160 million overall for DG and that is down from just 2 years ago being up above 230. The President, I think, has made a request to essentially double that number into the low 300s.

And I just wonder if you can give us a flavor as to what the difference is between having—and again, you are only accountable for a piece of this, but having twice as many resources as you do now to undergo democracy and governance initiatives, is this a matter of expanding programs in existing countries? Is this a matter of getting to countries that have fallen off the list? I mean, there are a number of critical countries that are not receiving any DG programming because of these cuts. What happens if we are successful in fulfilling the President's request?

Ms. ETIM. Thank you, Senator, for your question.

If we are successful in fulfilling the President's request, I think you mentioned that we take an all-of-the-above approach. There are a number of countries that actually have been zeroed out, do not have democracy and governance budgets, and we would look at restoring and retaining those budgets.

But I think most importantly we see Africa right now in terms of its transitioning. You had over 12 exercises, 15 African electoral exercises in 2015. We have 20 coming up in 2016. We know that the urgent needs right now are focused around how do you provide support for both those exercises but also looking at how do we look at the exercises that took place in 2015 in restoring and maintaining democracy there. You may have noticed also in the news we have a number of fragile states and fragile environments from Burkina Faso to Central African Republic to South Sudan to Burundi. We have a lot of conflicts crises there. And there I think we have a role as the United States Government in working in things like constitution strengthening, parliamentary strengthening, institution building.

Obviously, even with this increased request, we will not be able to answer all of the needs on the continent, but I think that what we really look at is being able to deepen, I think, a lot of the investments and commitments that we do have looking to forward to, I think, a lot of the volatility that is upcoming in the next several years.

Senator MURPHY. I have thrown out this comparison before. But it is stunning that we complain about the lack of influence that America has around the world, and then we spend 0.1 percent of our GDP on foreign aid compared to 1950 when we were spending 3 percent of GDP on foreign aid. It is not rocket science as to why we have a little bit less influence in some parts of the world.

Ms. Etim, how about the question of flexibility? Someone came into my office a few months back and made a case as to how we could have done a better job of watching al-Shabaab move into the northern portions of Kenya, and had we had more flexibility of funds within USAID and State, that we could have done some work up front to try to strengthen institutions, governance, economic resources so as to try to prevent this terrorist organization from getting a foothold.

Can we do more to give USAID the necessary flexibility? Are you too compartmentalized in terms of how you are forced to spend this money even as priorities and realities on the ground are shifting within fiscal years?

Ms. ETIM. You raise a very good point, and I think as all of my fellow panelists will probably point out, the increased flexibility for

our missions and the embassies on the ground lead to, I think, more creative thinking and better programming.

At the same time, we are able to focus, I think, within the constraints that we have been given on the main priorities that are actually facing the African Continent. And so a lot of the different ways that our funding comes is in the very critical areas of health and education. These are areas that USAID and I think overall the U.S. Government would be focused on.

With your specific example with Kenya and the idea of how we actually deal with programs in complex crisis environments, there we require, I think, flexible sources of funding, and for that reason, typically when we make programming decisions bureaucratically we put ESF funding—the most flexible funding that USAID has available we direct at those types of countries and accounts because we know that programs are going to change. Like the South Sudans of the world and like the Somalias, these are areas that require flexibility. In more established countries like Kenya, that is where you, I think, come into some of the questions that you have just raised where you have partners over a long period of time, but you also have a lot of dynamic and changing situations. And in that environment, we look at our own programming cycle and we have made changes in the way we have done business so that we can actually work more closely with our friends on the humanitarian side to come up with more flexible ways of using—and making sure that we are using more flexible means of programming humanitarian funds and not just having stark relief to development trajectories but actually applying a resilience model that allows us to use what pots of money are necessary to address the actual challenges that are on the ground.

So, of course, we will always welcome as much flexibility as possible. That is something that I think is a given. But I also think some of the onus is on us as an agency to look at really programming, I think, in more modern ways and looking at the challenges from an entire holistic perspective.

Senator MURPHY. Well, put more of the onus on us. I think we can do more to give you that additional flexibility. I appreciate you taking ownership within the agency. But we certainly can step up to the plate and do more.

Thank you all for stepping up yourselves to this kind of laudable service. I look forward to working with you on your confirmation process.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator FLAKE. Thank you.

And I want to thank our witnesses today and my colleagues for being here. We had five or six members here for one of these hearings on a get-away day. That speaks well for the interest and the importance of your service.

I want to thank also your family members for being here. We are aware and appreciate the sacrifices that they make and that you make in many cases to be away from them. Mr. Hankins, you mentioned 26 years of service or 16?

Mr. HANKINS. Sixteen assignments.

Senator FLAKE. A long time. And we always find that family members—a lot of them end up serving in our military or in our

diplomatic service as well or find other ways to serve based on your example. So thank you for what you are doing and thank you to the family members for the sacrifices that you put in.

The hearing record will remain open until Friday, for the benefit of the members. And if the witnesses could answer any questions that come your way promptly so they can be put as part of the hearing record, it would be appreciated.

And with the thanks of the committee, this hearing stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 3:07 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

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#### ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

##### RESPONSES OF ROBERT P. JACKSON, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA, TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

###### AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE JACKSON'S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR CARDIN

*Question.* In what areas have President Mahama's administration's anticorruption efforts successful, and how could they be made more so? What actions, if confirmed, will you take to assist with the government's anticorruption efforts?

*Answer.* The Government of Ghana has repeatedly stated its commitment to combat corruption. The recent decision to suspend several High Court judges and lower court judges and magistrates as a result of an expose done by an investigative journalist underscores the Government of Ghana's commitment to this issue. Ghana's national anticorruption efforts are outlined in its National Anti-Corruption Action Plan, which came into force last year. We are supporting anticorruption efforts in Ghana through several programs, including through a grant to the Ghana Integrity Initiative, Ghana's local Transparency International Chapter. USAID supports efforts to improve civil society reporting, tracking and advocacy for stronger anticorruption work in Ghana. The project fosters the participation of civil society institutions in identifying, reporting, and tracking incidences of corruption in public agencies. USAID is also working to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Ghana's Parliament to effectively scrutinize the Auditor General's reports on the financial performance of public institutions, expose malfeasance by persons in public office, and demand followup on recommendations and referrals.

If confirmed, I intend to continue these programs and ensure that anticorruption issues are a regular part of our interactions with the highest levels of the Government of Ghana.

*Question.* The next general elections are in December 2016, and by all accounts will be closely contested. What programs and activities is the United States funding to ensure credible peaceful elections, and what actions will you take if confirmed as Ambassador to help ensure continued the continued growth of democratic institutions?

*Answer.* Our assistance aims to enhance the transparency and credibility of Ghanaian Electoral Commission (EC) operations. The EC is developing a new strategic plan for electoral reforms in advance of the 2016 elections. USAID will support the implementation of reforms, with a particular focus on improving the EC's communications capabilities as well as the capacity of its field staff to properly administer elections. We will also enable the EC to develop and implement a communications strategy to more effectively engage all stakeholders on the steps it is taking to ensure a free and fair election process in 2016.

Our assistance will also strengthen civil society's role in ensuring credible and nonviolent elections. USAID will help local organizations engage the EC, political parties and other stakeholders on electoral reform, support civil society organizations or CSOs to conduct civic education programs aimed at promoting tolerance and peaceful and credible elections, and help train CSOs at the grassroots to more effectively monitor elections. We will also train political parties (especially their youth wings) on poll watching and nonviolent dispute resolution to prevent out breaks of election-related violence.

Our assistance will also strengthen conflict resolution mechanisms around elections. Ghana's National Peace Council (NPC)—an independent government council with membership drawn from Ghana's major religious groups—has played an important role in resolving election-related conflict and defusing tensions in previous elections. Our support will enable the NPC to continue to play an integral mediation role during the pre- and post-electoral period.

As Ambassador, I will personally engage Ghanaian political leaders, the EC, civil society and the media in an effort to ensure a fair, transparent, and peaceful election. I will also ensure that after this election, our assistance to strengthen democratic institutions continues apace.

*Question.* What explains the government's relative failure to more aggressively counter Trafficking in Persons and what will you do if confirmed as Ambassador to encourage the Ghanaians to provide needed resources to the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the Ghana Police Service?

*Answer.* Antitrafficking efforts in Ghana are hampered by a lack of operating budgets for law enforcement and protection agencies. As a result, the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit continues to rely heavily on foreign donors and NGOs to support its efforts. The government also did not provide any funding for the human trafficking victim services or for its two shelters.

In June 2015, the Government of Ghana signed the first Child Protection Compact (CPC) Partnership with the United States, which will facilitate investment of \$5 million in U.S. foreign assistance to aid the Government of Ghana to reduce child trafficking and improve child protection. The Partnership, the first of its kind globally, is a jointly developed, multiyear plan aimed at bolstering efforts of the Government of Ghana and Ghanaian civil society to address child sex trafficking and forced child labor within Ghana. The Government of Ghana stated that it intends to dedicate increasing levels of staff resources and operating budget funding to support this initiative, including funding for the Human Trafficking Fund.

If confirmed as Ambassador, I will continue to raise this issue with the highest officials in the Ghanaian Government, impressing upon them that their current budgetary constraints should not preclude the government from providing financial support and resources to all Ghanaian agencies committed to combating trafficking in persons, investigating and prosecuting trafficking cases, and supporting trafficking victims.

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RESPONSES OF HARRY K. THOMAS, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE, TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE THOMAS'S RESPONSE  
TO A QUESTION FROM SENATOR CORKER

*Question.* The U.S.-Zimbabwe bilateral relationship has been poor for decades. Do you believe that a possible near-term Presidential transition in Zimbabwe is an opportunity for the growth of democracy and freedom in that country? If so, how would you advise the U.S. to engage during a Presidential transition to promote such values?

*Answer.* We are focused on principles of respect for the rule of law, human rights, and democratic processes. We would welcome credible, economic, and governance reforms supporting these values at any time, and do not expect a sudden departure from current policy in the near term. Dialogue and respectful engagement remain central to moving our bilateral relationship forward, consistent with our values and policies. The United States continues to support progress toward a Zimbabwe that serves the needs of the Zimbabwean people through humanitarian assistance and continued support for Zimbabwean civil society, which is often the leading independent voice critical of the Zimbabwean government's policies.

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AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE THOMAS'S RESPONSES  
TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR CARDIN

*Question.* What U.S. democracy and governance programs are under way in Zimbabwe, and how effective have they been and what programs would be most feasible at present? What are the primary challenges facing USAID's partners? If confirmed, what activities do you plan to undertake to help Zimbabwean efforts to open political space and support civil society?

Answer. U.S. technical assistance boosts the ability of citizens and nongovernmental groups to participate in discussions on the future direction of Zimbabwe. One local USAID partner coached rural women farmers to engage for the first time with the Parliamentary Committee on Lands and Agriculture and voice challenges they face, including limited access to communal land, lack of access to markets and credit facilities, delayed payments by the Grain Marketing Board, and corruption. This activity shows that with training, rural Zimbabwean women can be compelling advocates to hold political leaders accountable. Grassroots-level programs are effective in empowering citizens to engage government and demand accountability. USAID programs create a more secure environment for communities and civil leaders to engage in political processes and affect a more democratic system of governance. Challenges for partners include long-standing government restrictions on civil society organizations, independent media, political parties, activists, and regular citizens that impede fundamental freedoms. If confirmed, I would continue U.S. support for Zimbabwean civil society to promote community development efforts and service delivery, and to retain its role as the leading independent voice calling the Zimbabwean Government to account for policies which undermine democracy and stability.

*Question.* Impunity for politically motivated violence remains an issue in Zimbabwe. Cases stemming from elections related violence in 2008 remain unsolved. If confirmed, what can you do to encourage the government to make progress in these cases, and end security sector impunity? Do you see a role for USAID in any future efforts to reform the security sector?

Answer. Progress toward ending security sector impunity is a critical component in assessing the status of human rights and rule of law in Zimbabwe. If confirmed, I would continue support for strengthening institutions, such as Parliament, the human rights commission, courts, and civil society to help create a Zimbabwe in which all government institutions are responsive to the needs of the people and support rule of law and just governance. I would aim to strengthen these institutions' responsiveness to constituents, and support for victims of violence and those who advocate on their behalf. I would continue to promote our human rights report to highlight abuses or areas for improvement. USAID plays a role in these efforts, lending its expertise in peaceful conflict mitigation and resolution initiatives.

RESPONSES OF JULIE FURUTA-TOY, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA, TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE FURUTA-TOY'S RESPONSE  
TO A QUESTION FROM SENATOR CORKER

*Question.* The U.S.-Equatorial Guinea bilateral relationship has been difficult for decades. Equatorial Guinea has fabulous natural resource wealth yet its people are some of the poorest in the world. The regime denies basic freedoms to its people, and is profoundly corrupt. Is there anything the U.S. should be doing differently to try to change the status quo in that country? What opportunities are there to promote freedom and democracy?

Answer. The United States diplomatic relationship with Equatorial Guinea is frank and honest. We have repeatedly encouraged President Obiang—the longest-serving leader on the African continent—to embrace democratic reform and rule of law, and support greater political and economic transparency.

If confirmed, I will encourage the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to remove legal and practical barriers to the formation and free operation of political parties in keeping with the commitments of the November 2014 National Dialogue, and promote a free, fair, and transparent electoral process.

In the lead up to Presidential elections in 2016, I will continue to urge the government to establish an independent electoral commission and invite international observers. The 2016 Presidential elections are an opportunity for Equatorial Guinea to demonstrate its commitment to democracy and tolerance of independent opposition political parties.

I will also emphasize that the success of Equatorial Guinea's reinstatement in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative is largely dependent on its treatment of civil society and will underscore that for the United States to support Equatorial Guinea's candidacy, civil society organizations must be allowed to offer their views on transparency and governance issues freely and without any adverse consequences.

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE FURUTA-TOY'S RESPONSES  
TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR CARDIN

*Question.* If confirmed, how do you plan to engage the government of Equatorial Guinea regarding its lack of fiscal transparency and high levels of corruption? What actions can you take as Ambassador to effectively help counter corruption and increase transparency?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I will continue to urge the Government of Equatorial Guinea to practice better governance, increase transparency and invest more in its people, particularly in education and health.

I will continue to support Equatorial Guinea's efforts to prepare for eventual re-application to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) as a means to promote transparency and accountability in the receipt and use of oil and gas revenues. I will also emphasize to the Government of Equatorial Guinea that its support for the development of civil society and civil society's participation in EITI is essential to achieve membership in EITI. Setting a good example, U.S. petroleum companies in Equatorial Guinea have held workshops providing information on their operations to members of civil society, which I will continue to encourage.

*Question.* If confirmed, how will you help improve political, civil and human rights?

*Answer.* The Department considers human rights promotion the top priority in our bilateral relationship with Equatorial Guinea. If confirmed, I will continue to document human rights abuses in the annual human rights report, press the Government of Equatorial Guinea to fully respect international human rights law, and encourage the implementation of Equatorial Guinea's law concerning human trafficking.

If confirmed, I will encourage the government to allow the political opposition to operate freely, in keeping with the commitments of the 2014 National Dialogue, and promote a free, fair and transparent electoral process that includes input from civil society organizations. I will urge the government to implement an independent electoral commission and invite international observers. The 2016 Presidential elections are an opportunity for Equatorial Guinea to demonstrate its commitment to democracy and tolerance of independent opposition political parties.

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RESPONSES OF DENNIS B. HANKINS, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE  
REPUBLIC OF GUINEA, TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE HANKINS'S RESPONSES  
TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR CORKER

*Question.* Based on his past willingness to use all available means to gain and keep power, there is every indication that President Alpha Conde will be reelected President in the upcoming election. What policies would you recommend as U.S. Ambassador to demonstrate the U.S. Government's negative reaction to the elections which are already showing signs of fraud?

*Answer.* The United States has supported Guinea's transition to democracy since 2010, when Alpha Conde became Guinea's first democratically elected President. The United States is working closely with the international community to encourage a free and fair Presidential election. Our engagement includes sustained dialogue with the government, political party leaders, the press, and civil society; technical support to the electoral commission; and support for civic and voter education, justice and security sector reform, and journalist training. We also focus on the people-to-people aspects, including sending members of the U.S. mission in Conakry around the country to conduct townhall meetings for political parties, NGOs and the media, and partner with alumni of official U.S. exchange and training programs to hear directly from them and carry our message of peaceful, free, and fair elections. In addition, the United States is also deploying an electoral monitoring mission with an unprecedented 120 observers throughout Guinea during the election period. While Guinea's democratic trajectory is generally positive, the United States continues to discuss concerns about electoral processes and broader democratic trends with the government. If confirmed, I plan to continue these important discussions at every opportunity and to seek creative ways to partner with nongovernment actors to amplify these efforts.

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AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE HANKINS'S RESPONSES  
TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR CARDIN

*Question.* Guinea does not comply with the minimum standards on trafficking, but granted a waiver from an automatic downgrade to Tier 3, and remains on the Trafficking in Persons Tier 2 Watch List for the third year in a row.

- ◆ (a) What steps, if confirmed, do you plan to take to encourage the government to investigate and prosecute trafficking cases?
- ◆ (b) Are there specific programs and activities that we should undertake with law enforcement to assist Guinea's efforts?
- ◆ (c) What steps will you take to encourage the government to increase penalties for forced prostitution?

*Answer.* The Government of Guinea does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant progress. If confirmed, I will encourage the Government of Guinea to strengthen its antitrafficking law enforcement efforts and similarly increase measures in place to better protect victims and prevent people from becoming victims of trafficking. My team and I will continue to raise our concerns with the Government of Guinea at all levels.

In September 2015, with funding from the Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) trained law enforcement officials and members of the Guinean National Trafficking in Persons Committee in order to enhance their capacity and coordination efforts to combat trafficking. Our training built upon a similar program in Senegal that in 2014 led to the successful discovery and release of minors destined for forced labor. If confirmed, I will encourage the government to undertake similar training to build the capacity of the authorities to detect, interdict, and prosecute such criminal offenses.

The 2015 Trafficking in Persons Report states that penalties for forced prostitution are sufficiently stringent, but not commensurate with those prescribed for other serious crimes, such as rape. If confirmed, I will encourage the Government of Guinea to increase penalties for forced prostitution. I will work to ensure the Government of Guinea comes into compliance with this minimum standard of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, and continues efforts to battle the horrible scourge that is human trafficking.

RESPONSES OF LINDA ETIM, NOMINATED TO BE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE  
U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS  
OF THE COMMITTEE

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR-DESIGNATE ETIM'S RESPONSES  
TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR CORKER

*Question.* African leaders across the continent are maneuvering to extend their terms past constitutional limits. A number of African countries have also enacted security and NGO laws that are being used against civil society and the political opposition. Do you believe the democratic gains made since the 1990s are eroding? What effort is USAID play to reverse this trend in light of a constrained fiscal environment?

*Answer.* This is a difficult time for democracy—in Africa and around the world. Academic and think tank data, as well as the U.S. Government's own monitoring, points to a trend in recent years of backsliding in both the less democratic countries and the stronger democracies of Africa. Of great concern are the actions by governments in some countries to restrict the freedom of expression and association, and by some leaders to cling to power despite constitutional term limits.

Efforts to remove constitutionally mandated term limits by sitting Presidents are a symptom of deeper democratic deficits, including concentration of power in the executive branch, weak rule of law, lack of political space for opposition political parties and civil society, and limited media freedoms. Although some countries in sub-Saharan Africa may be backsliding, others are reinforcing democratic norms, as evidenced by recent electoral exercises in Nigeria and Zambia. In addition, the USAID-supported Afrobarometer public opinion data confirms that across the continent, democracy continues to be the preferred path.

I understand the challenges of the current budget environment and am confident that USAID can achieve considerable progress within the budget constraints. As an agency, we have made efforts to locate additional resources for some of the highest priority needs on the continent in FY 2015, including in Kenya and Nigeria. In Ni-

geria, for example, sustained, long-term U.S. Government investment in the development of civil society networks and institutions like the Independent National Electoral Commission contributed to the historic transfer of political power witnessed in 2015. Continued investment is necessary to consolidate those gains.

Additionally recognizing the importance of prioritizing democracy, rights and governance (DRG) investments, USAID's FY 2016 request for democracy, rights and governance programming reflects an increase over recent years. The request represents a 10 percent increase over the FY 2015 request and a 100 percent increase over the FY 2014 actual level. USAID is also better integrating DRG principles into other development sectors, working with fellow U.S. Government colleagues in health, education, water and economic growth, to ensure that core human rights and governance principles are embedded in other sectors.

USAID is committed to ensuring it remains a leader in the DRG sector. Guided by government policies, Presidential directives, and agency strategies, USAID supports numerous programs that foster good governance, promote access to justice, strengthen civil society, and reinforce effective and accountable institutions at all levels. As such, in 2013, USAID issued a new strategy on democracy, human rights, and governance, codifying a more holistic approach to DRG sector programming. This policy framework focuses on participation, inclusion, and accountability, while elevating human rights and integration of democratic governance approaches across economic and social sectors. The DRG strategy informs USAID's overall approach to DRG sector programming in Africa and provides guidance to missions appropriate for the context.

For example, in countries making progress on democratization and where the government is generally supportive of human rights, the DRG strategy is designed to consolidate gains, prevent backsliding, and strengthen or create effective democratic institutions and culture that are self-correcting in the face of crisis. Although countries within this category are making progress, they may still be vulnerable to reversals.

In countries where progress on democratic and political development is uneven, with some civil and political freedoms but with no genuine foundation for democratic governance and institutions, USAID programs generally promote political pluralism and citizen participation. Programs often focus on expanding the space for meaningful participation, as well as promoting genuine and fair political competition, through electoral reforms and monitoring and/or political party assistance. In these contexts, support to civil society, including nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and independent media groups, helps to elevate citizen voice in, and oversight of, political processes and government practices. Strengthening and protecting an enabling legal and regulatory environment for civil society and media is also critical. Programs may also address the promotion of human rights and issues of inclusion, as well as increased government transparency and accountability through the integration of DRG approaches to social sector and economic growth programming.

Finally, in countries where governments do not maintain democratic systems, respect human rights, or tolerate independent civic action, DRG programming emphasize support for democracy and human rights activists by working with NGOs, watchdog groups, independent media and political parties that are committed to democratic principles and value fundamental freedoms. Although additional precautions must be taken, DRG programming is still possible in these countries. Supporting citizens' access to independent information sources is critical in these environments since it can bolster free expression and strengthen impartial channels of information to citizens in spite of government dominance over official media channels.

If confirmed, I look forward to continuing to work with and seek the committee's guidance as we address these critically important issues.

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ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR-DESIGNATE ETIM'S RESPONSES  
TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR CARDIN

*Question.* Corruption is a considerable impediment to development across the world, including in Africa. Endemic corruption has hindered growth in Nigeria, the continent's largest economy. It has significantly undermined development in South Sudan, and is a chronic problem in Angola and Kenya, to name just a few countries.

- ◆ (a) What actions can the U.S. take to help African partners address corruption, and will you commit to working with your counterparts in the interagency to develop a comprehensive action plan to help Africans combat corruption?

Answer (a). The United States, through numerous assistance programs, works closely with countries around the world to build transparent and accountable financial and legal systems. The Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) devote approximately \$1 billion per year to anticorruption and related good governance programs.

USAID's work to combat corruption in sub-Saharan Africa focuses on improving transparency and availability of information and increasing accountability between and among citizens and government institutions. As one of the commitments from the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, the United States and leaders of partner governments formed the Partnership on Illicit Finance (PIF), an initiative that brings African partners and the United States together to jointly address the generation and movement of proceeds from corruption and other financial crimes. The PIF has two main objectives: (1) examine illicit financial flows from Africa, and (2) develop national action plans to improve transparency and accountability in public and private sectors. Current members are Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mauritius, Liberia, Niger, and Senegal.

Building on that commitment, during President Obama's trip to Africa in July 2015, the United States and the Government of Kenya signed a Joint Commitment to Promote Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Efforts in Kenya to improve ethics, end money laundering and expand anticorruption legislation. The Joint Commitment will also leverage technology to reduce or eradicate opportunities for corruption, using tools such as citizen portals and eProcurement systems.

This approach is consistent with the principles outlined in the post-2015 Development Agenda, which focuses on the need to build developing countries' capacity to mobilize domestic resources and attract private sector financing flows and assistance.

In Nigeria, for example, USAID's approach to strengthen institutions of accountability and improve public financial management while increasing the involvement of the private sector and civil society in governance has yielded results. Starting in 2006, USAID support helped civil society, government and the private sector to come together and establish the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI). In 2013, NEITI, working in collaboration with relevant government agencies, recovered \$2 billion in taxes owed by oil and gas companies.

Government reform alone is not enough to be successful—support for government reformers must be complemented by support for the work of civil society organizations. Across Africa, USAID is building the capacity of civil society networks and coalitions to promote transparency and accountability. These coalitions engage with civil society organizations to increase oversight of the budget process, raise the level of public discourse on issues of transparency and accountability, and increase participation of the citizenry in governance for equitable growth. In Tanzania, for example, USAID is increasing the capacity of civil society to monitor transparency in local government by engaging citizens in local budgeting, planning and public expenditure tracking.

As a founding member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), the United States partners with governments and civil society leaders around the world to promote the more transparent, effective, and accountable governance and institutions that are necessary for development gains to be sustained. OGP was launched in 2011 with 8 members and has grown to include 65 participating countries that together have made over 2,000 commitments to make government more open, accountable and responsive to citizens. In sub-Saharan Africa, Cape Verde, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Tanzania are OGP members and continue to make good on their commitments to open government. Over the last 3 years, USAID has provided just under \$1 million to the OGP Support Unit (approximately \$300–\$350 thousand per year, 2012–15). USAID Missions in Africa have also supported OGP in a variety of ways, from sponsoring government/citizen consultations to implementing OGP-related commitments.

USAID's work in this area is guided by our strategy on democracy, human rights, and governance, which focuses on the principles of accountability and citizen engagement to offer a framework for addressing issues such as corruption more effectively. Our work in these areas is fully complementary of the work of other U.S. Government agencies on combating financial crimes and strengthening the rule of law. The 2015 Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR) calls upon the entire U.S. Government to use the OGP as a tool to advance transparent, accountable, and participatory governance. If confirmed, I will continue to work with partners in the interagency to address corruption in Africa through mechanisms such as OGP, NEITI, and PIF, as well as engagement with civil society.

- ◆ (b) Funds for democracy and governance programs and activities in FY 2015 (approximately \$160 million) are much lower than allocations in FY 2013 (\$231 million), FY 2012 (\$266 million), and FY 2011 (\$244 million). What will you do to prioritize democracy and governance programs and activities and advocate for additional funding levels if confirmed?

Answer (b). The U.S. Government cannot effectively achieve sustainable outcomes in health, food security and climate change in Africa without simultaneously investing in good governance, transparency, accountability, and inclusion. Decreased or inconsistent funding levels for democracy, rights, and governance (DRG) make it more difficult for USAID to make strategic investments for long-term change in the African countries in which we work.

To ease the impact of reduced DRG funding levels in the immediate term, in my role as Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa, I successfully advocated for the allocation of additional USAID FY 2015 DRG resources for some of the highest priority needs on the continent in countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Nigeria. In Nigeria, for example, sustained, long-term U.S. Government investment in the development of civil society networks and institutions like the Independent National Electoral Commission contributed to the historic transfer of political power witnessed in 2015. Continued investment is necessary to consolidate those gains.

Recognizing the importance of prioritizing DRG investments, USAID's FY 2016 request for DRG programming (\$301 million) reflects an increase over recent years. The request represents a 10-percent increase over the FY 2015 request and a 100-percent increase over the FY 2014 actual level. If confirmed, I will continue to advocate for a robust budget for DRG programs in Africa to ensure our program needs are met and that USAID remains a leader in the DRG sector on the continent.

At the same time, I understand the challenges of the current budget environment and believe that USAID can take steps to prioritize DRG programs even in the face of budget constraints. For example, USAID issued a new strategy on democracy, human rights, and governance in 2013, codifying a more holistic approach to DRG sector programming. This policy framework focuses on participation, inclusion, and accountability, while elevating human rights and integration of democratic governance approaches across economic and social sectors. The DRG strategy informs USAID's overall approach to DRG sector programming in Africa and provides guidance to missions appropriate for the context. As a result, USAID is also better integrating DRG principles into other development sectors, working with fellow U.S. Government colleagues in health, education, water and economic growth, to ensure that core human rights and governance principles are embedded in other sectors.

For example, in Ethiopia, the Social Accountability project is providing new forums for citizens to monitor the Government of Ethiopia's service delivery commitments and to advocate for improvements, and USAID is integrating these methods in the education sector to drive public oversight of results. Specifically, with USAID support, parent-teacher associations will use methods such as community ratings of education quality to pressure government offices to maintain reading enrichment support through libraries and teachers. Additionally, in the health sector, USAID is standing up 2,500 governance boards for health centers and hospitals across Ethiopia, where local officials decide how to spend patient fees and improve services. USAID's democracy and health teams are collaborating to bring valid citizen input into these boards and feed into budget decisions of hospitals and health centers.

If confirmed, I will continue to support USAID's strategic approach to DRG programming and the DRG integration agenda, while advocating for adequate funding for DRG activities in Africa.

*Question.* In September 2014, President Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum directing agencies engaged abroad to elevate and strengthen the role of civil society; challenge undue restrictions on it; and foster constructive engagement between governments and civil society.

- ◆ (a) What efforts has USAID undertaken in Africa to date in response to this directive, and in particular how is USAID challenging restrictions on civil society in countries like Ethiopia and Uganda, where governments have sought to tighten control?

Answer (a). In support of the 2014 Presidential Memorandum, USAID is promoting the robust and critical role civil society plays in African countries to ensure effective and inclusive development. USAID has developed a three-pronged strategy to support civil society in closing spaces: focus on prevention, including monitoring the legal enabling environment for civil society; focus on adaptation, designing flexible programs that can respond to on-the-ground changes; and continue to support civil society, even in restrictive environments.

For example, in Ethiopia, we are monitoring the environment while supporting human rights, strengthening civil society engagement, and enhancing governance through social accountability activities that provide forums for citizens to monitor government's service delivery commitments and advocate for improvements.

In Kenya, USAID has supported civil society organizations working to raise awareness and question the restrictive amendments to the Public Benefit Organizations Act. In Uganda, USAID is supporting nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to advocate effectively with Members of Parliament for changes to restrictive language in the draft NGO bill. The updated draft version of the bill under consideration reflects the combined efforts of concerted NGO advocacy.

Within the next year, USAID—with several other donors—also plans to launch two Civil Society Innovation Hubs in the region to facilitate civil society networking and partnerships. USAID held planning workshops with civil society leaders this past spring and summer in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, and Dakar, Senegal. These Hubs will connect civil society organizations at the regional and global levels and enable access to tools and technologies to bolster their work.

Meanwhile, USAID also has developed an analytic tool, the Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index for sub-Saharan Africa, which since 2009 has tracked trends that monitor the progress and setbacks faced by civil society organizations. The latest edition can be found at: <https://www.usaid.gov/africa-civil-society>.

USAID provides a wide range of assistance, helping civil society organizations to become more effective and sustainable in their roles in service provision, policy advocacy, and government monitoring and oversight. For example, in Liberia, USAID's Civil Society and Media Leadership program aims to help civil society organizations expand their role from delivering services to engaging in governance and policy processes through advocacy training, networking, and mentorship. USAID activities seek to provide organizations with the skills and tools necessary to promote access to information and employ effective watch-dog strategies.

In response to the closing space trend, USAID also supports local civil society efforts to advocate for strong legal protections and operating environments through programs such as the Legal Enabling Environment Program (LEEP). LEEP, a \$6 million global instrument funded by USAID, provides technical assistance to civil society organizations and supports local capacity and research to advance local legal reforms. In November 2014, USAID, in conjunction with the Community of Democracies and Civicus, organized a workshop in Pretoria, South Africa, that convened African human rights defenders and lawyers who shared best practices as well as identified recommendations to improve the enabling environment for civil society in their respective countries.

LEEP efforts complement the State Department's diplomatic strategies as well as those of others from the international community. USAID, on behalf of the United States Government, is also an active member of the Community of Democracies which monitors legal restrictions to civil society organizations' freedoms through draft laws and regulations. The Community of Democracies is an international coalition of member states that counters the civil society closing space trend through diplomacy and campaigns.

♦ (b) If confirmed, will you commit to developing a strategy for USAID to undertake democracy and governance activities in Africa?

Answer (b). USAID has been a leader in supporting human rights and democratic governance as fundamental objectives of a whole-of-government strategy toward Africa. The Agency's mission-level strategies are informed by several strategic and policy documents, including the National Security Strategy, the Quadrennial Development and Diplomacy Review (QDDR), the Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) on Africa, and the State/USAID Joint Regional Strategy for Africa. Under the current administration, USAID has also issued a new strategy on democracy, human rights, and governance. The new strategy codifies a more holistic approach to USAID's programming in this sector globally by focusing on participation, inclusion, and accountability, while elevating human rights and integration of democratic governance approaches across economic and social sectors.

One of USAID's unique strengths is its field-based orientation, in which our missions abroad are the incubators and operational nerve centers of its work. With policy guidance and technical support from Washington, USAID bilateral missions in Africa develop their own multiyear country development cooperation strategies (CDCS) in order to tailor development programming to the needs and challenges of particular countries, to reflect the development agenda of the host nation itself, and to align U.S. efforts with host nation, international, and other bilateral donor programs working in the country. They do so in close collaboration with U.S. Embassy counterparts, host-country partners, and often with other donors, foundations, and

the private sector. Virtually every USAID mission in Africa has a medium- to long-term strategic objective focused on supporting democracy, human rights, and governance. These causal theories of change are developed using the principles and approaches laid out in the Agency's DRG Strategy. If confirmed, I remain committed to supporting the implementation of the USAID mission-level strategic objectives.

*Question.* How is USAID supporting justice and accountability in African countries transitioning from conflict, such as South Sudan and the Central African Republic?

*Answer.* To promote access to justice and accountability in transitional environments, USAID works to strengthen formal and informal justice mechanisms, coordinates closely on humanitarian and development programming to boost community resilience, and stresses approaches that prioritize women and youth and conflict mitigation programs.

In South Sudan, USAID is addressing cycles of revenge violence driven by cattle theft and land disputes by supporting local dispute resolution initiatives in the absence of formal justice mechanisms. In one area, for example, USAID brought together traditional chiefs and community leaders to resolve disputes by deciding on compensation as a form of restorative justice.

In the absence of strong formal institutions that reach the communities most affected by the ongoing violence in the Central African Republic (CAR), USAID focuses on laying the groundwork for the establishment of community-based mechanisms to address grievances. Moreover, USAID's current activities in CAR focus on addressing the immediate humanitarian and emergency needs of communities affected by ongoing insecurity, banditry, and sporadic intercommunal violence. In addition, USAID efforts aim to address social cohesion through intercommunal dialogue and reconciliation activities in affected areas of the country.

USAID also provides support to both formal and informal justice institutions in conflict-affected countries such as Cote d'Ivoire and Mali, including training judicial actors, expanding paralegal networks, improving court case management systems, and providing and upgrading infrastructure and equipment. In addition, USAID strengthens the ability of national legislatures to fulfill their representational, legislative, and oversight mandates, and trains civil society organizations (with a focus on women and youth) in management, advocacy, and civic education so they can contribute to and monitor the work of elected leaders and commune council members. For example, in Cote d'Ivoire, USAID programming has supported the National Assembly by strengthening its capacity to fulfill basic functions and improving deputy representation and oversight in selected communes. Such programs assist governments to build more accountable institutions over the long-term and can aid political reconciliation efforts in post-conflict environments.

*Question.* After over 20 months of fighting, the parties to the conflict in South Sudan finally signed a peace agreement in August. The peace agreement is still in the pretransitional phase, but the signatories have already asked for U.S. aid to help with implementation. By many accounts, diversion of state resources has occurred on a massive scale within the South Sudan Government in the past decade, and reports suggest the war has left little for stabilization and reconstruction.

- ◆ (a) If confirmed, how will you work with other donors to ensure that mechanisms to promote transparency and accountability for government and donor resources are put in place by the South Sudanese?

*Answer (a).* The United States, along with other major donors, implements projects directly to help the people of South Sudan, and does not provide funds to or through the Government of South Sudan. USAID plays a key leadership role in several donor groups, and, if confirmed, I will continue such coordination to ensure assistance programs are complementary with those of other donors. If confirmed, I will also continue to work closely with key bilateral donors and international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to promote the proper management and safeguarding of South Sudanese resources for the benefit of the people and for future generations.

There are several aspects of the peace agreement, including oversight mechanisms, that will give the United States an opportunity to press—both diplomatically and by supporting civil society efforts—for greater transparency in government spending. If confirmed, I will join my colleagues in the Department of State and donor community in supporting critical structures of the peace agreement that increase transparency and accountability with respect to government and donor resources.

- ◆ (b) What is USAID's role in supporting accountability and reconciliation mechanisms put in place through the peace agreement, especially at the grassroots and what resources will we be committing to support such mechanisms?

Answer (b). South Sudan has not had a strong history of holding perpetrators of abuses accountable, which has perpetuated a cycle of impunity and violence. The violent nature of this most recent conflict in South Sudan has had a devastating impact on civilians and further polarized intercommunal relations. I believe USAID can play a critical role in supporting accountability and reconciliation efforts at both the local and national levels.

Since the crisis began in December 2013, USAID has been working to create space for reconciliation at the local level. USAID support at the grassroots level has been primarily focused on: (1) engaging community leaders and supporting dialogues between communities suffering from or on the brink of violent conflict, and (2) supporting structured community dialogues to begin the healing process and mitigate violence due to the impact of exposure to repeated traumatic events.

USAID also has been providing support to emerging community-based conflict management mechanisms and to other conflict mitigation initiatives in the United Nations Protection of Civilian (POC) sites, where conflict within the sites has the potential to spark wider conflict outside, and vice versa. For example in the Bentiu POC site, our support has helped establish a community-based conflict management mechanism that provides a critical service in helping resolve and mitigate destabilizing tensions within the site. And, while our "trauma-informed community empowerment" program is still in its pilot phase, we are testing this idea as a potentially groundbreaking new way of supporting communities to overcome the immense challenges of reconciling and rebuilding in the wake of devastating conflict.

Chapter V of the peace agreement is devoted to the issues of transitional justice, accountability and reconciliation. The State Department has taken the lead on supporting efforts to establish and support accountability mechanisms, such as documentation of human rights abuses that occurred during the conflict and support for the establishment of a credible, impartial, and effective hybrid court whereas USAID has taken the lead on national level reconciliation efforts called for in the agreement. Failure to address the root causes of the conflict and address rightful grievances can often undermine peace-building efforts. For that reason, USAID plans to commit over \$10 million in FY 2015 for these programs.

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ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR-DESIGNATE ETIM'S RESPONSES  
TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR FLAKE

*Question.* One of the things that the Ebola outbreak taught us is the importance of having healthcare systems to address all diseases. Can you provide me with your perspective on whether we can leverage the existing communicable disease platforms to integrate cost effective solutions that address the growing burden of chronic diseases, and, if so, how?

Answer. At their very heart, communicable disease platforms build health system capacity to diagnosis, treat and manage patients and prevent spread of disease. The foundational capacities required for effective communicable disease prevention, detection, monitoring and treatment are very similar to those needed for chronic and noncommunicable diseases; these requirements can leverage the skills and systems needed for both sets of health care issues. For example, both communicable disease and chronic disease programs must effectively perform the following health systems functions:

- ◆ Risk communication: Health systems must provide clear information for people at risk to reduce their chances of acquiring the condition;
- ◆ Patient management: Health systems must have a means of tracking affected patients and responding to changes in their conditions in order to mitigate subsequent impacts;
- ◆ Management of drugs and medications: Health systems must have strong logistics systems and drug quality systems to ensure that adequately supplies of needed medications are available to patients on an ongoing basis and that diminish the instance of counterfeit drugs into the system;
- ◆ Comprehensive laboratory capacity: Health systems must be able to identify these conditions through laboratory services.

All of these activities are components of USAID supported infectious disease and health system strengthening programs which can be leveraged to translate these

basic and cross-cutting skills to chronic and non-communicable disease programs at low cost.

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR-DESIGNATE ETIM'S RESPONSES  
TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR PERDUE

*Question.* What are your top priorities for your post, if confirmed? What challenges do you foresee in meeting these goals? How could Congress, and this committee, be useful to you in meeting them?

*Answer.* If confirmed, in addition to focusing on the management issues critical to the successful functioning of USAID's Africa Bureau, I will concentrate on three objectives are critical to the sustainability, growth, and success of our development goals.

First, I believe we need to continue to invest in Africa's greatest resource—its people—to further development, democracy, opportunity, rights and governance for this and future generations. Africa is the youngest continent on the world and one of the fastest growing. For this reason, any successful development approach will need to factor in this demographic shift by investing in human capital through quality education, skills primary and leadership training, and job creation. If confirmed, this will be one of my main areas of focus.

Second, I will continue USAID's focus on accelerating sustainable development through African-led partnerships. For example, through Power Africa, the United States is working with a range of partners to accelerate private-sector energy transactions, by leveraging the assistance, financing, commercial and diplomatic tools of the U.S. Government, as well as the tools and expertise of our bilateral and multilateral partners and the private sector with the aim of expanding access to electricity by 60 million new connections. Two years after Power Africa's launch, the U.S. Government's commitment of \$7 billion dollars has mobilized more than \$43 billion in private capital from Power Africa's more than 100 bilateral, multilateral and private sector partners, including more than \$31 billion in private sector commitments.

Third, I will ensure that our work is implemented effectively, that we evaluate the results, and that we apply those lessons learned going forward. USAID recognizes the need to focus our resources to maximize the impact of our assistance. I understand that we have to measure our results and look to replicate and scale successes, discard failures, and learn from both to design future programs.

Addressing these priorities will not be an easy task. Many African countries continue to face security, governance, and infrastructure challenges that can limit the pace of project implementation and complicate our ability to evaluate our programs. Nonetheless, if confirmed, I look forward to working together with the committee to prioritize people focused African-led programming, inform budget decisions based on sound program evaluations, and leverage our foreign assistance resources to catalyze greater investment in Africa.

*Question.* Given your experience at USAID Africa, what areas have you found where there is duplication or waste? How can we help you streamline the agency to become more effective and efficient?

*Answer.* As USAID's Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa, I take the issue of accountability seriously and am singularly focused on delivering results on behalf of the American people and those we serve. To that end, and in partnership with Agency colleagues, I am committed to identifying ways to more efficiently and effectively program our foreign assistance resources and guard against duplication and waste.

An important means of doing so is by maintaining and expanding the Agency's commitment to high quality evaluations, which are then used to inform program design modifications. USAID is grateful for the strong bipartisan support Congress has provided on behalf of the Agency's more rigorous approach to evaluations, which was unveiled by our former Administrator as part of the USAID Forward reform agenda. Between 2011 and 2014, USAID trained over 1,400 USAID staff in sound evaluation methods and practices, created templates and tools to support evaluation design and performance management plans, and worked with missions to implement an approach that allows for collaboration with partners and adaptation of projects based on learning. During that time, over 950 evaluations have contributed to evidence-based decision making by missions and operating units.

One such example in the Africa Bureau were the changes that our mission implemented in Kenya in response to an evaluation aimed at understanding the discrepancies between the number of HIV rapid test kits (RTK) distributed and the number

of tests conducted. The evaluation indicated that the main discrepancies in the RTK supply chain were at the facility level. Based on the report's recommendations, USAID/Kenya changed the supplier to one that uses electronic systems; expanded monitoring activities to include two teams to visit the facilities along with the Ministry of Health, which has since improved data flow; and instructed USAID partners to tighten accounting controls at the facility level.

USAID also works closely with other development agencies and with departments across the U.S. Government to share best practices, avoid duplication, and amplify the impact of taxpayer dollars.

During my time at the National Security Council, I saw firsthand the benefit of enhanced inter-agency coordination and communication as a means to minimize duplication. In my current capacity, I have worked to actively promote interagency coordination by cultivating strong relationships with counterparts at the Departments of State and Defense, the Millennium Challenge Corporation and at the White House, with whom I regularly discuss learnings from across the region and opportunities to leverage our respective capabilities on behalf of the U.S. Government.

If confirmed, I will continue to make this a priority and look forward to working with the Congress to ensure that evaluations are continually used to inform budget decisions, project design changes, and mid-course corrections in USAID development programming.

*Question.* Please describe the working relationships between missions and AFR's Washington DC offices and bureaus and any notable challenges in these relationships. What are the similarities and differences between AFR's Development Planning and Sustainable Development (SD) offices? Why are both necessary, given some apparent duplication between them, and between functions carried out by SD and functional bureaus? Why are both necessary, given some apparent duplication between them? How do you plan to prevent duplication of efforts moving forward?

*Answer.* The Office of Development Planning (AFR/DP) and the Office of Sustainable Development (AFR/SD) have distinct roles within the Bureau for Africa.

The Office of Development Planning (AFR/DP) provides leadership for Bureau strategy and policy development and oversees the management of the Bureau for Africa's programmatic and operating expense (OE) budget. AFR/DP manages the allocation and tracking of budget resources, coordinates assistance with other donors, and provides guidance on overall program and budgeting strategy and policies. This office serves as the Bureau's audit and investigation liaison; managing the internal control assessment process and the audit management and resolution program; coordinating the preparation of the Congressional Budget Justification; monitoring and tracking compliance with congressional requests; ; overseeing the process of development and approval of Country Development and Coordination Strategies (CDCS) for field missions; assisting field Missions with program monitoring, evaluation and assessment; and acting as the Bureau focal point for outreach activities. AFR/DP does not directly manage any programs or projects.

The Office of Sustainable Development (AFR/SD) oversees and manages the USAID/Africa Regional Program, and provides leadership on African development issues through support for analysis, strategy development, program design, technical assistance, advocacy, and information dissemination. AFR/SD provides support in areas of capacity building, institutional strengthening, partnership development, information technology, social sciences, democracy and governance, natural resources management and environment, agriculture, population, HIV/AIDS, health, nutrition, education, and crisis mitigation and recovery. Additionally, AFR/SD provides technical assistance to field missions to inform strategic choices and program design; supports, encourages, and strengthens the performance of African regional institutions and other international organizations; leads the Bureau's strategic thinking in technical areas; and reviews performance by operating units and programs within the Bureau.

Activities under the USAID/AFR Regional Program focus on extending health care services, including protecting maternal and child health, expanding immunization, and directly confronting the HIV/AIDS crisis; promoting new agricultural methods and technologies; promoting economic growth through the expansion of markets; supporting education activities in Africa, with a special emphasis on the education of girls and women; and preventing and mitigating the effects of conflict by linking crisis management with long-term development programs and by helping African nations integrate democracy and good governance principles across development sectors to consolidate democracy and good governance in their societies.

The Bureau for Africa closely coordinates and cooperates with USAID's functional bureaus to leverage our teams' comparative strengths and technical capabilities in furtherance of the Agency's development objectives. Broadly speaking, both regional

and functional bureaus serve as a resource to our field missions as they design their programs and/or undertake evaluations to inform follow-on activities. Regional bureaus such as the Bureau for Africa are typically a mission's "one stop shop" to field requests for support and technical assistance. In supporting these requests, the Bureau will typically look first to its relatively lean team of technical experts—mostly housed in AFR/SD—who are well-versed in both the country and regional context as well as the specific sector of concern. These individuals will work with counterparts in the regional bureaus to ensure that assistance being provided is reflective of best practices across the world and incorporates lessons learned across USAID's vast global presence. Where deep technical expertise is needed, the pillar bureaus will also provide direct support to field Missions.

Working together, these shared responsibilities result in better, more in-depth support to missions that leverages the expertise of both the technical and regional bureaus at USAID.

*Question (a).* What improvements would you recommend to evaluation and reporting on USAID Africa projects?

Answer (a). USAID has established systems to ensure that quality evaluations are undertaken and that results are used for program improvements and redesigns. If confirmed, I will work to elevate the quality and use of evaluation tools by missions and offices in the Africa Bureau. I will also encourage and support training in monitoring and evaluation for all officers to ensure that important lessons are identified and appropriate adjustments are made to strategies and projects to increase the impact of our foreign assistance programs. USAID's Office of Inspector General recently issued an audit of USAID's Evaluation Policy Implementation across the Agency, which recommended USAID implement additional training programs, including an online tutorial on the main differences between impact and performance evaluations, a recommendation I fully support.

The Africa Bureau has been proactive in its support for evaluation. In May 2015, the Africa Bureau brought together its officers charged with the planning and implementation of the Agency's evaluation policy in Ghana to look at ways to strengthen how evaluations are planned, carried out and applied to USAID's work. Conference participants confirmed the importance of increasing to build evaluation and monitoring capacity within USAID and externally for its implementing partners in the Africa Region in order to effectively implement the Agency's evaluation policy, as strengthening monitoring and evaluation also requires strengthening capacity. In addition, program officers stressed the need to further integrate a collaborative learning environment, in such a way that adaptation is a cornerstone of business operations throughout the USAID Program Cycle. USAID anticipates that a follow-on summit will be held in Spring 2016 to further strengthen our ability to carry out evaluations, identify cross-cutting issues, and share their lessons broadly so that our officers can make appropriate and timely adjustments to our strategies and projects.

If confirmed, I will focus on this critically important aspect of USAID programming in the Africa region and ensure that evaluations are used to guide project design changes and midcourse corrections in development programming, as well as inform budget allocation decisions as appropriate.

*Question (b).* How can we improve transparency in how taxpayer dollars are spent on aid projects in Africa? What obstacles do you face in reporting and evaluation, and how can we start to remedy those issues?

Answer (b). Aid transparency is essential for helping recipient governments manage their aid flows, empowering citizens to hold governments accountable for the use of assistance, and supporting evidence-based, data-driven approaches to foreign aid. The administration has placed great emphasis on transparency and openness across the government and USAID is taking a leading role in helping the U.S. Government further its commitment to enhancing aid transparency as a way of increasing the efficacy of development efforts and promoting international accountability. For example, in October 2014, USAID released its first ever Open Data policy and regularly posts datasets to [www.usaid.gov/data](http://www.usaid.gov/data).

I believe that the transmission of foreign assistance data and evaluation outcomes to the public is a critical step toward increasing transparency in development. If confirmed as Africa's next Assistant Administrator, I will work with USAID leadership to advance efforts that are currently underway to increase the transparency of our funding and programming, including regularly posting data to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and [ForeignAssistance.gov](http://ForeignAssistance.gov).

*Question (a).* What factors led USAID to redeploy staff from the Nairobi East Africa mission to elsewhere, where were they moved, and how many staff and which key programs were affected?

Answer (a). Due to the increasing security concerns in Kenya, in July 2014, the USAID's East Africa mission eliminated 27 U.S. citizen positions. Of those positions, 24 were NSDD-38 approved U.S. Direct Hires, and 3 were U.S. Personal Service Contractors (USPSC). Fourteen of the U.S. Direct Hire positions were realigned as follows:

- ◆ Five were transferred to the USAID mission in Ethiopia,
- ◆ Five were transferred to the USAID mission in South Africa, and
- ◆ Four were transferred to the USAID mission in DRC.

The Agency continues to assess how best to realign the remaining ten U.S. Direct Hire positions across the Africa portfolio. Based on revised staffing levels and an analysis of capacity remaining in Nairobi, 39 ongoing programs remained in Nairobi, 12 were cancelled or closed, and 12 were transferred to other Missions.

Key program impacts include:

- ◆ *Trade Africa:* There were no significant changes to staff and programs supporting the implementation of Trade Africa, though disruptions to contracting, financial management and legal support services resulted in programmatic delays.
- ◆ *Limited and Non-Presence Countries (Burundi, Djibouti, Central African Republic and Somalia):* The USAID East Africa Mission-recently renamed USAID Kenya and East Africa mission (USAID/KEA)-no longer oversees or provides support to the Limited Presence Country offices in Burundi and Djibouti. USAID's mission in Burundi has since been consolidated with USAID's mission in Rwanda, and USAID's Djibouti office has been consolidated with the Ethiopia Mission. The Somalia Office was not affected and continues to be managed from USAID/KEA.
- ◆ *Conflict and Governance:* USAID/KEA's \$32 million conflict mitigation and governance portfolio continues to focus on mitigating cross-border conflict in the Horn of Africa. The management and staffing for programs to counter the Lord's Resistance Army, Central African Republic and the management of mineral trade in the Great Lakes has been transferred to USAID/Democratic Republic of Congo Mission.
- ◆ *Health and HIV/AIDS:* USAID/KEA has refocused its regional health activities on infectious disease outbreaks and phased out the majority of its support for regional health policy strengthening, except for USAID's key assistance to the East, Central, and Southern Africa Health Community. The management of this program will move to South Africa. USAID has moved or closed 11 health programs, while retaining a \$21 million program managed from Nairobi.
- ◆ *Agriculture and Resilience:* USAID/KEA's \$85 million agriculture and resilience portfolio remains in Nairobi. The Mission transferred four programs focused on advancing agricultural development by scaling up successful innovations to Washington.
- ◆ *Environment:* USAID/KEA will maintain most of its \$42 million environment portfolio (global climate change adaptation, biodiversity, water, and sanitation). USAID/KEA transferred responsibility for a regional engineering contract and is unable to program water and sanitation funds proposed for FY 2014.

*Question (b).* What, if any, changes in AFR programming has the USAID Forward development reform initiative spurred?

Answer (b). USAID Forward represents major development and organizational reforms to ensure that USAID and its partners efficiently, effectively, and inclusively address the global challenges of today and achieve results that outlast our assistance in the future. It is based on three separate, but mutually reinforcing principles:

- ◆ Delivering results on a meaningful scale through a strengthened USAID;
- ◆ Promoting sustainable development through high-impact partnerships; and
- ◆ Identifying and scaling-up innovative breakthrough solutions to intractable development problems.

USAID Forward has enabled the Agency to increase its in-country presence with skilled professionals proficient in the discipline of development; adaptive, innovative approaches focused on both short- and long-term results that sustain; and partnerships that engender local ownership of results and greater prospects for sustainable impact. Through implementation of the USAID Forward reforms, the Agency has changed the way it conducts business. The Africa Bureau has embraced the USAID Forward reforms and tailored them to the regional and country context based upon

the given sector's focus and available funding. Below are some examples of progress achieved in Africa.

Currently 18 operating units in Africa have completed five year Country Development Cooperation Strategies (CDCSs), one operating unit has completed a 3-year strategy, and the Bureau has completed four Regional Development Cooperation Strategies, for a total of 23 out of 24 required strategies for the Africa Bureau (the 24th strategy is in progress). These documents serve as guideposts for strategic decisionmaking in the allocation of our resources and implementation of results-oriented programming throughout the region.

- ◆ In FY 2014, our Africa missions exceeded targets for leveraging commercial private capital through the Development Credit Authority (DCA) mechanism across all development sectors by 10 percent. For example, the USAID/Nigeria Mission leveraged private sector financing in under-served sectors, with particular emphasis on renewable energy, agriculture, water, and health. The mission's efforts resulted in increased resources for Nigerians in support of U.S. Government food security, private sector development, and clean energy objectives; increased numbers of companies able to access credit for profitable agriculture, water, health, and renewable energy activities; and increased numbers of banks providing access to credit using the DCA facility.
- ◆ In an effort to ensure the sustainability of our investments by building local capacity to carry this work forward in the future, the Africa Bureau has also made progress in increasing the share of assistance dollars going directly through local partners, taking pains to ensure that such partnerships are rigorously monitored and evaluated to safeguard taxpayer dollars.
- ◆ In FY 2014, the Africa region obligated \$538 million in so-called "Local Solutions" funding, an increase from \$389 million in FY 2013 and \$355 million in FY 2012. This figure represented 14.4 percent of all obligations, up from 11.7 percent in FY 2013 and 9.6 percent in FY 2012.
- ◆ In FY 2014, Africa missions completed 69 evaluations in accordance with USAID's Evaluation Policy, which demands a high level of rigor for all evaluations. In FY 2013, Africa missions conducted 71 evaluations. This represents a significant increase from FY 2012 when 41 evaluations were conducted. Despite ongoing challenges related to the Ebola outbreak, USAID/Guinea's health sector implementing partners were able to complete four evaluations on activities pertaining to health management information systems, gender-based violence, and post-partum health.

*Question (c).* Please describe the emergent Sustainable Development Goals and USAID's approaches to achieving them.

*Answer (c).* Last week, over 150 world leaders gathered at the U.N. General Assembly and took action to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Agenda builds on the progress achieved by Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and endorses a new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the next 15 years. The MDGs contributed to tangible, concrete progress in development. Rates of those in extreme poverty and maternal mortality figures were cut nearly in half globally and we made progress in global education, with a 20-percent increase in primary school enrollment in sub-Saharan Africa and a nearly 50 percent decrease in the number of out-of-school children of primary school age, among other advances.

The SDGs take the focus of the MDGs on social and economic aspects of human development and add emphasis on the environment and good governance. The SDGs importantly also include known drivers for development like sustainable energy, inclusive economic growth, gender equality in addition to the foundational role for peace, security, and effective institutions.

From the U.S. perspective, the SDGs bring focus, attention and resources to more inclusive development globally. This is no longer an agenda just meant for donors to implement in developing countries. This is an agenda that every country, regardless of level of development, has voluntarily adopted. It incorporates the Addis Ababa Action Agenda which promotes financing for development, not from official development assistance only, but also through domestic resource mobilization and private sector investment.

Implementation followup and review including tracking progress and the discussion about which indicators will be monitored is ongoing and expected to be completed in March of next year. Primary responsibility for implementation and followup is at the national level. Countries are expected to integrate the SDGs into national development plans and strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks. As a guide for how USAID will approach this ambitious agenda and build momentum for implementation we recently released a "Vision for Ending Ex-

reme Poverty.” The Vision articulates how USAID defines extreme poverty and frames the Agency’s role in this worldwide effort.

We see this global development agenda as a powerful instrument to eradicate extreme poverty within a generation; focus on transformative priorities that can have wide-reaching and long-lasting impact, particularly for the most vulnerable; and help put all of our societies on a more sustainable path.

*Question (a).* Please describe USAID’s strategic approach toward development in Africa.

Answer (a). In 2012, USAID’s Africa Bureau and the State Department’s Africa Bureau developed a Joint Regional Strategy (JRS) for sub-Saharan Africa, as an outgrowth of the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR) process. The JRS for Africa covers fiscal years 2015 to 2017 and guides USAID’s strategic approach in Africa. Every three years, the JRS process provides Regional Bureaus at State and USAID a method for longer-term planning that is collaborative and conceptually rigorous. The process incorporates input from relevant functional/technical Bureaus and Mission stakeholders, serves as a tool to better coordinate activities in the region around shared goals and objectives, and informs annual resource requests and mission-level planning in USAID Country Development Cooperation Strategies (CDCS) and State-USAID Integrated Country Strategies (ICS). The goals of the JRS for sub-Saharan Africa include strengthening the United States economic reach and positive economic impact; strengthening the United States’ foreign policy impact on our strategic challenges; promoting transition to a low emission, climate-resilient world, while expanding global access to sustainable energy; protecting core U.S. interests by advancing democracy and human rights and strengthening civil society; and modernizing the way we do diplomacy and development.

The JRS reflects the goals, objectives, and strategies articulated in the Presidential Policy Directive for Sub-Saharan Africa (PPD-16). PPD-16 is centered on four overarching and complementary policy goals: Strengthen Democratic Institutions, Improve Governance, and Protect Human Rights; Spur Economic Growth, Trade, and Investment; Advance Peace and Security; and Promote Opportunity and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa. The JRS is also consistent with the Presidential Policy Directive on Global Development (PPD-6) and reaffirms U.S. interest in and commitment to the administration’s global development priorities, including key initiatives such as Feed the Future, the G-8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, the Global Health Initiative, the Partnership for Growth, and the President’s Global Climate Change Initiative.

*Question (b).* Why are there strategies for some regions and countries but not others?

Answer (b). All bilateral USAID Missions and regional platforms are expected to develop a CDCS or Regional Development Cooperation Strategy respectively, with the exception of those that are: (1) implementing a single sector program, such as health; (2) phasing down or closing the mission; and (3) special purpose offices such as those in nonpresence countries lacking a USAID mission. Agency guidance outlines the conditions under which an operating unit might be exempted from preparing a CDCS.

Currently 18 operating units in Africa have completed 5-year Country Development Cooperation Strategies (CDCSs); one operating unit has completed a 3-year strategy, and the Bureau has completed four Regional Development Cooperation Strategies, for a total of 23 out of 24 required strategies for the Africa Bureau (the 24th strategy is in progress). These documents serve as guideposts for strategic decisionmaking in the allocation of our resources and implementation of results-oriented programming throughout the region.

*Question (c).* How are these strategies formulated?

Answer (c). The CDCS formulation process relies on technical analysis, program evaluations, and extensive consultations to establish an evidence base by which the mission defines development objectives that will maximize the impact of development cooperation. The gathered evidence is used to establish a development hypothesis and define a results framework that outlines the strategy’s overarching goal, its development objectives, and the results necessary to achieve those objectives. The CDCS helps ensure that USAID implements programs and activities in coordination with other donors and U.S. Government agencies and with host-country governments and local stakeholders as partners to end extreme poverty and promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing our security and prosperity. The mission follows the steps outlined in Agency guidance to develop a CDCS in collaboration with strategic planning specialists in the Bureau for Africa and the Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning, along with technical counterparts across the Agency.

The process includes several opportunities for technical review and advice throughout the year-long planning process.

The commitment to strategic planning and multi-year CDCS remains a core component of the USAID Forward reform agenda launched in 2010. USAID's agency-wide CDCS guidance is now being updated based on lessons learned from the first 5 years of CDCS design and implementation. Feed the Future, Global Health Initiative, Global Climate Change, and other sector-specific strategies are incorporated under the umbrella of the CDCS.

*Question (d).* What new programmatic trends are you pursuing?

*Answer (d).* Some of the new programmatic trends being pursued by USAID Missions in Africa reflect the changes in Agency operations associated with USAID Forward, the value of incorporating science and technical innovation, and the evolving landscape of development aside from foreign assistance. Missions are developing new alliances with the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and academia that contribute to partnerships that deliver development results in novel ways and spur new development solutions. Many programs increasingly aim to build local capacity of governmental and nongovernmental partners in ways that will ensure greater ownership and more sustainable results that will endure over time.

*Question (e).* Please discuss the thrust and impact of the global Development Lab and other USAID development innovation efforts in Africa.

*Answer (e).* The U.S. Global Development Lab, created in 2014, has been established to leverage science, technology, innovation, and partnerships to address international development challenges, such as ending poverty in a better, faster, cheaper, and more sustainable way. This is done by casting a wide net to find ideas for innovations, tools, and approaches that disrupt traditional development solutions; use hard evidence and quick iteration to develop those that are most promising; and work across the Agency and with implementing partners to mainstream proven solutions. The Lab is heavily involved in Africa and works closely with the Africa Bureau.

For example, the Lab has been working closely with the Africa Bureau on Ebola recovery through Information Communications Technology (ICT). This work directly supports the U.S. Government objectives to mitigate the second order impacts of Ebola and enable the Ebola affected countries to prevent, detect and respond to future outbreaks. The Lab is using ICT to strengthen health information systems to enable two-way communication between front line health care workers and Ministries of Health for to shorten the time to collect information enabling faster response. USAID is also working to expand ePayments for health care workers and Ebola recovery programs to help overcome the significant logistical challenge of transporting cash payments to health care workers.

Although the Lab's work focused on Ebola recovery is in early stages, support from technology, data and information management specialists from the Lab during the height of the outbreak helped improve the flow and quality of information for decision making. For example, USAID worked with partners in Guinea to expand the use of mobile technology, specifically the mobile phone app CommCare, a Fighting Ebola Grand Challenge winner, to support contact tracing—the daily monitoring of individuals who had come in contact with an Ebola patient and were at risk of developing the virus. In districts using this tool, district health managers reported that the tool helped improve accuracy and accountability of contact tracer activities, through the tool's decision-support dashboard which enables district health managers to quickly identify areas where support is needed, as well as the geo-tagging feature which verifies location for each contact visit.

The Lab is also seeing impact from other innovation efforts in Africa. For example, the Lab's Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) is supporting Off-Grid: Electric—an innovative organization that is working to bring affordable electricity to one million Tanzanian homes. After receiving initial funding of \$100,000 from DIV in 2013 and an additional \$1 million of follow on funding in late 2014, Off-Grid: Electric successfully raised \$16 million in equity financing and an additional \$7 million from the International Finance Corporation and its partners earlier this year.

Additionally, the Lab is a cocreator of the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI), which has grown to more than 65 members in just over 1 year, including Nigeria, Ghana, Mozambique and Liberia. In each country, stakeholders have rallied around regulatory reforms that seek to drive down the cost of broadband to levels within 5 percent of household monthly income. In late 2014, through A4AI's direct work, Ghana agreed to abolish the 20-percent import duties that comprise 35 percent of the cost of smartphones in-country.

*Question.* Please discuss how GHI is strategically structured and implemented in Africa. How, if at all, is complementarity and synergy between individual disease initiatives and USAID's many other health goals pursued? To what extent does general health system capacity-building remain a core goal under GHI?

*Answer.* The United States plans to invest nearly \$5 billion in FY 2016 through Global Health Programs accounts across health programming in Africa, with the aim of reducing preventable mortality. Improvements in mortality can be achieved by increasingly effective efforts to link diverse health programs, including maternal and child health (MCH), malaria, family planning's contribution to the healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, and sanitation and hygiene improvement programs. To support the strategic priority of ending preventable child and maternal deaths, USAID has closed operations in 26 countries to concentrate its effort in 24 high-priority countries, of which 16 are in sub-Saharan Africa. Nearly 75 percent of all maternal deaths occur in those 24 high-priority countries.

USAID's strategic focus on ending preventable mortality brings together the efforts of the U.S. Government MCH and Family Planning and Reproductive Health (FP/RH) programs, the President's Malaria Initiative, Feed the Future, and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. In addition, a focus on health systems strengthening has helped to bring these diverse initiatives together around the common need for a strong health system in order to achieve sustainable results across all health sectors.

USAID's investments in health are saving lives and improving health around the world and have contributed to impressive outcomes. For example, fewer children are dying from preventable causes, more people are accessing care and treatment for HIV and AIDS, and entire communities are facing a future free from debilitating diseases, such as blinding trachoma. For these trends to be sustained and accelerated, countries need stronger, more robust health systems that are able to address current and future challenges. As such, USAID continues to prioritize the Global Health Initiative principle of health systems strengthening as paramount in its global health work in Africa. Health systems strengthening activities supported in Africa include service delivery; human resources; information; medical supplies, vaccines and technology; electronic and mobile health; and governance.

Given the centrality of strong health systems to achieving USAID-supported health goals, USAID also recently released the Vision for Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) 2015-2019. The Vision for HSS is a key document that will help guide USAID's work and investment focus to evidence-based HSS approaches that contribute to positive health outcomes and help create an environment for universal health coverage. It will also help the Agency meet its goals of ending preventable child and maternal deaths, creating an AIDS-free generation, and protecting communities from infectious diseases, including achieving the goals of the Global Health Security Agenda. USAID's vision for HSS is to partner with countries to provide sustained, equitable access to essential, high-quality health services that are responsive to people's needs without financial hardship, thereby protecting poor and underserved people from illness, death, and extreme poverty.

*Question.* Africa is set to receive about \$4.9b, more than half of all U.S. foreign aid for global health in FY 2016. This funding request is an increase from last year's actual spending, which totaled 51 percent of all global health aid last year. Given the increased goal-orientation for more country ownership and in-country staffing, please explain your plan for ensuring that this aid funding gets distributed accurately and effectively? Does this plan include training and oversight to minimize the possibility of corruption?

*Answer.* Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for more than half of maternal deaths, has the highest rates of mortality for children under five, and bears approximately 70 percent of the HIV/AIDS global burden. Africa comprises a disproportionate share of FY2016 resources targeted at improving global health outcomes principally because of the enhanced need for this assistance and the Agency's assessment of opportunities to achieve sustainable results in this sector, all the while safeguarding taxpayer money against waste, fraud, and abuse. Accordingly, USAID has taken steps to ensure that missions are well-staffed with trained personnel who are equipped to rigorously design, execute, and monitor programs such that U.S. foreign assistance funds are expended appropriately.

USAID takes great pains to ensure that taxpayer funds are used for their intended purposes, and the Agency has a number of mechanisms in place to monitor the use of funds, including pre-award assessments, regularly required reporting, audits and evaluations. USAID health assistance is planned and executed in compliance with the Agency's Automated Directive System (ADS), which outlines the policies and procedures that guide the Agency's programs and operations. The ADS in-

cludes “Guidance on the Definition and Use of the Global Health Programs Account A Mandatory Reference for ADS Chapter 200” which describes the use of funds for the Global Health Programs (GHP) account. The guidance outlines several ways in which GHP funds can be used to support health governance and finance activities that include a focus on corruption reduction within the health sector as a goal.

The Agency also uses numerous financial systems and controls, as well as internal and independent audits to enable the Agency to effectively manage, track, and safeguard funds. For example, during the performance of a contract, USAID personnel are responsible for approving vouchers for invoices submitted by the awardee and conducting site visits to monitor program activities. USAID also regularly conducts evaluations of its programs, including external evaluations, to ensure they are on track to achieve the stated goals, and posts these evaluations online. If a program is not performing as it should, the Agency works to modify it—or, as appropriate, to terminate it, directing resources toward higher impact programming.

USAID staff, including those working on global health programs, receive specific training in ensuring USAID funds are properly programmed and monitored and Mission Orders are in place to require compliance with the ADS. As noted above, USAID has been able to increase critical staffing in areas of priority, including health offices in USAID’s missions in Africa, to ensure sufficient oversight of U.S. foreign assistance programs. Given the significant global health resources invested in Africa, USAID leadership routinely monitors staffing vacancies in Africa’s health missions to confirm that programs have the continuous support they need at the country level.

If confirmed, I will continue to remain vigilant in ensuring that the Agency deploys all relevant mechanisms to prevent corruption and guard against waste, fraud, and abuse, including with respect to Africa’s global health portfolio. I will also work to ensure that our missions remain well-staffed and support continued training for USAID employees on USAID best practices as outlined in the ADS in order to equip USAID personnel with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively protect taxpayer money and efficiently implement foreign assistance programs.

*Question.* Please assess FTF’s 6 years of implementation in Africa, including with respect to possible unanticipated outcomes or challenges. How, if at all, have FTF goals and focus areas changed over time to reflect changing needs and lessons learned?

*Answer.* Feed the Future relies on rigorous monitoring and evaluation of investments to track progress and facilitate results-driven planning and performance-based management—all of which feed into the Feed the Future Results Framework. The Feed the Future Results Framework is the conceptual and analytic structure that establishes the goals and objectives of Feed the Future, with the top line goals of reduction in poverty (through agriculture sector growth) and improved nutritional status (measured as reduction in stunting). The Framework also includes the Initiative’s whole-of-government common indicators for tracking progress.

As part of the Feed the Future Results Framework, USAID developed the Feed the Future Learning Agenda, which is a set of strategic questions for which the Initiative intends to produce evidence, findings, and answers—primarily through impact evaluations, but also through other methods, such as performance evaluations and policy analysis. Using the information and data gathered through the Feed the Future Learning Agenda and informed by the Feed the Future Results Framework, USAID is able to adjust and improve interventions in agriculture and nutrition, Feed the Future’s two top line goals.

According to available data, before 2010, Feed the Future focus countries saw an annual average rate of reduction in stunting of about 2 percent per year. Since Feed the Future has been active, some of these countries have seen an annual average stunting reduction of more than 4 percent per year. In 2015, Feed the Future will complete repeat population based surveys to determine additional progress against poverty and stunting baselines. As part of this analysis, Feed the Future asks the following questions:

- What are Feed the Future investments improving?
- Are Feed the Future activities, projects, and programs accomplishing what we intended?
- Are Feed the Future efforts impacting our overall goal to reduce poverty and hunger?
- Are barriers hindering the progress or performance of Feed the Future programs?
- What changes would support broader or deeper Feed the Future program impacts?

Over time, Feed the Future has made program adjustments to address challenges in implementation. For example in Mali, while significant political and security gains were made in 2013 through early 2014, it has not fully recovered from the compound effects of the 2012 coup and subsequent events. This political insecurity was compounded by a 2012 food security crisis that affected millions of Malians. Although implementation of Feed the Future programming, including the collection of baseline information, was delayed, Feed the Future Mali was able to adapt and quickly begin making strategic program investments that will garner the most impact and strides towards achieving objectives that include launching and completing a full-year of the Cereal Value Chain; beginning a new Livestock for Growth program; scaling programs for improved cereal varieties, horticulture, fertilizer technologies, and agroforestry—resilience; and developing two joint activities between health programs and FTF, ensuring full coverage of the FTF zone of influence with nutrition programs.

In Malawi, due to localized drought conditions in 2014 and flooding in early 2015, as well as poor seed germination and poor quality seeds, yields have been lower than targeted. Given the multidimensional cause of these lower yields, USAID has actively worked to incorporate our best thinking across multiple offices, including the Bureau for Food Security, the Office of Food for Peace, and Office of Disaster Assistance, to design a comprehensive response. Feed the Future is supporting smallholder farmers with climate resilient crop varieties, aiming to assist farmers maintain yields in difficult conditions. Activities also help smallholders access improved training on improved agronomic practices, including increasing plant density, integrated pest management, and improved drying and storage techniques.

Additionally, after a cost-benefit analysis in Malawi showed the limited benefit of the program, dairy was dropped as a value chain for Feed the Future investments. Instead, Feed the Future activities focus on groundnuts, soy, and orange-fleshed sweet potato, crops that are grown by smallholder farmers and benefit a large number of people. Similarly, a 2014 survey on agricultural technology adoption in Zambia by the International Food Policy Research Institute found some farmers discontinue the use of new technologies at a high rate, even within 1 year of adoption. Sustainable adoption of new technologies is far more likely to occur as a result of repeated, intensified exposure via demonstrations or training. Noting that technology retention occurs through repeated exposure, Feed the Future in Zambia decided against expanding the zone of influence to increase the number of target farmers. Instead, activities are targeting the same total number of farmers and concentrating resources to intensify farmer exposure and ensure high technology retention rates.

*Question.* Please describe some key examples of GCCI clean energy and low-emission, sustainable landscape management, and adaptation goals and programs. How are outcomes in this area measured? What are the main climate and other macro economy shocks to which GCCI programs are responding?

*Answer.* As part of the broader Presidential Global Climate Change Initiative (GCCCI), USAID is supporting countries to foster low-carbon growth, promote sustainable and resilient societies, and reduce emissions from deforestation and land degradation.

For example, one USAID clean energy program in Namibia is helping the Namibian government establish a renewable energy feed-in-tariff program to create incentives for private sector investment in small-scale renewable energy projects. The program is currently being implemented, with 27 companies competing for the opportunity to develop projects which will produce up to a total of 70 megawatts of electricity.

In addition, a USAID sustainable landscapes program in Malawi is supporting the implementation of Malawi's national Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Action Plan, which will address the drivers of deforestation on a wide scale. In Malawi, agricultural practices and demand for charcoal for cooking are leading causes of deforestation and forest degradation. In close collaboration with national and district governments, USAID will support supply-side measures such as community wood lots and agroforestry, demand-side measures such as improved cook stoves and more efficient charcoal production technologies, and policy measures such as continued decentralization of forest management authority. These investments are expected to generate livelihood opportunities for thousands of vulnerable households, a greenhouse gas emission reduction of more than 8 million metric tons, and to leverage at least a million dollars of additional investment that supports Malawi's mitigation priorities.

A USAID adaptation program in Mozambique helped develop vulnerability maps that municipalities will use to identify vulnerable areas prior to issuing building

permits. In the future, the cities will use these maps and other tools to create local adaptation plans to address the climate change challenges municipalities face. These processes can be scaled up to be used in other coastal cities in Mozambique or worldwide. Another adaptation program in Tanzania is supporting river flow assessments for the Ruvu River Basin, which supplies water to Tanzania's key agricultural producing regions. The assessments will provide information for better decisionmaking on seasonal and yearly water use, even under climate change conditions. Pilot land use planning in three villages is incorporating mechanisms for water resource management, increasing household capacity to adapt to climate variability and change. In addition, water storage and water harvesting activities are being implemented in drought-prone areas.

USAID uses a variety of indicators to measure outcomes from climate change programming. USAID investments in clean energy or sustainable landscapes must report on the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), estimated in metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, reduced and/or avoided as a result of U.S. Government assistance. USAID investments in adaptation must also report on the number of institutions with improved capacity to assess and/or address climate change risks as a result of U.S. Government assistance and the number of stakeholders with increased capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change as a result of U.S. Government assistance. Additional standard indicators to measure the outcomes from climate change programming include: the number of megawatts of clean energy generation capacity supported by U.S. Government which have achieved financial closure; the number of people receiving livelihood cobenefits (monetary or nonmonetary) as a result of REDD+ and low emission development strategies implementation; the number of people implementing risk-reducing practices/actions to improve resilience to climate change as a result of U.S. Government assistance; and the amount of investment mobilized for climate change, as supported by USG assistance.

The main climate and macroeconomy shocks confronted by GCCI programs include low access to energy in Africa coupled with price shocks, increased frequency of droughts, unpredictable precipitation patterns, extreme temperatures, pressures on forests for fuelwood and other products, and poor or weak governance and fiscal management. USAID considers these factors when designing GCCI programs to ensure that programs account for shocks and address key development priorities as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation issues.

**Question.** The GCCI seeks to support clean energy and low-emission energy initiatives. Yet, more than 4 billion people in Africa are currently living without power, and many of these green initiatives are more expensive than conventional fuel and power sources. As Assistant Administrator for the Africa Bureau, how would you go about striking a healthy balance between promoting clean energy programs and increasing reliable electricity infrastructure at prices that developing countries can afford? Please identify the factors you would use to come to these decisions.

**Answer.** The administration is committed to working with African countries to promote energy access in environmentally responsible ways. Through Power Africa, we are taking significant steps to expand clean energy access throughout sub-Saharan Africa, supporting the development of Africa's diverse energy resources, and in particular its vast wind, solar, hydro and geothermal resources. We seek to promote investment in generation mixes that ensure affordable and reliable access to modern energy services for all people, optimize available resources, and enhance energy security. This means support for development of indigenous resources like natural gas, as well as renewables. Power Africa prioritizes projects based on private sector demand; potential for transformational impact; buy-in from the government; opportunities to exploit vast resources on the continent; project viability; and overall impact.

An example of Power Africa's support to conventional power sources include working with Nigeria's Government and the private sector to realize the successful completion of Azura-Edo, a landmark 450 MW open cycle gas turbine power plant that potentially represents Nigeria's first new project financed Independent Power Producer in over a decade. In November 2014, the transaction reached the first stage of financial closure thanks in part to USAID's significant transaction advisory assistance to develop the Power Purchase Agreement, OPIC's commitment of \$50 million in financing, and additional financing and hedging tools from the World Bank Group.

Power Africa also supports grid-connected renewable energy projects. For example, the Agency is providing technical support to the Government of Zambia to develop and adopt a Renewable Energy Feed in Tariff with a target of 160 MW of additional renewable energy by 2017.

Recognizing that Power Africa cannot achieve its energy access goals through grid-scale projects alone, Power Africa launched "Beyond the Grid," a subinitiative

that focuses on expanding access to electricity in areas not connected to the national grid. These off-grid, small-scale energy solutions more reliably, rapidly, and cost effectively bring power to communities that may not otherwise have access to power, and enable the poorest households to access electricity in a way that fits their needs and ability to pay.

USAID also provides support to low-emission energy initiatives in Africa through the Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies (EC-LEDS) program. EC-LEDS is a flagship interagency U.S. Government program designed to support developing countries' efforts to pursue long-term, transformative development while reducing their long-term greenhouse gas emissions.

Since its launch in June 2013, Power Africa has successfully mobilized significant investment in renewable technologies as well as in natural gas throughout sub-Saharan Africa, helping to diversify energy portfolios and accelerate countries' transitions toward energy security. Like any modern power sector, we recognize that African countries need to rely on a broad array of generation sources, including wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal, and natural gas. If confirmed, I will continue to focus USAID's assistance under Power Africa to achieve maximum results in increasing energy access across sub-Saharan Africa.

*Question.* How, if at all, do GCCI programs affect local farming practices in country?

*Answer.* USAID programs help improve local farming techniques through changes in focus crops or cropping techniques in a country. For example, a USAID program in Ethiopia shifted its focus from pepper, which is highly sensitive to temperature, to vegetable crops which can be grown in greenhouses and are therefore more resilient. In addition, USAID programs support activities such as intercropping with trees (which can provide shade and/or nutrients to the soil), enhanced water management, use of predictive climate services, and financial risk management, which help farmers better respond to shocks. For example, in Uganda, USAID supports enhanced local farming practices policy implementation on the ground by investing in field experiments to assess crop response to projected moisture and temperature extremes and test various adaptation technologies. By engaging the private sector, three equipment suppliers have worked closely with 11 wholesalers to jointly organize and conduct trainings and demonstrations of spraying and irrigation equipment necessary for adaptation. Two of the suppliers have organized similar events on their own with several other wholesalers in other districts. Through the Uganda National Farmers' Federation (UNFFE), USAID has to date reached about 2,000 farmers with adaptation messages. The long-term goal is to cover UNFFE's 78 District Farmers' Associations, reaching over two million individual members with innovative adaptation messages, practices and technologies.

Crop losses caused by variable rainfall patterns (timing, quantity, and intensity) directly threaten production financing, farmers' livelihoods and food security, and overall sustainability of agricultural development. To address these threats, a program in Senegal worked with farmers, financial institutions, and insurance providers to support two critical risk management mechanisms: index-based insurance for rain-fed crops in different rainfall zones and conventional insurance in the northern irrigated industrial production zone. The program now insures more than 10,000 producers.

*Question (a).* Please discuss the main areas of progress and key challenges under Power Africa.

*Answer (a).* Since its launch, Power Africa has leveraged \$7 billion in U.S. Government commitments to mobilize nearly \$43 billion in external commitments, including more than \$31 billion in private-sector commitments. Through Power Africa, the United States is working together with a range of partners to accelerate private-sector energy transactions, by leveraging the assistance, financing, commercial and diplomatic tools of the U.S. Government, as well the tools and expertise of our bilateral and multilateral partners, including the African Development Bank, the World Bank Group, the Swedish Government, the European Union, and more than 100 private-sector partners.

Over 4,100 MW of transactions have reached financial close in sub-Saharan Africa with Power Africa's involvement, representing roughly 13 percent of the 30,000 MW goal. This additional power generation has the potential to enable approximately 4 million new connections through increased availability of power. Additionally, under Beyond the Grid, a Power Africa sub-initiative that drives private investment in off-grid and small-scale energy solutions, the U.S.-Africa Clean Energy Financing facility and the U.S. African Development Foundation have funded companies and projects expected to reach 1 million new connections.

Power Africa is working with its partners to overcome key challenges constraining electricity access in sub-Saharan Africa. These challenges include access to financing, particularly for smaller-scale and early-stage projects; limited institutional capacity among utilities, regulators, and ministries of energy; and building political will to advance critical reforms to attract private sector investment.

*Question (b).* What U.S. interests does the initiative serve?

Answer (b). Power Africa, through its partnership with the private sector, provides opportunities for American companies to reach new markets. For example, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) links U.S. businesses with energy markets across sub-Saharan Africa through trade missions to sub-Saharan Africa and United States. These events provide a platform for African delegates to present upcoming procurement needs to U.S. businesses and to observe the design, manufacturing, demonstration, and operation of American products and services. By assisting American companies with investment opportunities in Africa, Power Africa helps partner countries achieve their development goals while creating jobs and business opportunities in the United States.

At a macro level, Power Africa's support to the energy sector in sub-Saharan Africa also helps enable economic growth, contributes towards stability in the region, and supports U.S. foreign policy objectives. Lack of access to electricity has been identified as a major constraint to growth in many sub-Saharan African countries. Access to electricity is critical for the development of diversified economies, including the growth of supply chains that add value to African exports and opportunities for entrepreneurs and small businesses to grow, as well as improved access to health care and education. Broad based economic growth and perceptible improvements in government service delivery bolster stability by increasing trust in government, decreasing incentives for criminality, and reducing some of the grievances and vulnerabilities upon which extremist elements prey when seeking new recruits.

*Question (c).* What criteria are used to select Power Africa assisted projects, which in some cases may receive substantial U.S. credit backing?

Answer (c). To identify priority transactions, Power Africa uses the following criteria: private sector demand; potential for transformational impact; buy-in from the government; opportunities to exploit vast resources on the continent; project viability; and overall impact. Additionally, each U.S. Government agency performs its own due diligence in choosing to extend credit or grants; Power Africa partners are not exempted from this process.

*Question (d).* How does USAID coordinate with the multiple other U.S. agencies that are also involved in this endeavor?

Answer (d). USAID convenes biweekly Power Africa Working Group (PAWG) meetings with interagency participation from Power Africa's 12 U.S. Government agencies, including staff based in Washington, DC and the Coordinator's office in Pretoria, South Africa. The PAWG provides a forum for each agency to share project and pipeline updates, as well as for the interagency to discuss cross-cutting issues such as expansion of Power Africa activities and interventions across the continent; updates on coordination efforts with our bilateral and multilateral partners; monitoring and evaluation updates; and discussion about gaps and tools that are still needed to grow the sector. In addition, most teams in the field conduct interagency calls at least monthly to share details specific to activities in country. To further solidify this, the Power Africa Coordinator's office has developed and deployed several specific liaison positions with interagency partners including the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and USTDA in order to enhance interagency collaboration.

If confirmed, I would continue to focus USAID's assistance under Power Africa, and leverage the combined technical resources of the 12 U.S. government agencies as well as our bilateral, multilateral and private sector partners to achieve maximum results in increasing energy access across sub-Saharan Africa.

*Question (e).* To what extent and in what ways, if any, is Power Africa supporting large hydropower projects?

Answer (e). Hydropower does and will continue to play a major role in power sectors throughout sub-Saharan Africa. While Power Africa may provide support to hydropower projects at any scale, to date, Power Africa has focused its support for the development of Africa's hydroelectric resources on small scale hydropower projects. Consistent with existing statute, projects involving the creation of large hydroelectric dams require a more critical assessment that fully considers projected environment and social impacts, economic risks and returns, and robust management and oversight. In addition, while hydropower development has traditionally been

driven by the public sector, Power Africa seeks wherever possible to prioritize private sector participation and public-private partnerships.

*Question.* Please describe key approaches across the major U.S. development initiatives in Africa to expand the impact of U.S. development aid and boost country “ownership” of development. What are some key examples of how country “ownership” is actualized in practice? How have the initiatives changed program M&E, and approaches to innovation in recent years? How is “stove-piping” between initiatives avoided and complementarity promoted? What “whole of government” innovations or best practices have arisen as a result of initiative implementation in Africa?

*Answer.* The major U.S. development initiatives in Africa are components of USAID’s overall strategic approach. While they focus on specific development sectors, all initiatives are implemented with the goal of promoting both country ownership and program integration. Our direct partnering with local actors and local systems, referred to as “local solutions,” reflects USAID’s commitment to supporting development that is locally owned, locally led, and locally sustained. Country or local ownership implies ownership of priorities, implementation, and resourcing. This includes not only governments, but also the private sector and civil society.

Integrating Presidential Initiatives in Country Development Cooperation Strategies (CDCS) is the primary means to avoid stove piping and promote complementarity. USAID uses strategic planning to define development objectives and maximize the impact of development cooperation, integrating individual country-based Presidential Initiative plans and strategies to ensure that the investments being made under these Initiatives promote sustainable development outcomes and maximize the impact of development cooperation. The CDCS demonstrates how the country-level strategies developed for the Presidential Initiatives use causal logic, are integrated with the overarching strategy, and incorporate appropriate democratic governance and economic growth interventions. Missions have the flexibility to reflect country-team developed plans for the Global Health Initiative (GHI), Feed the Future (FTF), and Global Climate Change in the CDCS and performance indicators that support Initiative-specific results frameworks are included in the CDCS and Performance Management Plans.

Descriptions of key approaches from the Feed the Future, Trade Africa and the President’s Malaria initiatives are provided below.

#### *Feed the Future*

Feed the Future, a whole-of-government initiative to address global hunger and food security, renews the U.S. Government’s commitment to invest in sustainably reducing hunger and poverty. Feed the Future invests in country-owned plans called Country Investment Plans that support results-based programs and partnerships. These plans have produced impressive results—country allocations dwarf total donor allocations, demonstrating the depth of country ownership. Those country allocations are creating the foundation for the type of transformational development needed to secure stronger agricultural growth. In Africa, these multiyear investment plans are being reframed and updated to incorporate goals from the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) and the 2014 African Heads of State-agreed Malabo Declaration, which sets out African agricultural development goals over the next decade. These Country Investment Plans reflect countries’ needs and priorities, identified through consultative processes led by country governments with civil society and private sector inputs and reviews. They serve as the foundation for countries to mobilize resources and coordinate with development partners to engage in meaningful dialogue on a common framework for action. Another key example of how country ownership is actualized in practice are the decisionmaking structures the Feed the Future program has put in place, such as the country-level Agriculture Sector Working Group. These groups include government officials and in-country donors that make decisions on agricultural sector planning and prioritization. The Working Group is frequently chaired by a government official who facilitates coordination.

To promote complementarity, Feed the Future has also better integrated agriculture and nutrition, working with USAID’s health and nutrition programs. USAID is maximizing results by implementing both Feed the Future and Global Health programs in the same geographic area, where possible. Feed the Future and Global Health programs intersect around nutrition, due to the multisectoral nature of the causes, consequences, and solutions to undernutrition. Integrated nutrition programs reflect the specific determinants of undernutrition and are an important innovation, reflecting the evidence that producing more food is a necessary, but not sufficient, condition for improving nutrition.

Finally, the Initiative has also developed an extensive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system, collecting critical baseline information and tracking a set of specific indicators across all of its programs. Using this M&E framework, Feed the Future reports on the impacts of its programs at the household level, and utilizes data to redesign programs when necessary.

#### *Trade Africa Initiative*

The Trade Africa Initiative supports implementation of the U.S. Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa by enabling regional economic communities to improve Africa's trade competitiveness, encourage export diversification, and ensure that the benefits from growth are broad-based. USAID's Trade and Investment Hub supports country ownership through strategies that are aligned with the plans and priorities of the regional economic communities that they support. Specifically, USAID has direct assistance agreements with the East African Community (EAC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, providing tailored assistance to support these groups' efforts to increase regional integration, based on their needs. For example, USAID's activities with TradeMark East Africa are guided by the EAC Secretary General's CEO Forum, which determines its activities twice a year. In the five Trade Africa expansion countries of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mozambique, Senegal and Zambia, USAID works with its interagency partners, including the U.S. Trade Representative, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce and the Department of State to develop joint work plans with respective host country governments to ensure mutual accountability.

This initiative represents a whole-of-government integration of M&E through the Trade and Investment Hubs, which share a top-line results framework with shared goals, and a standard method for collecting data.

#### *The President's Malaria Initiative*

The President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) began in 2005 as a \$1.2 billion, 5-year program with the goal of reducing malaria-related deaths by 50 percent in 15 focus countries. Under the PMI Strategy 2015-2020, the U.S. Government's goal is to work with PMI-supported countries and partners to further reduce malaria deaths and substantially decrease malaria morbidity, towards the long-term goal of elimination. In 2015, PMI launched its next 6-year strategy, which takes into account progress over the past decade and the new challenges that have arisen. Malaria prevention and control remains a major U.S. foreign assistance objective, and PMI's Strategy fully supports the whole-of-government approach through its alignment with U.S. Government's vision of ending preventable child and maternal deaths and ending extreme poverty. PMI actualizes country ownership by supporting the strengthening of the overall capacity of health systems. Specifically, PMI helps build national capacity in a variety of cross-cutting areas that benefit both malaria and other health programs, including strengthening supply chain management, laboratory diagnosis, and monitoring and evaluation systems. In highly endemic countries, malaria typically accounts for up to 40 percent of outpatient visits and hospital admissions. Reducing malaria transmission levels in these countries has a positive effect on the rest of the health system by allowing health workers to focus on managing other important childhood illnesses, such as pneumonia, diarrhea, and malnutrition. PMI has developed an extensive M&E approach that monitors activities and collects data toward the following goals: sustaining gains against malaria by using preventive measures, particularly the increased coverage and use of insecticide treated nets and expanding and improving integrated approaches for diagnosis and treatment of childhood illnesses that have already been developed at facility and community levels.

*Question (a).* Please describe the status of administration efforts to upgrade and transform the three USAID trade hubs into "U.S.-African Trade and Investment Hubs," making them resource centers both for African exporters targeting U.S. markets and U.S. firms targeting African markets.

Answer (a). The first Trade and Investment Hub, the East Africa Trade and Investment Hub, was launched in September 2014. The West Africa Trade Hub was transformed into a Trade and Investment Hub in September 2015. The new Southern Africa Trade and Investment Hub is under procurement and is expected to launch in early 2016.

*Question (b).* What are USAID's main activities and current and prospective challenges under Trade Africa?

Answer (b). Under Trade Africa, USAID manages the three Trade and Investment Hubs and maintains a relationship with the TradeMark East Africa program, focus-

ing on the hard and soft infrastructure necessary to reduce the time and cost to move goods across borders. USAID is also working with an Interagency Steering Group to expand Trade Africa beyond the five East African Community countries to include new partners: Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mozambique, Senegal, and Zambia. With all of our Trade Africa partners we are focused on capacity building to support trade facilitation, improved compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary standards, elimination of technical barriers to trade, and increased private sector competitiveness. We are also working to support the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to improve regional trade. Challenges include a wide infrastructure deficit, which stifles the productivity of African companies, as well as breaking down barriers to intraregional and U.S.-Africa trade to increase the countries' competitiveness, which we are addressing through Trade Africa and other initiatives such as the Borderless Alliance and Food Across Borders.

*Question (c).* With what other regional communities is USAID working to advance economic growth and regional integration?

Answer (c). Through a combination of direct assistance, joint activities and/or short-term technical assistance, USAID programs advance economic growth and support regional integration. Support is tailored to the needs of the regional economic community including the East African Community (EAC), the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control (CILSS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU).

*Question (d).* What other trade and investment focused activities is USAID supporting in Africa?

Answer (d). President Obama launched the Africa Private Capital Group (APCG) at the U.S.- Africa Leaders' Summit in August 2014 as part of the U.S. expanded commitment to trade and investment. This program is committed to unlocking commercially driven capital to achieve development impacts across sub-Saharan Africa. APCG consists of a highly experienced USAID team based in South Africa pursuing a strategy with three primary focus areas: (1) Facilitating development-related transactions sourced from private sector investors; (2) Improving municipalities' ability to finance and service debt for public service projects, and; (3) Engaging South African pension funds to encourage investments in development-related transactions within sub-Saharan Africa. USAID also actively participates in the work of the President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa.

*Question.* What is USAID's role in implementing the Young African Leaders Initiative? What is the approximate annual cost of the initiative, and what concrete outcomes, if any, has it produced? What impacts on future U.S. engagement arising from YALI are foreseen, and how will they be measured?

Answer. The President's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) is implemented by a coordinated interagency team that includes U.S. Department of State, USAID, and the U.S. African Development Foundation to support young Africans as they work to spur growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Africa. USAID supports two major components of the initiative, the Mandela Washington Fellowship and the YALI Regional Leadership Centers. Both programs support young leaders working in business and entrepreneurship, civic leadership, and public management.

To implement the YALI Mandela Washington Fellowship, USAID provides professional practicums for Fellows to work at businesses and organizations in Africa; mentoring matches for Fellows upon return to Africa; competitive travel grants for selected Fellows to present at major conferences; and regional conferences in Africa that bring Fellows together for major networking and peer collaboration opportunities. With the skills developed during the program, the first classes of Mandela Washington Fellowship alumni are already building innovative businesses, connecting with American and African investors, forging new relationships with young leaders across Africa, and serving their communities. USAID's support to the Mandela Washington Fellows will average \$4.8 million a year over the next 5 years.

USAID also manages four YALI Regional Leadership Centers (RLCs), which offer expanded professional and leadership development opportunities to thousands of additional young African leaders on the continent. RLCs in Nairobi and Accra opened in July and August 2015, respectively, and initial feedback from participants indicates the program is meeting its goals to empower and connect young leaders. RLCs in Dakar and Pretoria are expected to open before the end of 2015. USAID's funding for the RLC is anticipated to be approximately \$72 million over 5 years. To leverage

USAID funding, and to ensure that the RLCs provide high quality and market-driven training, each RLC is designed as a public-private partnership. Partners including Microsoft, McKinsey & Company, Procter & Gamble, General Electric, Intel, Dow Chemical Company, and The MasterCard Foundation, have already committed more than \$80 million in financial and in-kind resources to support the Centers. The MasterCard Foundation alone has committed \$15 million in financial resources. USAID continues to create new partnerships that will further increase private sector engagement in the future.

USAID is tracking alumni Mandela Washington Fellows and RLC participants over time to capture the ultimate impacts of YALI activities. USAID monitoring includes detailed implementation indicators, such as surveys and interviews with YALI beneficiaries. This monitoring includes tracking progress toward the overarching goals of enhancing young Africans' leadership skills, knowledge, and attitudes so that they may more effectively drive economic and social progress, serving their communities, and building enduring regional networks. By cultivating a critical mass of highly motivated and skilled young leaders, USAID anticipates that many of the highly motivated young leaders who participate in the program will return to their home countries with new skills and connections that will enable them to better contribute to their countries' economic development and political dialogue.

*Question (a).* In what ways does USAID's Ebola response support durable medium- to long-term capacity-building goals?

*Answer (a).* USAID's Ebola response activities have prioritized eliminating the spread of the outbreak. However, USAID's programs also work to build the capacity of government counterparts and local actors to address medium- and long-term goals, such as the strengthening of health systems. Capacity-building work to support medium-term goals has included: supporting County Health Teams responding to death alerts and transferring capacity of screening, isolation, and triage from stand-alone Ebola Treatment Units (ETU) to hospitals and other health facilities in Liberia; supporting Non-Government Organizations (NGO) conducting community social mobilization activities in Liberia; and providing Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) training for health workers in all three countries. Additionally, USAID is working to transfer capacity of isolation and treatment, safe burial, IPC training, and supply chain management to relevant government actors in Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone.

As we transition from the emergency response, USAID is implementing efforts that will support longer-term recovery. These recovery efforts will enable the three countries to better prevent, prepare for, and respond to future Ebola outbreaks. Activities are focused on recapturing development gains lost due to the outbreak; strengthening key institutions and infrastructure whose weakness helped enable the rapid spread of Ebola; and addressing the low levels of citizen trust in government that reduced the willingness of peoples to accept social messaging on Ebola.

*Question (b).* What have been or may be the key USAID Ebola response achievements and challenges, including currently and prospectively.

*Answer (b).* USAID has helped bend the epidemiological curve and averted the horrific worst-case scenarios predicted by initial computer modeling through the following activities: command and control of the response, case management, surveillance and epidemiology, social mobilization, and logistics management. As a result of USAID's efforts, Liberia has been declared Ebola-free, Sierra Leone currently has no cases and is in its countdown phase towards an Ebola-free declaration; and Guinea's last four cases were from known contact lists, meaning that contact tracers were aware prior to diagnosis that the infected individuals may have been exposed to the Ebola virus.

Key challenges to responding to the Ebola outbreak include a lack of public health systems infrastructure, slow behavior change by the public, and mistrust of government within impacted communities. All three create significant hurdles for those attempting to detect, diagnose, and track cases of Ebola, both presently and prospectively. USAID will continue to work with the three affected countries to address these challenges.

*Question (c).* What lessons have been learned?

*Answer (c).* USAID is collecting lessons learned as we continue our response and recovery efforts. USAID and the larger donor community have learned that the speed of a response is essential and that international, regional and national early warning and surveillance systems and mechanisms are critical to ensure rapid response. In terms of coordination, emergency response requires internationally coordinated communication of needs, identification of capability gaps, and efforts to increase transparency of activities across partners. After many years of work in de-

veloping countries, USAID recognizes the importance of collaborating with community leaders and existing networks, particularly in crises such as the Ebola epidemic. Additionally, collaborating with local religious leaders to understand and adapt traditional burial rituals was and continues to be critical to controlling the spread of Ebola. Finally, fears must be addressed by sharing knowledge about the disease to prevent stigmatization and facilitate the social reinsertion of survivors and victims' families.

*Question (d).* How, if at all, are current Ebola programming efforts changing in relation to the spend plans submitted to Congress in early 2015?

Answer (d). Programming efforts have not significantly changed from how they were planned and articulated in the initial January Spend Plans and succeeding Section 9004 Monthly Reports. Since January, USAID has adjusted the amount of funding programmed according to the current needs on the ground. For example, since there were fewer cases of EVD than predicted, USAID is supporting some activities such as case management to a lesser degree than planned, and putting more focus on IPC, social mobilization, and transition activities.

*Question.* Please describe the USAID AFR approach to working with the Office of Transition Initiatives and, more broadly, in preventing and mitigating conflict. What has been the focus of and relative progress under USAID conflict mineral programs?

Answer. The Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) is currently operating in five countries in sub-Saharan Africa: Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and South Sudan. I am pleased to report that within each of these countries, OTI is working closely with Mission staff and USAID's Africa Bureau to identify programs that complement other assistance efforts and lay a foundation for longer-term development. In addition, OTI, USAID's Africa Bureau, and Mission staff work together to facilitate a transition from OTI activities to longer-term, complementary development efforts in post-conflict situations.

The risk of instability in African countries is linked to many different factors including poor governance, corruption, and rising transnational threats, such as violent extremism, drug trafficking, illegal exploitation of natural resources, and piracy. USAID's Africa Bureau works closely with individual missions to address these challenges, notably by conducting assessments to understand the underlying dynamics that are driving state fragility and then providing technical expertise for program design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation that address those dynamics. USAID conducts extensive conflict analysis in high-risk countries and is working to ensure that development programming across all sectors is conflict sensitive. USAID also supports conflict early warning and prevention mechanisms with the aim of mitigating violence before it starts.

USAID's \$17 million Responsible Minerals Trade Program in the Democratic Republic of the Congo focuses on establishing a conflict-free supply chain, promoting civilian control of the minerals sector, ensuring vulnerable populations are protected and supporting regional auditing and monitoring of conflict-free minerals (gold, tin, tantalum, and tungsten). USAID is also an active participant in the Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (PPA). The PPA is a multisector and multi-stakeholder initiative to support supply chain solutions to conflict minerals challenges in the Great Lakes Region.

Pilot conflict-free supply chains have been established, allowing global markets to purchase minerals consistent with existing statute and generating 200 percent more revenue for artisanal miners, traders, exporters and the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo through transparent taxes. The PPA membership has grown since its launch in 2011 and is creating links among companies, advocacy groups, regional governments, end-users and civil society. Formal legal and regulatory frameworks have been put in place to promote conflict-free supply chains.

*Question.* Please describe USAID's key current and prospective approaches to crisis responses, conflict mitigation, delivery of key, life-saving services, and foundation building for an eventual transition from relief to development.

Answer. Across Africa, USAID is doing everything possible to assist those affected by conflict. In fiscal year 2014, USAID provided approximately \$1.2 billion in emergency food assistance and an additional \$481 million in other lifesaving humanitarian assistance, to displaced and conflict-affected people across the continent.

To ensure our assistance is responsive and adaptive, USAID has early warning systems, including the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET), and assessment tools that measure the risk of armed conflict. These systems inform programs to prevent and respond to crises—from droughts to electoral violence—in a timely manner.

At the heart of Africa's conflicts are unstable relationships between societies and their states. That is why, in addition to our humanitarian response, USAID invests in programs that prevent and mitigate conflicts, address state fragility, and lay the groundwork for more inclusive, participatory governance.

Since 2011, USAID has supported and promoted the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. The New Deal, endorsed by the United States and nearly 40 countries and multilateral organizations, establishes peace and state-building goals and action plans, to enable democratic, resilient communities in Africa that can overcome complex crises, and thus lessen their humanitarian need.

Building on existing capabilities, USAID is working to improve our use of tools for analyzing, tracking, and forecasting outbreaks of armed conflict. The FY 2016 budget request seeks to strengthen funding for conflict and atrocity prevention through the Complex Crises Fund and the Transition Initiatives account. Doing so gives USAID the flexibility to respond quickly in crises and to devote resources where they can have the greatest impact.

These programs are playing a critical role in addressing the root causes of instability in Africa. For instance, USAID's Nigeria Regional Transition Initiative provides small, strategic assistance to local groups in northeastern Nigeria to improve government responsiveness to citizen expectations and reduce perceptions of marginalization that have contributed significantly to Boko Haram's ability to grow. Additionally, programs in the Central African Republic (CAR) are helping to prevent genocide and mass atrocities, expanding the space to safely provide humanitarian assistance, and supporting conditions favorable to a peaceful political transition.

*Question.* Please describe the evaluation and analysis process USAID is pursuing to assess how to best support the fragile peace accord in South Sudan.

*Answer.* The peace accord in South Sudan represents a key opportunity to help the people that are affected by recurrent cycles of violence come together to forge a brighter future. The United States and other members of the international community have quickly moved to support the steps laid out in the implementation of this agreement, working with the men and women of South Sudan who are committed to peace, and holding to account those who would undermine the agreement or violate the cease-fire. Since the signing of the peace agreement, USAID has been working closely with the State Department's Office of the Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan and other State Department Bureaus and Offices, as well as other donors, to determine how best to support the peace process. In doing so, we are using the following assessment criteria to evaluate our current programs and inform potential future programs:

- Drawing from lessons the international community has learned from past experiences in providing assistance in countries recovering from conflict, including in South Sudan.
- Identifying the elements of the agreement that are the most critical to its success and which require programmatic assistance.
- Determining what resources and institutions—financial and other—are in place or available to support the peace process.
- Considering where USAID has unique capabilities or a comparative advantage vis-à-vis other donors.

For example, we understand that long term peace will be depend on addressing the impact of the crisis and developing an approach to ensure communities, religious leaders, and local partners understand and feel included in the process. To do this effectively, we will ensure that our programming takes a conflict-sensitive approach, includes wide stakeholder involvement and addresses reconciliation and trauma healing.

Rebuilding trust and restoring confidence of citizens across communities will be imperative to ending continuing violence and building a foundation for a peaceful future. This approach recognizes and goes hand-in-hand with the massive humanitarian intervention to mitigate and address the human costs of the war. In concert with other donors, USAID continues to press secure humanitarian access to enable relief actors to rapidly assess evolving needs and scale up life-saving assistance in response to unmet needs. If confirmed, I will continue to ensure that our programs best help the South Sudanese people as the situation continues to evolve.

*Question.* What is USAID doing to ensure the sustainability of stability and recovery gains made in Mali since 2013? What are the main areas of focus for USAID's efforts to prevent conflict and violent extremism in Mali? What roles should USAID play in addressing security challenges in the Sahel and the need for long-term regional development, stability, and better governance?

Answer. Ensuring the sustainability of stability and recovery is a primary goal of USAID programming in Mali, as USAID's recently approved Country Development Cooperation Strategy for Mali includes the goal "Maliens Securing a Democratic, Resilient and Prosperous Future." USAID programming in Mali has focused on humanitarian and community stabilization assistance, as well as basic health and education services and was designed to be flexible and scalable should opportunities emerge for increased engagement. Now that the peace agreement has been signed, USAID will move into providing longer term development assistance using a Relief-to-Development Transition approach, taking advantage of the increased opportunities offered by the agreement. The Relief-to-Development activities will focus on conflict mitigation, and countering violent extremism (including a focus on Women, Peace and Security), livelihoods, food security, nutrition, climate change, and health and education services.

As security permits, USAID intends to expand core Governance, Resilience and Prosperity programming to areas in the North, emphasizing engagement with youth and women. This programing includes strengthening public service delivery of health and education services and fostering economic growth, particularly in the agricultural sector, to boost incomes, nutrition and employment opportunities. USAID will support increased government accountability and access to justice in direct partnership with the Malian Government and through engagement with civil society, furthering the Government of Mali's decentralization goals and strengthening the public's trust in their government. Working in select northern communities found to be most at-risk for extremism, USAID's program to counter violent extremism will work with Malian government actors and local communities to address priority development and reconciliation needs and link isolated communities so that they work together to resolve issues.

More broadly, USAID is playing an important role in addressing stability challenges in the Sahel region by modifying its approach to development assistance to better address and keep pace with the vulnerabilities emerging across borders in the region as a whole. Programs work to link justice and security issues more effectively, help local communities hold their governments accountable, and improve services and livelihoods for Malians. These activities can provide economic opportunities and bolster popular support for friendly, but poorly functioning partner governments in the region.

*Question (a).* What have been the impacts of large cuts in estimated actual FY 2015 DG funding compared to the requested level (including for key countries, e.g. the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, and Nigeria) on the potential to realize U.S. DG priorities in Africa?

Answer (a). The U.S. Government cannot effectively achieve sustainable outcomes in health, food security and climate change in Africa without simultaneously investing in good governance, transparency, accountability and inclusion. Decreased, or inconsistent funding levels make it more difficult for USAID to make strategic investments for long-term change in the environment for democracy, rights and governance in the countries in which we work, in line with the Country Development Cooperation Strategies we have in place.

At the same time, I understand the challenges of the current budget environment and am confident that USAID can achieve considerable progress within the budget constraints. As an Agency, we have also made efforts to locate additional resources for some of the highest priority needs on the continent in FY 2015, including in Kenya and Nigeria. In Nigeria, for example, sustained, long-term USG investment in the development of civil society networks and institutions like the Independent National Electoral Commission contributed to the historic transfer of political power witnessed in 2015. Continued investment is necessary to consolidate those gains. USAID is also better integrating DRG principles into other development sectors, working with fellow U.S. Government colleagues in health, education, water and economic growth, to ensure that core human rights and governance principles are embedded in other sectors, as integrated DRG programming alongside core DRG programming will ensure that development investments in all sectors are sustained and protected.

Additionally, to address budget constraints, USAID's FY 2016 request for democracy, rights and governance programming reflects an increase over recent years. The request represents a 10 percent increase over the FY 2015 request and a 100 percent increase over the FY 2014 actual level. It is a testament to the goodwill of the American people and the U.S. Congress that USAID is able to continue providing much-needed assistance abroad.

*Question (b).* Why was there zero funding of DG programming in Ethiopia in FY 2015 given widespread concerns over negative democratic trends there?

Answer (b). Ethiopia was one of the countries subject to budget reductions for democracy, rights and governance work in recent years, however \$1.25 million in FY 2015 funds have now been identified for Ethiopia to support human rights, enhance governance through social accountability activities, and strengthen civil society engagement, and additional funding was requested for FY 2016. USAID is also better integrating DRG principles into other sectors in Ethiopia, as integrated DRG programming alongside core DRG programming will ensure that development investments in all sectors are sustained and protected.

For example, Social Accountability (SA) is providing new forums for citizens to monitor the Government of Ethiopia's service delivery commitments and to advocate for improvements, and USAID is integrated these Social Accountability methods in the education sector to drive public oversight of results. Specifically, parent-teacher associations will use methods such as community ratings of education quality to pressure government offices to maintain reading enrichment support through libraries and teachers. Additionally, in the Health Sector, USAID is standing up 2,500 governance boards for health centers and hospitals across Ethiopia, where local officials decide how to spend patient fees and improve services. USAID's democracy and health teams are collaborating to bring valid citizen input into these boards and feed into budget decisions of hospitals and health centers.

Ethiopia is a key partner for progressing development and security in the region, and through this close relationship we promote the importance of democracy, rights and governance for peace and prosperity. In addition to our DRG programming, we recognize that U.S. diplomatic engagement is critical to promoting DRG. USAID works with the State Department, the White House and other agencies to ensure the United States consistently raises DRG with Ethiopian officials at the highest levels.

*Question (a).* How do USAID's education programs and country priorities align with national and regional development strategies?

Answer (a). USAID missions work closely with host country governments and citizens, civil society organizations, the private sector, multilateral organizations, other donors, the State Department, and other U.S. Government agencies to develop a Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) that supports U.S. foreign policy priorities, ensures strategic alignment with host country development priorities, and promotes mutual accountability.

USAID's Education Strategy provides the overarching goals and parameters for the development of activities in the education sector in the countries that USAID supports, and those goals and parameters are incorporated in the CDCS. USAID's Education Strategy focuses on three goals: improved reading skills for 100 million children in primary grades; improved ability of tertiary and workforce development programs to generate workforce skills relevant to a country's development goals; and increased equitable access to education in crisis and conflict environments for 15 million learners. By setting focused, measurable goals and targets, the Education Strategy holds the Agency accountable for results.

Sixteen USAID Missions in Africa address education in their CDCSs. For example, one of the development goals for Ghana's CDCS is a focus on improved reading performance in primary schools, with the ultimate goal of assisting individuals to reach middle income status and achieve personal economic stability, contributing to national economic growth.

*Question (b).* How do USAID's higher education programs partner with universities in Africa as well as businesses to promote innovation, economic development, and job growth?

Answer (b). Improved ability of tertiary and workforce development programs to generate workforce skills relevant to a country's development goals is the second goal of the USAID education strategy, which was developed based on a research review from the World Bank that presented evidence indicating that tertiary education attainment raised developing countries' productivity and GDP significantly. Increased access to vocational/technical and tertiary education and training for underserved and marginalized groups; improved quality of tertiary education and research; and improved relevance and quality of workforce development programs are all critical components of USAID programming in higher education. There are a variety of approaches to programming and partnerships in these areas, each tailored to the context and specific objectives of the USAID mission.

For example, a consortium of U.S. universities (Rutgers University, North Carolina State University, and the University of Michigan) is working with Liberia's leading universities to transform the higher education fields of engineering and agriculture to be more dynamic and responsive to evolving national needs. Concur-

rently, they are supporting linkages between employers and higher education institutions ensuring that students are equipped with skills relevant to employers in Liberia, so that they will be job-ready upon graduation. Coordination and collaboration with the private sector has also been successful. For example, last year the consortium organized an employer forum that included 65 university students and key employers in the fields of engineering and agriculture. The forum helped to bolster employer support for providing internship and employment opportunities for students as well as increased private sector engagement with the universities.

Additionally, a partnership between the Ethiopian Institute of Water Resources (EIWR) at Addis Ababa University and the University of Connecticut provides invaluable institutional assistance in sustainable water resources management. With USAID's support, Addis Ababa University has assumed responsibility for a number of innovative initiatives that will greatly benefit the country in the long-term, including building graduate-level education programs, increasing the institution's ability to conduct research, and improving outreach and recruitment.

As part of the Young African Leaders Initiative, the USAID Africa Regional program is in the process of establishing four Regional Leadership Centers to enhance leadership and training opportunities in Africa and better leverage over \$200 million in ongoing youth programs and initiatives, such as university partnerships and vocational training, on the continent. The centers will focus on engaging leaders between the ages of 18 and 35 from a variety of backgrounds and a diversity of experience, providing accessible leadership training, incubating organizations and entrepreneurship, and supporting professional connections among African leaders. Based in Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, and South Africa, each center will be run as a public-private partnership, capitalizing on the ingenuity and dynamism of the private sector and the programmatic and educational resources of USAID. Ten private sector partners and foundations have joined USAID in supporting the effort.

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