

**Statement of Monde Muyangwa, Ph.D.**  
**Nominee for Assistant Administrator for Africa**  
**United States Agency for International Development**

Chairman Cardin, Ranking Member Hagerty, and members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you as President Biden's nominee for Assistant Administrator for Africa at the United States Agency for International Development. I am grateful for President Biden and Administrator Power's trust in me to serve in this position.

I would not be sitting before you today without the love, support, and sacrifice of my family in the United States and Zambia. I owe them a huge debt of gratitude. I would especially like to thank my husband, our family anchor and my biggest supporter, David Kaloustian; our daughter, Inonge; my mother, bo Namukulo Muyangwa; and my siblings, extended family, and network of friends and colleagues in both countries. I would also like to acknowledge two role models for their unwavering support and belief in me—my late father, bo Mbaale Muyangwa and late uncle, bo Simasiku Chimuka.

As a girl growing up in Zambia, I experienced USAID's work firsthand. To deter Zambia's support for the region's liberation and independence movements, the apartheid and minority regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia blockaded or destroyed landlocked Zambia's transport infrastructure, disrupting the economy and causing severe food shortages. Still, USAID found a way of getting critical food supplies to the population. I vividly remember the day trucks pulled into my boarding school to deliver bags of maize meal, emblazoned with the USAID logo. In addition, being from a region hit hard by HIV/AIDS, I have lost family members to the disease. Over the years, I have observed PEPFAR save millions of lives. USAID's mission resonates deeply with me on a personal level.

Professionally, I have spent the last 24 years working to advance U.S. -Africa relations, focusing on the issues at the heart of USAID's mission: security, development, and governance. I spent three years at the National Summit on Africa, engaging Americans across the country about why Africa matters to the United States and developing policy recommendations for stronger U.S. - Africa relations. I then spent 13 years at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies at the Department of Defense, building African capacities and partnerships to prevent and address conflict, violent extremism, and fragility and enhance good governance and the rule of law. For the last eight years at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, I have led the organization's work analyzing and developing policy options for addressing key issues in U.S. - Africa relations in the economic, governance, and security realms. If confirmed, I vow to bring this substantive leadership experience and longstanding commitment to working in a bipartisan manner to bear on the USAID mission and the Africa Bureau's work.

Today, USAID's mission is more important than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic has overwhelmed fragile health systems, caused tremendous loss of life, erased several years of development gains, and thrown millions of Africans into poverty. Insecurity, violent extremism, and conflict in the Horn of Africa, the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin, Central Africa, and northern

Mozambique have killed thousands and displaced millions more, resulting in humanitarian crises compounded by climate change. Furthermore, the continent is witnessing a rapidly evolving democracy landscape and the increased role of international actors, especially China and Russia.

While the narrative about Africa is too often dominated by its challenges, the Africa that I know is also characterized by resilience, transformation, and promise, as partially evidenced by African innovations to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic, expanding tech hubs, and the people fighting to safeguard democracy. These and other developments have reinforced my belief that Africa's people, particularly its youth, are the continent's greatest resource.

Therefore, if confirmed, I commit to working with you to engage with Africa's challenges and opportunities and balance the agency's life-saving work with investments in development. Specifically, I would focus on four priorities: **First**, solidify and expand our economic engagement to recover the gains lost to the COVID pandemic and humanitarian crises, and foster investments to help put the continent back on an upward development trajectory. **Second**, address the key factors that hinder development, including climate change, democratic backsliding, and fragility. **Third**, consolidate, develop, and expand strategic partnerships with African and other countries, the private sector, and civil society in order to amplify the pace and impact of desired development outcomes. **Fourth**—and the overarching goal—lead and manage the Africa Bureau's people, programs, and financial resources in a way that both supports the well-being and security of staff and ensures that the resources entrusted to us by the American people are managed effectively, efficiently, and with accountability.

I have long appreciated the bipartisan support for Africa in Congress. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you and others in Congress to continue to strengthen U.S.-Africa relations.

Thank you for your consideration.