

**NOMINATION HEARINGS OF THE  
115TH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION**

---

---

**HEARINGS**

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
UNITED STATES SENATE**

**ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS**

**FIRST SESSION**

—  
**JANUARY 3, 2017 TO JANUARY 3, 2018**  
—

Printed for the use of the Committee on Foreign Relations



Available via the World Wide Web: <http://www.govinfo.gov>

S. Hrg. 115-413

**NOMINATION HEARINGS OF THE  
115TH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION**

---

---

**HEARINGS**

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
UNITED STATES SENATE**

**ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS**

**FIRST SESSION**

—————  
**JANUARY 3, 2017 TO JANUARY 3, 2018**  
—————

Printed for the use of the Committee on Foreign Relations



Available via the World Wide Web: <http://www.govinfo.gov>

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

33-623 PDF

WASHINGTON : 2018

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

BOB CORKER, Tennessee, *Chairman*

JAMES E. RISCH, Idaho

MARCO RUBIO, Florida

RON JOHNSON, Wisconsin

JEFF FLAKE, Arizona

CORY GARDNER, Colorado

TODD YOUNG, Indiana

JOHN BARRASSO, Wyoming

JOHNNY ISAKSON, Georgia

ROB PORTMAN, Ohio

RAND PAUL, Kentucky

BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, Maryland

ROBERT MENENDEZ, New Jersey

JEANNE SHAHEEN, New Hampshire

CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, Delaware

TOM UDALL, New Mexico

CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, Connecticut

TIM Kaine, Virginia

EDWARD J. MARKEY, Massachusetts

JEFF MERKLEY, Oregon

CORY A. BOOKER, New Jersey

TODD WOMACK, *Staff Director*

JESSICA LEWIS, *Democratic Staff Director*

JOHN DUTTON, *Chief Clerk*

## CONTENTS

The nominees' responses to additional questions and any other additional material submitted for the record are located at the end of each hearing transcript.

	Page
<b>Wednesday, January 11, 2017</b> .....	na
Tillerson, Rex, to be Secretary of State, transcript printed under separate cover, S. Hrg. 115-4. ....	na
<b>Wednesday, January 18, 2017</b> .....	na
Haley, Gov. Nimrata "Nikki," to be Ambassador to the United Nations, transcript printed under separate cover, S. Hrg. 115-345. ....	na
<b>Thursday, February 16, 2017</b> .....	1
Friedman, David, of New York, to be Ambassador to Israel .....	9
<b>Wednesday, April 26, 2017</b> .....	71
Mushingi, Hon. Tulinabo Salama, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal and to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau .....	73
Haskell, Todd Philip, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Congo .....	75
<b>Tuesday, May 2, 2017</b> .....	93
Branstad, Hon. Terry, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of China .....	98
<b>Tuesday, May 9, 2017</b> .....	145
Sullivan, Hon. John J., of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State .....	149
<b>Wednesday, May 17, 2017</b> .....	207
Brown, Scott P., of New Hampshire, to be Ambassador to New Zealand, and to the Independent State of Samoa .....	211
<b>Thursday, May 18, 2017</b> .....	227
Hagerty, William Francis IV, of Tennessee, to be Ambassador to Japan ...	231
<b>Thursday, June 15, 2017</b> .....	259
Green, Mark Andrew, of Wisconsin, to be Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development .....	266
<b>Tuesday, July 11, 2017</b> .....	303
Bohigian, Hon. David Steele, of Missouri, to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation .....	307
Washburne, Ray, of Texas, to be President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation .....	309
Currie, Kelley Eckels, of Georgia, to be U.S. Representative on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations .....	312
Murray, Jay Patrick, of Virginia, to be an Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations .....	315



IV

	Page
<b>Tuesday, July 18, 2017</b> .....	<b>345</b>
Gingrich, Callista L., of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Holy See .....	349
Sales, Nathan Alexander, of Ohio, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Department of State .....	352
Glass, George Edward, of Oregon, to be Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic .....	355
Risch, Carl C., of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of State, Consular Affairs .....	358
<b>Wednesday, July 19, 2017</b> .....	<b>389</b>
Arreaga, Hon. Luis E., of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala .....	389
Day, Sharon, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica .....	391
Urs, Krishna R., of Connecticut, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Peru .....	393
<b>Thursday, July 20, 2017</b> .....	<b>415</b>
Hutchison, Hon. Kay Bailey, of Texas, to be U.S. Permanent Representative on The Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization .....	425
Craft, Kelly Knight, of Kentucky, to be Ambassador to Canada .....	429
Johnson, Robert Wood IV, of New York, to be Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland .....	432
Eisenberg, Lewis M., of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Italian Republic and to the Republic of San Marino .....	434
McFarland, Kathleen Troia, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore .....	437
<b>Wednesday, July 26, 2017</b> .....	<b>491</b>
Raynor, Hon. Michael Arthur, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia .....	492
Brewer, Maria E., of Indiana, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone .....	494
Desrocher, John P., of New York, to be Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria .....	496
<b>Tuesday, August 1, 2017</b> .....	<b>517</b>
King, Stephen B., of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic ..	518
<b>Tuesday, September 12, 2017</b> .....	<b>531</b>
Ueland, Eric M., of Oregon, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management) .....	536
Bass, Hon. John R., of New York, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan .....	556
Siberell, Justin Hicks, of Maryland, Nominee to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain .....	560
Dowd, J. Steven, of Florida, to be U.S. Director of the African Development Bank for a Term of 5 Years .....	563
<b>Tuesday, September 19, 2017</b> .....	<b>617</b>
Huntsman, Hon. Jon M. Jr., of Utah, to be Ambassador to the Russian Federation State .....	624
Mitchell, A. Wess, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (European and Eurasian Affairs) .....	640
<b>Wednesday, September 27, 2017, (a.m.)</b> .....	<b>693</b>
Kritenbrink, Daniel J., of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam .....	695
Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M., of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste .....	698
<b>Wednesday, September 27, 2017 (p.m.)</b> .....	<b>715</b>
Hoekstra, Hon. Peter, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands .....	718
Buchan, Richard Duke, III, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain .....	721

	Page
<b>Wednesday, September 27, 2017 (p.m.)</b> —Continued	
Grenell, Richard, of California, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany .....	725
McCourt, Jamie, of California, to be Ambassador to the French Republic, and to the Principality of Monaco .....	728
McMullen, Edward T. Jr., of South Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation, and to the Principality of Liechtenstein .....	732
<b>Tuesday, October 3, 2017 (a.m.)</b> .....	<b>763</b>
Juster, Hon. Kenneth Ian, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of India .....	767
<b>Tuesday, October 3, 2017 (p.m.)</b> .....	<b>789</b>
Andre, Hon. Larry Edward, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti .....	792
Barlerin, Peter Henry, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to Republic of Cameroon .....	794
Whitaker, Eric P., of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Niger ..	796
Dodman, Michael James, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania .....	807
Fite, Nina Maria, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Angola .....	810
Foote, Daniel L., of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zambia .....	813
Reimer, David Dale, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles .....	815
<b>Wednesday, October 4, 2017</b> .....	<b>849</b>
Sison, Michele Jeanne, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti .....	851
Brownback, Hon. Samuel Dale, of Kansas, to be Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom .....	855
<b>Thursday, October 5, 2017</b> .....	<b>883</b>
Sands, Carla, of California, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark .....	884
Kohorst, W. Robert, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia .....	887
<b>Wednesday, October 18, 2017</b> .....	<b>903</b>
Carter, Thomas, of South Carolina, to be U.S. Representative on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization .....	905
Newstead, Jennifer Gillian, of New York, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State .....	907
Singh, Manisha, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Economic and Business Affairs) .....	910
Evanoff, Michael T., of Arkansas, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Diplomatic Security) .....	911
<b>Wednesday, November 1, 2017</b> .....	<b>955</b>
Goldstein, Irwin Steven, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State (Public Diplomacy) .....	957
Lawler, Sean P., of Maryland, to be Chief of Protocol of the Department of State .....	960
Johnson, Lisa A., of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia .....	962
Gonzales, Rebecca Eliza, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho .....	964
Evans, James Randolph, of Georgia, to be Ambassador To Luxembourg ....	966
<b>Tuesday, November 28, 2017</b> .....	<b>1013</b>
Poblete, Yleem D.S., Ph.D., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Verification and Compliance) .....	1019
Ford, Christopher Ashley, D.Phil., of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Security and Non-Proliferation) .....	1022

VI

	Page
<b>Thursday, November 30, 2017</b> .....	<b>1071</b>
Bierman, Hon. Brock D., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency For International Development .....	1076
Braithwaite, Rear Admiral Kenneth J., USN (Ret), of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway .....	1080
Trujillo, Hon. Carlos, of Florida, to be the Permanent U.S. Representative to the Organization of American States .....	1083
McClenny, M. Lee, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Paraguay .....	1086
<b>Tuesday, December 19, 2017</b> .....	<b>1123</b>
Vrooman, Peter Hendrick, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda .....	1125
Danies, Joel, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Gabonese Republic and to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tomé and Príncipe .....	1128

APPENDIX

Alphabetical listing of nominees considered by the committee, including im- portant dates .....	1151
--	------



## NOMINATIONS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2017

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

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:20 p.m. in Room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Marco Rubio, presiding.

Present: Senators Rubio [presiding] and Menendez.

### OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MARCO RUBIO, U.S. SENATOR FROM FLORIDA

Senator RUBIO. Thank you all for being here. My apologies. We were at a meeting at the White House.

This meeting on the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere will come to order.

Again, I apologize to our nominees. We were at the White House. It took a few minutes to get here and my apologies to the ranking member.

With that, I am going to defer my opening statement in the interest of your time and that of the ranking member and just defer to him, if he has an opening statement.

### STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ, U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY

Senator MENENDEZ. Well, Mr. Chairman, in the interest of time, I am going to keep it really brief compared to what I normally would do, not that it is long, but I am going to keep this one really brief.

I will just say that, as we often do on this committee, despite our presence, we overlook the western hemisphere. But on migration, trade, and national security what happens in our own hemisphere impacts us here in the United States most directly. So it is critical that we have capable, experienced professionals representing the United States in our embassies in the hemisphere. So to our career nominees, we salute your service and we welcome your insight, and, Ms. Day, we look forward to hearing from you as well.

And I will defer the rest, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RUBIO. Thank you to the ranking member. And again, my apologies for it. I hate being late.

With that, let me introduce the nominees. I will introduce you for your opening statements, and then we can go into questions.

Obviously, we have one panel testifying today: the Honorable Luis Arreaga of Virginia to be the Ambassador to Guatemala; Ms.

Sharon Day of Florida to be the Ambassador to Costa Rica; and Mr. Krishna Urs to be the Ambassador to Peru. They all have impressive resumes.

Mr. Arreaga was appointed Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement in January 2016. He is responsible for the State Department's programs combating illicit drugs and organized crime.

Ms. Day is someone I know personally and known for a significant period of time. She is a dedicated person. She is a hard worker. She is a friend and someone that under different circumstances I would be at the table presenting her, but we are up here. So I am presenting you now. I am happy you are here today. I am encouraged that the President nominated you, and I know, if confirmed, you will represent our country well in Costa Rica.

Krishna Urs has served the Department of State and the American people for more than 31 years, and that includes posts in the Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Nicaragua, and Mexico. He has served as the Director of the Office of Economic Policy in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere affairs, and given his wealth of experience in the region, we are encouraged today to hear from him about his views on how to lead this embassy.

We thank you all for being here today. And we will begin with Ambassador Arreaga. Thank you.

**STATEMENT OF HON. LUIS E. ARREAGA, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA**

Ambassador ARREAGA. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Menendez. I am honored to appear before you as President Trump's nominee to serve as United States Ambassador to Guatemala.

If you allow me to indulge a bit, I would like to acknowledge my wife Mary, to whom I owe everything, and my beloved family who are here with me today back here somewhere.

If confirmed by the Senate, I will work with the Congress and our Guatemalan partners to meet the commitments made by President Jimmy Morales and Vice President Pence in mid-June when they met in Miami.

Our common agenda has three pillars: prosperity, governance, and security. Of particular note will be an emphasis on fighting corruption, narcotrafficking, gangs, trafficking in persons, and strengthening the rule of law. If confirmed, I will also work to create conditions to attract investment and to protect human rights, labor rights, and advance health, nutrition, and education, especially in the western highlands of Guatemala.

Ultimately, however, my duty will be first and foremost to the American people.

I thank you for the privilege of appearing today and welcome your questions.

[Ambassador Arreaga's prepared station follows:]

## PREPARED STATEMENT OF LUIS ARREAGA

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you as President Trump's nominee to serve as the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala. I am deeply grateful for the trust the President and Secretary Tillerson have placed in me. If confirmed by the Senate, I will work with the Congress to advance our interests in Guatemala.

If you allow me to indulge, I am an immigrant born to a migrant worker and an elementary public school teacher whose sacrifice and teachings inspired me to come to this great nation and earn the privilege of becoming one of its adopted citizens. I have many people to thank for this moment and I cannot name them all. I do want, however, to single out my beloved family, for they have been a source of inspiration and indispensable support. Foremost is my wife Mary, to whom I owe everything. My children are here to share this special moment. They include my daughter Melania, who is also a Foreign Service Officer, my son-in-law Vince, grandchildren Elena and Sebastian, and my sons Juan Carlos and Luis.

I previously had the privilege of serving as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Iceland, so I understand what is required to represent the United States abroad. I have served in Latin America, Europe, and Canada as an economist and diplomat and have great respect for the importance of working with strong U.S. allies to protect our nation and the American people.

The United States and Guatemala have strong relations. These are rooted in common interests and people-to-people connections that go back generations. We work closely with our Guatemalan partners to promote prosperity, good governance, and security all of which are in the interest of our country.

Our engagement is at the highest levels. Vice President Pence, Secretary Tillerson, and Secretary Kelly met with Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales and his team in Miami at the Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America. At that meeting, we pledged to work together to promote investment and facilitate sustainable growth, and to combat corruption, narcotics trafficking, gangs, and transnational criminal organizations, all of which undermine stability there, threaten our country, and drive fleeing migrants to the United States.

If confirmed, I will work tirelessly with our partners in Guatemala to comply with these commitments. I look forward to expanding our programs on information sharing and capacity building that strengthen border security, dismantle criminal networks, and stem the tide of violence affecting the region. A safer and more secure Guatemala will have a positive effect on communities in both of our countries. Our work will also include programming that strengthens the rule of law, transparency, accountability, and especially the protection of human rights.

Security cooperation is just one part of our joint strategy. If confirmed, I will also strive to foster sustainable economic growth in Guatemala. By supporting efforts to facilitate trade, promote education, and minimize red tape, we can improve the business climate, spark investment, and help to reduce unemployment. We'll continue our emphasis on the Western Highlands, where most of the migrants originate. We seek to create opportunities that benefit both Guatemalans and U.S. businesses looking to engage in the region.

Underlying all these efforts is a commitment by both governments to fight corruption and build upon the successful efforts by President Morales, CICIG, and the Attorney General to end impunity.

Let me conclude, by reiterating that, if confirmed, my duty would be, first and foremost, to the American people. There is much to be gained through cooperation with Guatemala as our safety and security are inextricably linked. In this role, I will be vigilant in protecting the interests of American citizens, both abroad and at home.

I thank you for the privilege of appearing today and welcome your questions.

Senator RUBIO. We thank you.

Ms. Day, welcome and it is great to see you here.

**STATEMENT OF SHARON DAY, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA**

Ms. DAY. Senator Rubio and Senator Menendez, it is my honor to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to rep-

represent the United States as Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica.

I am humbled by both President Trump and Secretary of State Tillerson's trust, and I am mindful of the responsibilities that are being asked of me to share our country's principles of freedom and democracy and to protect our mission family and all Americans in country.

I want to thank my loved ones, my family and friends, for their love, support, and guidance and especially for all their encouragement on this journey. I have been blessed to witness firsthand Costa Rica's natural beauty and her biodiversity, its rich culture and the kindness of its people.

The United States and Costa Rica share a long and close relationship that centers on both our countries' commitments to democratic principles, strong commercial ties, and the relationship between our people. The strong bilateral relationship between our two countries is strengthened by our longstanding and meaningful ties, which are something I have witnessed firsthand in my home State of Florida.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with our professional embassy team and to continue to build on the long history of bilateral cooperation on regional and global issues.

Thank you for your time and your consideration, and I look forward to your questions.

[Ms. Day's prepared statement follows:]

#### PREPARED STATEMENT OF SHARON DAY

Chairman Rubio, Ranking Member Menendez, and members of the committee, It is my honor to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to represent the United States as Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica. I am humbled by the President's trust and I am also very mindful of the responsibilities that are being asked of me—to both share our country's principles of freedom and democracy, and protect our Costa Rica Mission family and all Americans in country. I want to emphasize that, if confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica; my duty would be, first and foremost, to the American people.

I want to thank my loved ones and my family—my mother, Mary Swartz, my son, Coby, his wife Stephanie, my beautiful grand babies Aidan, Tristan, and Maci, my sisters and brothers, and my stepson Aaron Day and his family. I also want to thank my friends who have helped guide me on my journeys and successes. And to my late husband, Larry, thank you for always encouraging and believing that all things were possible for me. Our loved ones pay the biggest price for our passion of serving, and I will always be thankful for their love and support.

I sit before you today mindful and appreciative of the journey my life has taken. I am thankful for the opportunities and the understanding that in our country anything is possible. I grew up in San Antonio, Texas in a middle class family—my dad was an electrician and my mom was a stay at home Mom. We weren't rich with money, but I was rich by the principles that I was taught—that hard work matters—that honesty matters—that lying about a misdeed was worse than the deed itself—to have respect for every individual, in fact, even today I say "sir" or "ma'am" to everyone I meet in person or that I may come in contact with—it was instilled in me that you can do anything you put your mind to—and no dream was too big if you had an education. My home was also where I learned you can have very divergent beliefs—very different political philosophies—and you can also sometimes have loud discussions while still being united in ways that really matter and count because you see, as I mentioned my dad was a union electrician and also a Democrat while my mom was a Republican.

I thank you for the opportunity to share the principles that have been instilled in my life. I could have never imagined or dreamed that I would be sitting before you today as the nominee for United States Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica.



I have travelled to Costa Rica and witnessed firsthand its world-renowned natural beauty and biodiversity, its rich cultural and historical attractions, and the kindness of its people. The United States and Costa Rica share a long and close relationship that centers on our commitment to democratic principles, strong commercial ties, and the relationships between our people. The strong bi-lateral relationship between our two countries is strengthened by our longstanding and meaningful people-to-people ties which is something I have witnessed firsthand in my home state of Florida. Costa Rica is a key tourist destination for my fellow Americans with over a million visitors annually and the number one destination for U.S. students studying abroad in Latin America. If confirmed, I look forward to continuing to build on our long history of bilateral cooperation, as well as cooperation on regional and global issues.

The administration is engaging with Costa Rica at the highest levels. In March, Vice President Mike Pence welcomed President Luis Guillermo Solis to the White House. In June, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson met with his counterpart, Foreign Minister Manuel Gonzalez Sanz, at the Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America in Miami.

This early engagement is emblematic of the close and cooperative relationship the U.S. Embassy in San Jose has established with President Solis and his administration. If confirmed, I would promote U.S. policy in three priority areas:

1. Working with Costa Rica to ensure U.S. citizen visitors and residents are safe;
2. Improving the capacity of the Costa Rican Government to disrupt the northward flow of illicit drugs and illegal migrants through Costa Rica to the United States; and
3. Supporting Costa Rica's efforts to strengthen its economy and improve its business climate, which will provide greater opportunities for U.S. companies.

If confirmed, I will work with our Costa Rican partners to help the country disrupt trafficking and smuggling operations of people and goods in order to ensure that organized crime does not destabilize the country's democratic institutions. Costa Rica has already proven to be an excellent, willing partner with the United States in these efforts. A safe and secure Costa Rica is beneficial for both the U.S. citizens who visit this beautiful country, and for those who call Costa Rica home.

Additionally, if confirmed, I would focus on expanding and deepening the economic ties between our nations. Improving the Costa Rican business climate would give U.S. businesses greater export and investment opportunities.

We talk of the American dream. Today I am the embodiment of the American dream. The principles and values that my parents instilled in me are the ideals that make America great and it is these beliefs that will serve me well in the important role for which I am asking your consideration and support—the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to your questions.

Senator RUBIO. Thank you.

Mr. Urs?

**STATEMENT OF KRISHNA R. URS, OF CONNECTICUT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSEL, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF PERU**

Mr. URS. Thank you, Chairman Rubio, Ranking Member Menendez. It is a great honor to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Peru.

I am very pleased also to have family members with me: my wife, Denise, who is also everything to me, and my son David. Unfortunately, my daughter Katie could not be here today.

The Republic of Peru is a steadfast partner in a sometimes turbulent region. Successive Peruvian administrations have pursued market-based economic and trade policies yielding 2 decades of robust, inclusive growth. As Peru's economy has boomed, the country has taken a more active role internationally, leading efforts to re-

solve Venezuela's current crisis and agreeing to host the Summit of the Americas in April 2018.

But some significant challenges remain. Transnational organized crime, persistent rural poverty, weak institutions, environmental degradation, and endemic corruption threaten the country's progress.

In President Kuczynski and his government, we have a strong partner. U.S. Government programs in the country advance U.S. priorities by supporting Peru's efforts to combat transnational criminal networks, address remaining pockets of poverty, and halt environmental degradation.

Mr. Chairman, for many of the 31 years that I have been in the Foreign Service, I have been fortunate to work on western hemisphere issues. If confirmed, I look forward to working with our truly extraordinary U.S. mission team in Peru to advance our interests, ensure the safety and welfare of all Americans and U.S. Government employees, and to further strengthen bilateral relations. I look forward to working with the committee in the furtherance of these goals.

I am happy to answer any questions now or in the future.

[Mr. Urs's prepared statement follows:]

#### PREPARED STATEMENT OF KRISHNA R. URS

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee: It is an honor to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Peru. If confirmed, I will work closely with this committee and other interested Members of Congress to advance U.S. interests and values in Peru and to help the Peruvian people move towards a prosperous, inclusive, and democratic future.

Accompanying me here today is my wife Denise, who is also a senior Foreign Service Officer, and my children, Katie and David, who have come from Oklahoma and Madrid respectively.

The Republic of Peru, with a population of more than 30 million, is one of the United States' most steadfast partners in a sometimes turbulent region. Successive Peruvian administrations, including both center-right and center-left governments, have pursued market-based economic policies yielding two decades of robust and inclusive economic growth. Peru has cut poverty rates in half, reduced infant mortality, and expanded access to education.

Peru has staked its future on expanding international trade and the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement spurred an increase in bilateral trade from some \$9 billion in 2009 to more than \$14 billion in 2016. The United States enjoys a cumulative surplus of more than \$18 billion. As Peru's economy has boomed, it has taken a more active role in the region and the world. The Government of Peru has been a leader in efforts to find a solution to the crisis in Venezuela. Peru hosted the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting in 2016, and it will host the Summit of the Americas in April 2018.

But even as Peru has emerged as a regional leader and staunch partner, it still faces challenges. Transnational organized crime, persistent rural poverty, weak institutions, and endemic corruption threaten the country's progress. Peru remains among the world's largest coca and cocaine producing countries. Environmental degradation associated with illegal drug production, logging, and mining is a serious concern.

The United States is committed to partnering with Peru to address threats to our common security. In President Kuczynski and his government, we have a strong partner. U.S. Government programs in the country advance U.S. priorities by supporting Peru's efforts to combat transnational criminal networks. We also support Peruvian Government efforts to overcome persistent rural poverty and improve the livelihood of marginalized populations.

Mr. Chairman, for much of my 31 years in the Foreign Service, I have been fortunate to work on Western Hemisphere issues. I had the privilege of serving four years as Economic Counselor in Lima, from 1996 to 2000. I also served as Deputy Chief of Mission in its Andean neighbor, Bolivia. Prior to my Foreign Service career,

I spent my junior year in college studying in Quito, Ecuador. If confirmed, I look forward to working with our truly extraordinary U.S. Mission team in Peru to advance U.S. interests, to ensure the safety and welfare of all Americans and U.S. Government employees, and to further strengthen bilateral relations with the Republic of Peru. I look forward to working with the committee in furtherance of these goals, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have, now or in the future.

Senator RUBIO. Thank you all for being here.

I am going to begin with just two questions to all three of you. The answers I do not think will take long, and then I am going to turn it over to the ranking member for his series of questions.

The first question is, as many of you are aware, the President recently announced a change in policy towards Cuba. As we know, U.S. policy towards Cuba has often been a point of contention with our friends and allies in the western hemisphere. And I just want the assurances of each of you that irrespective of whatever personal views you may have about that policy, are you prepared, willing, able, and determined to defend the policy decisions of this administration in our interactions with the countries in which you will be representing the United States? Ambassador Arreaga?

Ambassador ARREAGA. Senator, you can count on me in terms of supporting all of the President's policies, regardless of what I think personally.

Ms. DAY. Thank you, Senator, for the question. And yes, I will.

Mr. URS. Thank you for the question, Senator, and I will as well.

Senator RUBIO. The second challenge in the hemisphere, as we are all aware of, is the deteriorating situation in Venezuela. It is my sincerest hope that, in combination with the countries that each of you, if confirmed, will be serving, along with the other four G5 nations in the hemisphere, Mexico, Canada, Brazil, and Argentina, we can pursue a way forward that restores the democratic order in Venezuela in a way that we hope is peaceful and leads to reconciliation. It is our hope that that can be done in conjunction with our partners in the region. It is possible, however, that the administration, as they have signaled, are prepared to act unilaterally, if necessary, should the illegal and unconstitutional assembly in Venezuela move forward on the 30th of July.

Are each of you committed and prepared, able, and willing to defend such unilateral measures on the part of the administration if that is the direction they go with regard to punishing those responsible for basically trying to nullify the democratic process in Venezuela?

Ambassador ARREAGA. Thank you for your question. The answer is yes.

Ms. DAY. Thank you, Senator. And, of course, we will do all we can to confirm democracy and freedom across the globe.

Mr. URS. Thank you, Chairman. Yes, absolutely.

Senator RUBIO. The ranking member.

Senator MENENDEZ. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I got worried that somehow the lunch consumed you. [Laughter.]

Senator MENENDEZ. So I am glad to see that you are back with us, and we are happy to be here with you.

Congratulations to all of the nominees. It is a significant honor to be nominated to be the United States Ambassador to any country in the world. And so we congratulate you and all of your fami-

lies because families are part of the sacrifice that is made here, and so we appreciate your families being here.

Let me start with you, Ms. Day. So what is your view—I ask these questions of all of the nominees. I am going to turn around and ask each one of them because I am creating a historical precedent here or following a historical precedent, led by others, not that I believe in it, but I want to make sure we continue it.

So you said you visited Costa Rica.

Ms. DAY. Yes, Senator, I have.

Senator MENENDEZ. Do you speak Spanish?

Ms. DAY. I do not, Senator.

Senator MENENDEZ. So that is not disqualifying as far as I am concerned, but for some it has been for other nominees.

Let me ask you what do you see as the main items that you will be engaged in as our U.S. Ambassador in Costa Rica? What do you see as the top three things that your mission will be, if you are confirmed?

Ms. DAY. I think the top issue is to make sure that the mission runs in a manner that is the best use of our taxpayers' dollars and the opportunity to promote the safety and security of not just our friends and staff and members of the mission team, but also all Americans in country, and then to help with security issues to protect—Costa Rica to protect its borders and stop the infrastructure that is happening with narcotics.

Senator MENENDEZ. So what is your evaluation of—I do not know if you have had any briefings about the U.S.-Costa Rican joint patrol agreement that we have been involved in intercepting illicit narcotics destined for the United States. Have you had a chance to be briefed on that? Do you have any sense of it?

Ms. DAY. I have had some briefing information on it, Senator. Thank you for your question. The one instance that we do, it is a very great bilateral partnership with Costa Rica. They understand the importance of security in their countries and the problems that narcotics coming into its country for transportation and warehousing is an important issue. And they work very strongly with us, as well as the information and the staffing, the tools, the training, and the equipment that the United States is giving to Costa Rica for this cause.

Senator MENENDEZ. Now, Costa Rica has borne part of a significant share of addressing the crisis of unaccompanied minors from Central America. The last administration developed a comprehensive strategy for engagement in Central America that was largely in line with something we called the Alliance for Prosperity. How do you believe the United States should be engaged with Costa Rica as it relates to this question of within Central America, since it is one of the key Central American countries, and with the question of the flow of migrants?

Ms. DAY. Thank you, Senator, for that question.

If confirmed, we will continue to work with the mission to make sure this happens. Costa Rica understands that there is an issue there, and from that end of it, we have worked very hard with the United States again with the training, with judicial training, some again efforts in place and systems in place to help those that have been trafficked to protection of it. So we will continue to work with

them. We are working with them on language that meets U.N. regulations to strengthen that position. So we will continue at the mission. If confirmed, I will be glad to lead that support and effort for our country and to help the Costa Rican people.

Senator MENENDEZ. Finally, it is not a question but more of a statement. I know the chairman, I, and the chairman of the full committee have very much engaged in the question of human trafficking, and while Costa Rica is a great ally in so many different ways, I hope that you will pay some attention, when you are confirmed, to looking at the question of human trafficking in Costa Rica as part of your mission. Can we get you to say that?

Ms. DAY. I will. Thank you, Senator. It will be a high priority.

Senator MENENDEZ. Thank you very much.

Ambassador Arreaga, you have a distinguished career serving in a variety of posts. So let me thank you for your service up front. Only in America can someone who is born in Guatemala become a United States citizen and return as the United States Ambassador to Guatemala. So it is an extraordinary story. It is also a great example of how immigration can be a positive thing for our country. So we salute you.

I want you to follow on the question I asked Ms. Day about. Do you believe the U.S. strategy for engagement in Central America has been successful? What do you see are some of the major challenges as someone who is going to be in one of the key countries that we are engaged with, particularly as it relates to the movement of unaccompanied minors and others? Guatemala is one of those. Talk to me about what your views are on that.

Ambassador ARREAGA. Thank you for your question, Senator.

This is an issue which I have been working with over the last 3 years. We have a very clear agenda to deal with this problem with Central America, one with Guatemala specifically. As I mentioned earlier, President Jimmy Morales met with Vice President Pence in Miami and they laid out a plan to deal with the three pillars of our engagement: prosperity, governance, and security.

What we are going to be focusing on—the drivers of migration are security and the lack of economic opportunity. The prosperity piece is designed to address the lack of economic opportunity, and we are focusing it on the western highlands where most of the migrants come from. The security piece is absolutely essential because it is a driver of migration, and we have, I think, made significant progress in reducing crime rates, particularly in the areas where U.S. assistance has been provided, which is in training the police, in establishing community policing, and in working with the NGO community particularly in the most—in the areas we have the highest crime.

And underlying all of this is, of course, our efforts to support President Morales' efforts to fight corruption. CICIG is a pillar of that. This is an institution that we have been supporting for years. We will continue to support because it has shown that it can actually address the problem of corruption in a systematic way.

Senator MENENDEZ. I am glad you mentioned CICIG because that was my next question to you. It has been, I agree, a very positive and innovative and successful justice model. But I have heard some alarming reports, including from Commissioner Ivan

Velasquez Gomez himself, that it may be coming under pressure from the powers that be in Guatemala. It has been the U.S. policy to support CICIG, which has not only been successful in addressing impunity in Guatemala but also serves as a model for other countries in the region.

So is it your intention, upon your confirmation, to be a voice in support of CICIG on behalf of the administration?

Ambassador ARREAGA. Thank you for your question, and the answer is an unqualified yes. CICIG is an underlying linchpin for our efforts in Central America—in Guatemala.

Senator MENENDEZ. Mr. Urs, I have been very concerned about reports of increased coca production in Colombia and have concerns about the impact this will have on transnational criminal organizations in the region. So have you had an opportunity to assess Peru's new national strategy against illicit drugs? And if so, what are your views of it?

Mr. URS. Yes. Thank you very much for that question, Mr. Senator.

Peru earlier this year issued a new strategy that runs from 2017 to 2021. It is an integrated strategy that attempts—a comprehensive strategy that attempts to attack narcotics trafficking and transnational criminal efforts in a broad range of areas. It looks at interdiction, eradication. It sets a target of 25,000 hectares of eradication each year for the 5-year period. It has also alternate development as one of the pillars of it. And it has some other elements, health, and some other reform elements.

So we have supported Peru's counternarcotics efforts and efforts against transnational crime for an extended period of time, and the country has made important inroads in terms of dealing with the problem. I think when we look at the total amount of hectares of coca there, the numbers have come up and down, as they have in many countries around the region. But when we look at the areas of the country that are now largely free of coca cultivation, the upper Huallaga Valley, Monzon, we find coca cultivation concentrated in smaller and smaller parts of the country. So I think our feeling is that Peru has been somewhat successful in this effort, and that we ought to continue to support their efforts.

Senator MENENDEZ. Have you visited Peru?

Mr. URS. I have. I spent 4 wonderful years in Peru from 1996 to 2000 as the economic counselor there.

Senator MENENDEZ. Do you speak Spanish?

Mr. URS. I do.

Senator MENENDEZ. Now, two last questions, if I may, Mr. Chairman.

What do you see as the most significant bilateral issues, if confirmed, that you will be dealing with as it relates to Peru?

Mr. URS. Thank you very much, Mr. Senator.

We have four items that we list generally as our top priorities in Peru. They are combating transnational crime, and that includes not only drug trafficking but also illegal mining and illegal logging. Actually it is estimated that illegal gold mining may produce as much revenue, \$2.6 billion in illegal revenue, as is produced by narcotics activity. And then in addition, illegal logging is also increasingly a problem. These types of issues, the illegal logging and



illegal mining, also bring with them problems of trafficking in persons, environmental degradation. So there is a whole series of associated problems that are there with these other illegal activities and, of course, with narcotics as well. Narcotics production also causes very, very severe environmental degradation. So that is a top priority. We want to help the Peruvians in their efforts. They are front and center on this. We are being supportive of them so the main burden falls on them.

We also have an institutional reform program that we are working with the Government of Peru. This is, again, their effort. We are being supportive. They are looking at dealing with issues about weak institutionality, corruption, those kinds of things by trying to move to an adversarial system of justice so that rather than the civil system, the Napoleonic Code type of system where investigations are done by an investigating judge and held in paper files, these cases are argued in a public way, in a verbal way. We feel that—and I think the Government of Peru feels—that that will allow the best disinfectant of all, which is public attention and air to resolve some of the issues that there are regarding institutionality in Peru.

We also are working with Peru in many areas regarding environment, especially as I mentioned, in the gold mining area where mercury contamination is a byproduct of illicit gold mining. So there we just recently signed an agreement with the Government of Peru, a memorandum of understanding, that provides for cooperation in terms of dealing with the illegal mining problem.

So those are some of our priorities.

Senator MENENDEZ. Well, I appreciate it. That is a very thoughtful answer.

Let me just say we have a lot of Peruvian Americans in New Jersey, a very large concentration and a very industrious people, a very fine community. They have been very helpful. I hope at some point when you are back in the States, after confirmation, we might get you involved with them to listen to some of them. They are also great potential investors in their own country.

Mr. URS. Thank you very much for that, and Mr. Senator, I would be delighted to do that.

Senator MENENDEZ. And finally, I want to echo the chairman's remarks about Venezuela. I hope in Peru, which I want to applaud and, for that fact, Costa Rica as well and I believe Guatemala to some degree—has been good at the OAS. Unfortunately, we cannot seem to get our Caribbean neighbors to be as good on the issues of promoting the democratic charter of the OAS.

So I hope that you and your respective missions will work with those countries, number one, to applaud them when they are actually out there doing things that are good for democracy and human rights in the hemisphere to give them a sense of support of that so that they will continue to stand up at the OAS and to urge them to find ways in which their relationships in the hemisphere are used to also promote at the OAS an opportunity.

We are going to have the Secretary General here at a hearing with the chairman a little later, and it is not very normal that the OAS Secretary General comes before a committee. It is an extraor-

dinary opportunity, and I would like to see it amplified by our Ambassadors.

Thank you all for your answers.

Senator RUBIO. Thank you to the ranking member.

I am not going to be outdone. We have a lot of Peruvians in Florida too. [Laughter.]

Senator RUBIO. And so on your way, as you are connecting flights, you got to stop in Florida and meet with them and with Guatemalans and people from Costa Rica.

But let me just start with Costa Rica because there is an interesting angle to it, and it is in the phrase of both a question and asking for an assurance. We have a lot of U.S. travelers to Costa Rica. We have a growing number of Americans who have made it a part-time or permanent residence in Costa Rica but obviously retain their citizenship and the like.

And one of the debates that is going on here in the Congress and on the Hill is about these budget cuts. A lot of times when people talk about budget cuts to State, they think we are talking about a bloated bureaucracy. And I think even those within the State Department would admit that there is always the need for reform. But part of what we do in our embassies is serve Americans when they are abroad. You lose your passport. You want there to be multiple consulates in a big country and an embassy that is well staffed that can come in and help you out. If you are living there for a significant period of time and have any needs from medical needs or the like, you want an embassy or consulates that are well staffed and well manned. And in the case of Costa Rica in particular, we have a significant number of American visitors and people spending months at a time.

And so I would just ask your commitment, irrespective of, obviously, the chain of command, obviously, that you need to follow within the State Department. But this is really for all of you, but in particular Costa Rica. If at any time there is a need for greater services, it is important for those of us here on these committees to know about it. It is important for us so we can advocate for it. It is also important for us so we can point to it as an example that our embassies are not just these nice buildings that host cocktail parties, and they are not just there to interact with governments. They are also there primarily in many cases to serve our fellow Americans abroad who are in need of consular services for a variety of different topics.

And I start only with Costa Rica because I know the sheer volume of travelers and visitors and increasing number of Americans who have made it home for a significant period of time throughout the year.

Ms. DAY. Thank you, Senator, again for that comment. And it is absolutely true. As we know, we are one of the top tourists groups of visitors that come from America to Costa Rica, 1.2 million last year, plus about 160,000 expats that live there full-time as American citizens. So I will make it my highest priority to make sure that all Americans, whether in the embassy staff or team or Americans that are visiting or actually have decided to live there part-time, are protected and make sure that we have the funds and the



mechanism in place and the security controls in place to protect those individuals while we continue to grow the embassy mission.

Senator RUBIO. And, Ms. Day, the other question on Costa Rica and comment is because of its geography and location, it has also become a transit point for migration. The volume is significant. This is actually true for Guatemala as well, but a place where a lot of people wind up because they cannot get somewhere else on transit and the like.

Let me ask this. As you prepare for this assignment, what are your views? What have you sensed are some of the things we can be doing to help Costa Rica? I know you were asked about human trafficking and you alluded to it a little bit with some of the U.N. reforms and the like. But what resources could we be providing or cooperating with the Costa Rican Government to help? Because, obviously, many of those who are migrating through are headed towards the southern border of the United States and oftentimes have fallen victim to some of these horrifying trafficking groups that do horrible things to people. So what is your sense, as you prepare for this assignment, as to what we can be doing to partner with them to improve their capacity?

Ms. DAY. Thank you, Senator.

Well, I think to continue to work closely in bilateral relationships with Costa Rica is vitally important. And we have seen an opportunity to do that with, again, whether it be the drug interdiction to try to help to stop the transportation and the warehousing that is going on, to fight organized crime because, as we know, again, when you have a strong and secure country, it does stop a lot of the issues.

We have helped control and worked with them in tools and training and the necessary funding to help with our border security to try to prevent the migration again following into the United States. They are working with our data team, working with the tools, whether it be three additional Hueys or, again, vessels and docking opportunities for those vessels on the Pacific coast to stop, again, the migration of drugs into the country that way, and then again to help support the issues with the additional vetting for immigrants that come into country to try to help them relocate those that have come to Costa Rica for, again, safety.

Senator RUBIO. Ambassador Arreaga, I am an enormous supporter, as is the ranking member, of the Alliance for Prosperity. We think it is critical on multiple fronts, first because we do think it helps with some of the irregular migration patterns. The second is these countries face an extraordinary burden from the trafficking in drugs destined towards the U.S. consumer markets. So it is in our national interest to be of assistance.

What you learn as you engage on these issues is that the three nations, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, have similar issues that they confront. They also have differences among them in terms of some are more advanced in one direction and another in terms of capacity.

In your view, in the case of Guatemala, if they were here today with us and we were to propose to them this is where we think we can be most helpful in the short term, what would you say in the next 2, 3, 4 years is the most important part of the Alliance for us

to focus on first in order to increase their capacity to do what I believe—and I think I shared with you and you share the same view—is their desire to make advances? Of all the components that they need, is there one or two key areas that we should focus on as we construct the future of the Alliance?

Ambassador ARREAGA. Thank you for your question, Senator.

And, indeed, I would say that corruption remains the top priority. Nothing can move unless corrupt officials and corrupt members of the private sector are removed from what they are doing. That remains an important part.

The other part I think is very important is to have greater engagement from the private sector. The private sector is part of the solution, and there are elements of the private sector in Guatemala that are interested in being part of the solution. So we need to get the private sector more engaged and continuing with a lot of the Government reforms.

For instance, tax collections. Tax collections in Guatemala are among the lowest in the world. President Morales has appointed a very effective director of the tax office, and he is already showing some results. So we need to continue along these areas and also to discuss with Guatemalans the commitments that they made in Miami for the various elements of the plan and keep that moving.

Senator RUBIO. I am not sure about Peru, Mr. Urs. I am concerned that with the loss of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, at least the U.S. participation in it, that the hope of some vehicle by which greater economic engagement, even at a bilateral level, has perhaps been set back. I think Peru is a nation that has made extraordinary economic progress over the last few years and has the opportunity to do so much more.

Irrrespective of the decision made with regard to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, what do you view are the opportunities to increase economic engagement between the U.S. private sector and that in Peru?

Mr. URS. Thank you very much for that question, Mr. Senator.

Peru and the United States have a free trade agreement that came into force in February of 2009. That has actually been quite a dynamic agreement. We had two-way goods trade of about \$9 billion in 2009. That has grown to \$14 billion by 2016. We have done very well in that trade. We have about a \$1.8 billion surplus, and we have done well in the agriculture sector as well where we have seen a tripling of our agricultural exports, which is always of great interest in the United States.

I think the agreement, in addition to setting very high standards for market access, intellectual property rights protection, investor protections, environment, and labor, also provides for mechanisms for us to work together to try to further expand trade between the United States and Peru.

And in that regard, I think one of the important challenges for us actually—Peru has seen enormous growth, as you pointed out, and they have seen a reduction in poverty as a result as well, about a half-way reduction in poverty in Peru, a halving of poverty in Peru. But what they have seen is there are some pockets of areas where they have not seen that kind of reduction, certain areas of the mountainous center of the country, the highlands, in

some of the communities, the Afro-Peruvian community, for example.

So one of the things I would like to do, if confirmed, would be to look at how we could use the agreement and see if there are not some ways to link into the agreement so that these communities might possibly benefit from the agreement.

I think there is an alternative side to that as well, another side to that, which is in the United States, there are also communities that might benefit from the agreement more than they currently do. And there might be parts of the United States, perhaps the center of the United States where perhaps the demise of manufacturing companies have really affected those areas, we could try to see if there is not some way to—

Senator RUBIO. I am not trying to trap you into a position where you are taking on the current administration's decisions. So let me rephrase it this way because, obviously, the existing trade agreement is in place.

I will just cut to the chase. My concern is that if, in fact, Peru continues to move forward on free trade engagement with the region, multiple other countries, some of the competitive advantages of our bilateral free trade agreement erode as free trade with other countries become more available. So assuming that that will continue to be the policy for the foreseeable future, I guess the question really I should have asked—the way I should have phrased it was what can we do to ensure that we continue to grow our bilateral relationship in free trade even as the Peruvian economy may have multiple other options other than the United States in which to engage in greater trade. I think you have largely answered it in your answer.

The more people they are trading with in some instances and that we are not a part of, the potential for some erosion is always there because they are getting a better deal from somewhere else. And so that is why I think our engagement is critical. You have touched upon some of the unique niche opportunities.

My final question really has to do with the way the region is so interlinked, and that has to do with whether it is instability in Venezuela or—I want to be frank about this—the decision by President Santos as part of the peace negotiation to cut back on aerial-eradication leading to a massive increase in coca production in Colombia. It is not just impacting Colombia. It is impacting every nation along the supply line. I think that is true of Costa Rica. It is certainly true of Peru. It is especially true of Guatemala.

Anytime you have an increase in production of cocaine, you have to sell it somewhere, and obviously, the United States is that destination. And we have an internal issue that we need to confront with consumption. But all these countries, some of which, like in the case of Guatemala, have limited consumption, are going to face the pressure as that supply races to meet the demand.

From the perspective of that challenge, do any of you have concerns that our existing security, law enforcement engagement with the countries that you are about to, hopefully, represent our country in, that our existing programs are built adequately with enough resources to confront this additional challenge of a massive in-

crease in coca production that is quickly on the way? And I imagine in large extent that question is about Guatemala.

Ambassador ARREAGA. Thank you for your question, Senator.

And, indeed, we do have a very effective demand reduction program worldwide. And we always try to integrate supply reduction with demand reduction programs because we do know that anytime you have drug trafficking in a particular area, the potential for some of the citizens of the country where the drugs travel for becoming a drug addict is there. So we do have programs, and we have the ability to expand them as needed. But the answer is a short yes. We have it.

Senator RUBIO. Would anyone else care to comment?

Ms. DAY. Thank you, Senator.

Again, with Costa Rica—and the President has spoken out very strongly about the support of the United States in helping Costa Rica and, again, gather strength in protecting that border and protecting the influence of drugs coming into Costa Rica for transportation. So absolutely, if confirmed, I will do everything that I can to make sure that we support their effort and we are there. The United States is in a bilateral arrangement with Costa Rica. Thank you.

Mr. URS. Mr. Senator, thank you for the question.

I would just add one point, which is it is unlikely that many of the drugs that are produced in Colombia will come towards Peru. Peru is producing quite a number of drugs themselves.

But what is true is that an increase in drug production in Colombia will strengthen the transnational criminal organizations, and those transnational criminal organizations, some of the same which we are fighting against in Peru—that strengthens the opponent, so to speak. So even in a place like Peru, which is not likely to be the destination of drugs coming from Colombia, can be affected in a negative way by an increase in production in Colombia.

Senator RUBIO. Well, I am out of questions, and the ranking member indicates he is as well.

Just for those that perhaps have not been to one of these before, the fact that it is not full of Senators is actually a good sign, not a bad one.

And we appreciate you being here today, your record of service, your willingness to continue to serve your country.

Just as a matter of record keeping, the record of this hearing will remain open for 48 hours. It is possible the members of the committee may submit questions in writing for the record, and I encourage you to answer those expeditiously so we can continue to move forward.

With that and without objection, this hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 2:58 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

## Additional Material Submitted for the Record

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO AMBASSADOR LUIS ARREAGA BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

*Question 1.* What are the most important actions you have taken in your career to date to promote human rights and democracy? What has been the impact of your actions?

Answer. During 1994–1998, I was responsible for the Africa humanitarian assistance portfolio at the Department. In this capacity I managed our relationship in Geneva with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, at a time when these institutions were grappling with the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide. I worked to ensure that the hundreds of millions of dollars of U.S. Government funding to these institutions was directed to the most vulnerable populations in Rwanda (mostly internally displaced persons and the prison population) and surrounding countries (refugees from Rwanda). My engagement contributed to the protection of human rights for the most vulnerable populations in the Great Lakes region of Africa.

Beginning in 2013, I have overseen the design and implementation of the Department's INCLE-funded programs in the Western Hemisphere. These programs encompass a range of activities (training, equipping, mentoring, and policy reforms) aimed at strengthening justice systems. We have placed particular emphasis on programs that protect vulnerable and historically marginalized groups (women, LGBTI persons, journalists, human rights defenders, and children). We have seen the positive impact of these programs, particularly in Central America, where special task forces are investigating emblematic cases, and where the law enforcement authorities are trained to investigate and prosecute crimes against vulnerable groups.

*Question 2.* What are the most pressing human rights concerns in the Republic of Guatemala today? What are the most important steps you expect to take—if confirmed—to advance human rights and democracy in the Republic of Guatemala? What do you hope to accomplish through these actions?

Answer. As Secretary Tillerson said before this committee, our mission is at all times guided by our longstanding values of freedom, democracy, individual liberty, and human dignity. Our foreign policy is motivated by the conviction that the more we engage with other nations on issues of security and prosperity, the greater our opportunities to shape the human rights conditions in those nations. The United States remains committed to advancing the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons. Dignity and equality for all are among the fundamental principles, which guide U.S. diplomacy.

If confirmed, I will uphold these principles and continue to support the work of the U.N. Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) and the Guatemalan Public Ministry to combat impunity.

If confirmed, I will also encourage CICIG to do more to transfer capacity to the Attorney General's office and other justice sector entities to strengthen their ability to prosecute human rights abusers. If confirmed, I look forward to continuing our commitment to addressing the most pressing human rights concerns in Guatemala.

*Question 3.* If confirmed, what are the potential obstacles to addressing the specific human rights issues you have identified in your previous response? What challenges will you face in the Republic of Guatemala in advancing human rights, civil society and democracy in general?

Answer. Lack of transparency, corruption, weak institutions, and high impunity rates pose significant obstacles to advancing human rights, civil society and democracy in Guatemala. The United States Government has partnered with like-minded leaders in Guatemala to address these issues. If confirmed, I will continue to support the work of CICIG and the Guatemalan Public Ministry to combat impunity and corruption, while supporting the transfer of capacity to the Attorney General's office and other justice sector entities, which will be better positioned to address human rights violations as a result. Robust vetting programs, done with the assistance of the U.S. Government and CICIG, have begun to remove bad actors from historically closed institutions like the police, corrections, and court systems.

If confirmed, I will continue to support these leaders and the reforms they propose, which will ultimately lead to substantial improvements in human rights protections within Guatemala. I welcome the progress that has been made by CICIG to investigate and prosecute individuals engaged in criminal activities.

If confirmed, I will continue to voice support publicly and privately for CICIG, the Public Ministry, and the Attorney General's office and other justice sector entities. If confirmed, I will also continue to support USAID's long-term National Institution Strengthening project to assist the Government of Guatemala in improving tax administration and public financial management of key institutions responsible for the planning, processing and execution of the national budget. Through a combination of these projects USAID supports the Guatemalan Government's efforts to be more responsive to its citizenry and increase investment in key areas such as health and education.

*Question 4.* Are you committed to meeting with human rights, civil society and other non-governmental organizations in the U.S. and with local human rights NGOs from the Republic of Guatemala?

Answer. Yes; if confirmed, I am committed to meeting with human rights, civil society, and other non-governmental organizations in the U.S. and with local human rights NGOs from the Republic of Guatemala.

*Question 5.* If confirmed, what steps will you take to pro-actively support the Leahy Law and similar efforts, and ensure that provisions of U.S. security assistance and security cooperation activities reinforce human rights?

Answer. If confirmed, we will continue to thoroughly vet all individuals and units nominated to participate in U.S.-funded security assistance activities, in accordance with the Leahy law. If we find credible information of a gross violation of human rights, we will take the necessary steps in accordance with the law and Department policy, including working to ensure the responsible parties do not participate in U.S.-funded training and will assist the Guatemalan Government to bring them to justice.

*Question 6.* Will you and your embassy team actively engage with Guatemalan Government officials to address cases of key political prisoners or persons otherwise unjustly targeted?

Answer. Yes; if confirmed, my embassy team and I will actively engage with Guatemalan Government officials to address cases of key political prisoners or persons otherwise unjustly targeted.

*Question 7.* Will you engage with Guatemalan Government officials on matters of human rights, civil rights and governance as part of your bilateral mission?

Answer. Yes; if confirmed I will engage with Guatemalan Government officials on matters of human rights, civil rights, and governance as part of my bilateral mission.

*Question 8.* Do you commit to bring to the committee's attention (and the State Department Inspector General) any change in policy or U.S. actions that you suspect may be influenced by any of the President's business or financial interests, or the business or financial interests of any senior White House staff?

Answer. I commit to comply with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

*Question 9.* Do you commit to inform the committee if you have any reason to suspect that a foreign government, head of state, or foreign-controlled entity is taking any action in order to benefit any of the President's business or financial interests, or the interests of senior White House staff?

Answer. I commit to comply with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

*Question 10.* Do you or do any members of your immediate family have any financial interests in the Republic of Guatemala?

Answer. Neither I, nor any member of my immediate family (spouse, children or their families), have any financial interests in Guatemala.

*Question 11.* Research from private industry demonstrates that, when managed well, diversity makes business teams better both in terms of creativity and in terms of productivity. What will you do to promote, mentor and support your staff that come from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented groups in the Foreign Service?

Answer. A diverse and inclusive team is the type of team that, if confirmed, I will aim to foster. If confirmed, I will ensure the U.S. Mission in Guatemala continually strives to promote equal opportunity for our officers, including women and those from historically marginalized groups.

*Question 12.* What steps will you take to ensure each of the supervisors at the Embassy are fostering an environment that's diverse and inclusive?



Answer. If confirmed, under my leadership, the Embassy will reflect our whole-of-mission commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion. I will make certain each of the supervisors at the Embassy has the opportunity to receive proper formal training and regular guidance to ensure they are helping to foster a work environment that is diverse and inclusive.

*Question 13.* The administration's FY 2018 budget request to Congress includes a 39 percent cut in foreign assistance to the three countries of Central America's "Northern Triangle"—El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Currently, U.S. assistance to those countries supports the "U.S. Strategy for Engagement in Central America," a plan initiated in FY 2016 to address the root causes of irregular migration and related humanitarian challenges. If the USG cuts these violence-prevention, economic development, community policing, and criminal justice reform efforts, what is the risk that violence and insecurity will worsen and exacerbate migration and humanitarian challenges?

Answer. The United States will continue to play a strong role in Guatemala, and in Central America overall to promote prosperity, governance, and security. Between FY 2015–17, the United States provided almost \$2 billion in assistance to Central America. These resources, combined with the \$460 million Central America request for FY 2018, emphasize continued U.S. commitment to reducing insecurity and violence, enhancing the business climate, and promoting improved governance. To complement U.S. assistance efforts and ensure long-term sustainability, we are also encouraging increased private sector investment in the Northern Triangle countries and seeking to mobilize additional support from other partner nations and global financial institutions.

If confirmed, I will use the full range of tools available to me as Ambassador to advance U.S. priorities with Guatemala. We are also encouraged by the 23 percent increase in the Guatemalan Government's 2017 budget for Alliance for Prosperity (A4P) activities (\$83 million total), compared to 2016.

*Question 14.* One of the main elements of current efforts to strengthen the rule of law and combat impunity in Guatemala is the need to improve the capacity and independence of the judicial sector, which has been vulnerable to interference from powerful sectors and internal corruption. What is the administration's strategy to support efforts to strengthen Guatemala's judicial sector, ensure judicial independence, and rid justice institutions of corruption?

Answer. The administration is committed to expanding good governance through transparency and anti-corruption programs, and support for the work of CICIG, the Guatemalan Public Ministry, and the Attorney General's office.

*Question 15.* If confirmed as the next U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala, how would you address these issues?

Answer. If confirmed, I would continue to support our ongoing efforts to improve the capacity and independence of the judicial sector and seek to rid these institutions of internal corruption. If confirmed, I would also continue to support the work of CICIG, the Guatemalan Public Ministry, and the Attorney General's office to combat impunity.

If confirmed, I would also support ongoing joint efforts between USAID, the Guatemalan Government, and civil society organizations to achieve greater security and justice for Guatemalans, and work with these partners to strengthen institutions, including through 24-Hour Courts and the High Impact Court model, as well as courts dedicated to responding to the high incidence of gender-based violence cases. U.S. assistance to the police academy, to investigators, to prosecutors, and to judges, is giving Guatemalans the tools they need to reduce impunity and bring about long-term institutional change.

*Question 16.* If confirmed, will you prioritize continued support for the important work of the CICIG and the Attorney General's Office in tackling corruption and impunity?

Answer. Yes; if confirmed, I will prioritize continued support for the important work of the CICIG and the Attorney General's Office in tackling corruption and impunity.

*Question 17.* Guatemala still has one of the lowest levels of tax revenue in the world, limiting the state's capacity to provide basic services, improve economic conditions, and increase citizen security. At the same time, several recent high-profile corruption cases have implicated members of the private sector in bribery and other illicit activities. If confirmed as the next U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala, what will the administration do to encourage the Guatemalan Government to strengthen the tax code and improve tax collection?

Answer. During the June 15–16 Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America, the Northern Triangle governments committed to pursue reforms to improve their business climates, including eliminating red tape, improving transparency, and streamlining business formalization processes. They agreed to maintain macroeconomic stability and to fund their development, including ongoing efforts to raise revenues efficiently while improving the investment climate. These changes will help companies, including U.S. firms, expand their businesses in the Northern Triangle markets. Through USAID, we are also working to help modernize and promote transparency in institutions through our work with the Ministry of Finance, support reforms at the Tax and Customs Agency (SAT), and help the Morales administration reach its target of increasing tax revenues by 3 percent of GDP. The Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) provides training, equipment and a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) customs advisor to SAT, and Treasury's Office of Technical Assistance has supported several advisors in Guatemala to improve tax collection and other issues. These efforts have demonstrated progress. SAT collected a total of 7.5 billion in taxes, exceeding its annual target by 33 million.

If confirmed, I will continue to engage with the Guatemalan Government on ways to increase tax revenues, expand the tax base, and make it easier for companies to pay taxes, while continuing to root out corruption at all levels.

*Question 18.* How would you ensure that U.S. assistance is not benefiting businesses or individuals implicated in corruption scandals?

Answer. Thorough vetting is an essential component of U.S. assistance programs. We do not provide assistance to businesses or individuals implicated in corruption scandals. U.S. assistance is not used for direct budgetary support to the Guatemalan Government. INL vets government units prior to providing assistance, training, or information, and assists the Attorney General and police with vetting before special units are established. If confirmed, I stand ready to adjust our programming to prevent assistance from reaching corrupt individuals and to ensure that we continue to administer programs directly with implementing partners.

---

RESPONSES TO AN ADDITIONAL QUESTION FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO AMBASSADOR LUIS ARREAGA BY SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ

*Question 1.* As you know, the United States recently lost a dispute settlement case against Guatemala regarding the country's enforcement of labor provisions of the CAFTA-DR trade agreement. Despite accepting that Guatemala had failed to protect its workers and enforce its own labor laws, the arbitral panel decided that these actions did not constitute a violation of CAFTA-DR. Now that we appear to have lost the leverage provided by the agreement, what will you do to ensure that the Guatemalan Government addresses these longstanding labor abuses?

Answer. If confirmed, I intend to continue working with the Guatemalan Government to ensure effective of its labor laws, modernize labor commitments, and advance labor and related political rights in Guatemala. Ongoing U.S. Government-funded programs are helping to strengthen the capacity of worker organizations to advocate for internationally recognized worker rights. I support the Guatemalan Government's commitment to strengthening national labor reform efforts and meeting job creation goals under the Plan of the Alliance for Prosperity and, if confirmed, will ensure these commitments are aligned with respect for labor rights.

---

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD  
SUBMITTED TO SHARON DAY BY SENATOR BOB CORKER

*Question 1.* Are you concerned that the judicial persecution of American citizen Ann Patton—who may be subjected to a fourth trial after two acquittals—is based on a defect in criminal procedure that unintentionally vitiates double jeopardy protections under Costa Rican law?

Answer. If confirmed, I will prioritize the safety, security, and protection of the legal rights of U.S. citizen visitors and residents, which includes retirees, veterans, students, and tourists. I will lead the Embassy in working with the Costa Rican Government to carry out this mission and to strengthen the bilateral relationship. The Costa Rican legal system, like that of many other countries, does not have the same double jeopardy protections provided under U.S. law.



*Question 2.* Should U.S. citizens seeking investment and retirement opportunities abroad be concerned that they will face arbitrary and ceaseless prosecution, even after they have been acquitted?

Answer. Costa Rica is an attractive destination for U.S. citizens seeking to invest or retire. An estimated 100,000 private U.S. citizens reside in the country, many of whom reside without legal resident status. A significant number are retirees and veterans. Costa Rica actively courts foreign direct investment, placing a high priority on attracting and retaining high-quality foreign investment. U.S. products and services have a favorable reputation in Costa Rica and U.S. companies continue to be interested in entering the market. Many companies have operations providing back office services in Costa Rica, and the medical device manufacturing sector has substantial U.S. investment. However, I understand that some concerns facing Costa Rica remain, including infrastructure, navigating bureaucracy, intellectual property enforcement, corruption, real legal property rights enforcement, electricity prices, and liberalization of key sectors. If confirmed, I will continue the strong bilateral relationship between our two countries and build on the efforts to continue to address these challenges.

---

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD  
SUBMITTED TO SHARON DAY BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

*Question 1.* What are the most important actions you have taken in your career to date to promote human rights and democracy? What has been the impact of your actions?

Answer. I have spent many years promoting the importance of voting and helping individuals register to vote, monitoring voting locations, promoting Election Day voting, early voting, absentee voting and driving voters to the polls. I have educated, empowered, and encouraged women candidates to run for elected office. I have proudly shared across our country, as well as in foreign countries, America's proud principles of democracy, freedom and liberty.

In 2000, I was responsible for coordinating volunteers to prepare for an election recount in my county and a neighboring county. Additionally, I served as a witness for each of the various media recounts. After the 2000 election, I was asked by Governor Jeb Bush to serve on Florida's Committee for Election Reform, a committee that was tasked to look at every aspect of the voting system in Florida.

I believe, Human Rights are something you live every day—it is the way you live your life not just in a moment, but every day and with every action. It is the actions you take and the beliefs that you serve that every individual should live in freedom and have an equal opportunity. This my belief and it is how I live my life.

I am someone who believes every child deserves the best education no matter their economic status or their zip code. I have stated this belief loudly and often. I believe that without an education a child cannot achieve their American dream and if every child does not fulfill his or her American dream, America cannot live up to our American dream.

I was elected to serve as president of a women's club back in the mid-1990s, and part of the function of the club was community service. Before I was elected, community service consisted of buying a book for a library—usually for a school that didn't need it, to be honest. I created, and along with my board members' support, we initiated a book gifting program, a backpack program and a mentoring program for the students at an underserved school in Broward County. It was a "D" rated school (which became an A rated school in a few short years) whose students included, I believe at the time, 83 percent subsidized breakfast and lunches, some children that were homeless and majority made up of minority students. We adopted this school with our actions and our hearts. We developed a three stage program. First, we acquired books that were appropriate for K through second grade students. On the last week of school we hosted an end of school party with cookies and punch, and each class was brought to the library where they selected a book, wrote their name in it and kept it as their own. On a personal note, as hard as it may be to believe, many of the students had never owned their own book. Second, at the beginning of the next school year we provided a backpack for every student in K-2 with all the school supplies they would need for the year. Third, club members signed up to mentor children that needed help. Those three things happened for the four years that I served as President, and I am very proud to say the club still supports this wonderful elementary school even adding additional support not just for the students, but also for the teachers with grants to help advance their success too.

In 1961, Hurricane Carla hit the Texas coast and many of my fellow Texans from Houston and the coast were forced to evacuate to my home of San Antonio. I spent the entire night and next day and night in my school cafeteria offering warm clothes and blankets, helping to make sure people had a hot meal, helping children settle in, setting up cots and trying to soothe and play with the children who had been displaced and were scared. We all do these things to help people in need, and to play with the children was easy for me and not a problem at all, as I was only 11 years old. I did not come home from school that day as they were setting up things nor the next two days until my mother and father insisted that I come home to rest. It was an event that still vividly lives in my memory today of time when I was able to help others who were so much in need and so scared.

*Question 2.* What are the most pressing human rights concerns in the Republic of Costa Rica today? What are the most important steps you expect to take—if confirmed—to advance human rights and democracy in the Republic of Costa Rica? What do you hope to accomplish through these actions?

*Answer.* Some of the human rights concerns that Costa Rica faces are trafficking in persons, conditions in overcrowded prisons, and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Trafficking in persons is not just a crime against the person, but a crime against a society. Costa Rica shares our same concerns and is working to continue progress in this area. While I commend Costa Rica for its efforts in the fight against trafficking in persons, as demonstrated by its Tier 2 ranking in the Department's 2017 Trafficking in Persons report, I will, if confirmed, encourage Costa Rica to intensify efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenses, convict and punish traffickers, and improve victim identification, referral, and assistance.

If confirmed, I will make it a priority to lead with a passion and intensity to explore avenues in which the United States can help Costa Rica fight against the scourge of human trafficking and continue our efforts to encourage Costa Rica to seek a legal definition of trafficking consistent with international law.

If confirmed, I will continue to work with the Government of Costa Rica and encourage the continuation of bilateral programs that will assist in advancing the protection of human rights. For example, the United States is providing technical assistance to Costa Rica to improve prison conditions, including in management and security, and increase the country's capacity to address gender-based violence. The Department advances reforms to Costa Rica's prison structure and facility operations including human rights training for the penitentiary police and a K-9 unit to reduce drug and cell phone smuggling into facilities. The Department also supports training focused on gender-based violence crimes, including an interagency training program for sexual assault response teams to develop the skills of medical professionals, social workers, police, prosecutors, and judges to support victims and understand the evidence in sex crimes. Materials donated in a successful pilot project have expanded access to medical care for victims.

*Question 3.* If confirmed, what are the potential obstacles to addressing the specific human rights issues you have identified in your previous response? What challenges will you face in the Republic of Costa Rica in advancing human rights, civil society and democracy in general?

*Answer.* President Solís prioritized anti-trafficking efforts and led a whole-of-government effort to focus on and invest resources in the fight against trafficking in persons. There is always the risk that future governments would not prioritize the fight against trafficking in persons, which could also present a challenge in advancing human rights, civil society and democracy in general.

In addition, the United States has provided anti-trafficking in persons training to law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges in the past, as well as technical assistance to Costa Rica to improve prison conditions, including in management and security, and increase the country's capacity to address gender-based violence. A significant change in this support may negatively impact Costa Rica's capacity.

*Question 4.* Are you committed to meeting with human rights, civil society and other non-governmental organizations in the U.S. and with local human rights NGOs from the Republic of Costa Rica?

*Answer.* Yes, if confirmed, I am committed to meeting with human rights, civil society, and other non-governmental organizations in the United States and with local human rights NGOs from the Republic of Costa Rica.

*Question 5.* If confirmed, what steps will you take to pro-actively support the Leahy Law and similar efforts, and ensure that provisions of U.S. security assistance and security cooperation activities reinforce human rights?

Answer. If confirmed, in accordance with the Leahy law, we will continue to vet all personnel and units nominated to participate in USG-funded security assistance activities. If we find credible information of a gross violation of human rights, we will work to assist the Costa Rican Government to take effective measures to bring the responsible parties to justice with the goal of creating a more accountable and professional security partner.

*Question 6.* Will you engage with Costa Rican Government officials on matters of human rights, civil rights and governance as part of your bilateral mission?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I will engage with Costa Rican Government officials on matters of human rights, civil rights, and governance as part of my bilateral mission.

*Question 7.* Do you commit to bring to the committee's attention (and the State Department Inspector General) any change in policy or U.S. actions that you suspect may be influenced by any of the President's business or financial interests, or the business or financial interests of any senior White House staff?

Answer. I commit to comply with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

*Question 8.* Do you commit to inform the committee if you have any reason to suspect that a foreign government, head of state, or foreign-controlled entity is taking any action in order to benefit any of the President's business or financial interests, or the interests of senior White House staff?

Answer. I commit to comply with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

*Question 9.* Do you or do any members of your immediate family have any financial interests in the Republic of Costa Rica?

Answer. No. Neither I, nor any member of my immediate family, have any financial interests in Costa Rica.

*Question 10.* Research from private industry demonstrates that, when managed well, diversity makes business teams better both in terms of creativity and in terms of productivity. What will you do to promote, mentor and support your staff that come from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented groups in the Foreign Service?

Answer. A diverse and inclusive team is the type of team that, if confirmed, I will strive to foster. If confirmed, I will ensure the U.S. Mission in Costa Rica continually strives to promote equal opportunity for our officers, including women and those from historically marginalized groups.

*Question 11.* What steps will you take to ensure each of the supervisors at the Embassy are fostering an environment that is diverse and inclusive?

Answer. If confirmed, under my leadership, the Embassy will reflect our whole-of-mission commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion. I will ensure each of the supervisors at the Embassy have the opportunity to receive proper formal training and regular guidance to ensure they are helping to foster a work environment that is diverse and inclusive.

---

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO KRISHNA URS BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

*Question 1.* What are the most important actions you have taken in your career to date to promote human rights and democracy? What has been the impact of your actions?

Answer. Over the course of 31 years in the Foreign Service, I have worked to promote human rights in many different contexts and countries. At one point in my career, I advocated for and prepared a statement issued by the Department of State calling for an end to spiraling political violence involving security forces and a specific political party in one country. In several countries, I worked with national and local governments to establish safe houses for victims of human trafficking and to step up awareness campaigns about trafficking in persons. At my urging, the U.S. Government ended all assistance to a national police force in one country in which I served due to our concerns about the use of extrajudicial killings as a crime prevention tactic. In several countries, I advocated public statements by the Embassy to highlight areas of eroding respect by foreign governments of democratic institutions and norms.

My actions in support of human rights over the course of my career produced concrete results. To provide just a few examples—our statement decrying spiraling political violence involving security forces resulted (at least temporarily) in fewer exchanges of gunfire involving the police. After we cut off assistance to the police in another country, the Government replaced the police chief (who had been linked to human rights abuses) with another official publicly committed to protecting human rights. Our statements in support of democracy served as encouragement to like-minded allies in the local society, helping to protect institutions and norms.

*Question 2.* What are the most pressing human rights concerns in the Republic of Peru today? What are the most important steps you expect to take—if confirmed—to advance human rights and democracy in the Republic of Peru? What do you hope to accomplish through these actions?

*Answer.* Our close relationship with Peru is built on shared interests and values, including the importance of human rights. Peru has made significant strides in support of human rights since the end of its 20 year internal conflict in 2000. Human rights challenges, however, persist in the areas of violence against women and children, trafficking in persons, and discrimination against Afro-Peruvians, Indigenous persons, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex (LGBTI) persons. Corruption enables an environment allowing these and other human rights challenges to exist.

If confirmed, I will use all the tools at my disposal to assist Peru in addressing its human rights challenges.

By working together to promote human rights, social inclusion, and poverty reduction, we can achieve a more prosperous, inclusive, and democratic future for Peru.

*Question 3.* If confirmed, what are the potential obstacles to addressing the specific human rights issues you have identified in your previous response? What challenges will you face in the Republic of Peru in advancing human rights, civil society and democracy in general?

*Answer.* The Peruvian Government has shown a commitment to address many human rights challenges. If confirmed, I will encourage the Peruvian Government to continue its efforts to improve social inclusion and respect for human rights, seek opportunities for public-private partnerships toward this end, and cooperate with non-governmental organizations to multiply the effect of our assistance.

I will work with Peru's Government to combat corruption, which can exacerbate social conflict, enable human rights abuses, and undermine confidence in government institutions.

If confirmed, one of the challenges I will face will be to help the Peruvian Government and civil society find new ways to include the country's historically marginalized communities in Peru's economic success story.

*Question 4.* Are you committed to meeting with human rights, civil society and other non-governmental organizations in the U.S. and with local human rights NGOs from the Republic of Peru?

*Answer.* Yes. Developing strong relationships with human rights advocates, civil society, and non-governmental organizations is one of the cornerstones of our partnership with the Peruvian people. If confirmed, I will continue the United States' longstanding practice of closely engaging Peruvian civil society to ensure I am fully attuned to Peru's human rights landscape. I will work closely with the Peruvian Government, civil society, and all relevant agencies of the U.S. Government to ensure every dollar of U.S. assistance is used wisely and in accordance with our human rights goals and the Leahy Law.

*Question 5.* If confirmed, what steps will you take to pro-actively support the Leahy Law and similar efforts, and ensure that provisions of U.S. security assistance and security cooperation activities reinforce human rights?

*Answer.* As a U.S. Government employee with 31 years standing, I am firmly committed to implementing all relevant U.S. laws and regulations, including the Leahy law, when fulfilling my duties. If confirmed, I will work to ensure no assistance is provided to foreign security force units where the Department has credible information that such units engaged in gross violations of human rights, in accordance with the Leahy law. I will also work to ensure the U.S. Mission in Peru works with the Government of Peru to help them take effective steps to bring those responsible for any violations of human rights to justice.

*Question 6.* Will you engage with Peruvian Government officials on matters of human rights, civil rights and governance as part of your bilateral mission?

*Answer.* Yes. If confirmed, I will engage the Peruvian Government and civil society on human rights, civil rights, and democratic governance. Peru has a critical

role to play in encouraging regional stability and is an important partner of the United States.

*Question 7.* Do you commit to bring to the committee's attention (and the State Department Inspector General) any change in policy or U.S. actions that you suspect may be influenced by any of the President's business or financial interests, or the business or financial interests of any senior White House staff?

Answer. I commit to comply with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

*Question 8.* Do you commit to inform the committee if you have any reason to suspect that a foreign government, head of state, or foreign-controlled entity is taking any action in order to benefit any of the President's business or financial interests, or the interests of senior White House staff?

Answer. I commit to comply with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

*Question 9.* Do you or do any members of your immediate family have any financial interests in the Republic of Peru?

Answer. No. Neither I, nor any members of my immediate family, have financial interests in the Republic of Peru.

*Question 10.* Research from private industry demonstrates that, when managed well, diversity makes business teams better both in terms of creativity and in terms of productivity. What will you do to promote, mentor and support your staff that come from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented groups in the Foreign Service?

Answer. I am a strong believer in the value of diverse teams in identifying, analyzing, and addressing issues and problems. Diversity helps prevent "groupthink," ensuring that issues get a thorough examination from all possible perspectives and making sure that all viable options are explored. If confirmed, I can assure you that I will take diversity into consideration in filling high level positions at the U.S. Mission in Lima, as I have done in past assignments. I am committed to mentoring for all staff members, but especially for those from diverse backgrounds and under-represented groups.

*Question 11.* What steps will you take to ensure each of the supervisors at the Embassy are fostering an environment that is diverse and inclusive?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with each member of my country team to ensure they are giving proper consideration to assembling a diverse and representative team. I will also ensure country team members understand their responsibility to provide mentoring and guidance to mid-level and junior members of their teams, with specific emphasis on diverse and under-represented groups.

*Question 12.* Earlier this year, Peru issued a new decree to establish a payment process to service longstanding debt related to agrarian reform bonds. Numerous U.S. firms and citizens hold an interest in these bonds, including several Maryland pension plans. If confirmed as the next U.S. Ambassador to Peru, will you commit to working with the Peruvian Government to achieve a final resolution of this issue? Will you work with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of the Treasury to ensure that they have accurate information about the amount owed on the bonds?

Answer. If confirmed as the next U.S. Ambassador to Peru, I look forward to learning the details of this complicated case. I fully commit to engaging with the Government of Peru to press for a fair and timely resolution of these complex issues. I understand the independent regulator with jurisdiction over Peru's U.S. law bonds, the Securities and Exchange Commission, has been asked for views on this case, and I will follow up. I will also engage Treasury for its views on the appropriate treatment of these particular domestic obligations in national economic statistics. I understand there is considerable debate on the appropriate valuation of these securities, the resolution of which could impact on the value of other U.S. investors' holdings of Peru's domestic and international debts, and I will press for a speedy resolution of the related methodological issues.

