

**STATEMENT OF MARK C. STORELLA
UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO ZAMBIA
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

It is a privilege to appear before you today as the President's nominee to serve as the United States' Ambassador to the Republic of Zambia. I am honored by the confidence that President Obama and Secretary Clinton have placed in me.

Throughout my 26 years of government service, I have tackled many of the same challenges and opportunities the United States will face in Zambia. As Deputy Permanent Representative at the U.S. Mission to the UN in Geneva, I led our mission's collaboration with international agencies on global health, including the 2009 H1N1 pandemic influenza. As Deputy Chief of Mission in Phnom Penh, I advanced cooperation with Cambodia to combat HIV/AIDS and worked closely with USAID and other donors on economic development. As Senior Coordinator for Iraqi Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, I have helped administer hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. humanitarian assistance to promote durable solutions for conflict victims. Throughout my career, I have been dedicated to fostering freedom. Prior to my current position in Baghdad, I led our efforts to work in international fora to promote human rights as Chargé d'Affaires in Geneva.

Zambia has a justifiable reputation for peace and stability and a record of commitment to multiparty democracy. If confirmed, I will work to strengthen our partnership to amplify these positive traits.

One of Zambia's greatest challenges is the crippling burden of disease, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. Over 14 percent of Zambians are HIV positive, many co-infected with tuberculosis. In partnership with Zambia, the United States invests extensively in health assistance programs, including treatment, care, and prevention of HIV transmission services through a substantial PEPFAR program. If confirmed, I will implement aggressively our assistance programs and ensure American taxpayers' funds are spent wisely and effectively.

A Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact with Zambia is under consideration and would provide a needed boost to Zambia's development. To remain eligible, Zambia must continue to meet the MCA indicators – in particular,

control of corruption. If confirmed, I will champion anti-corruption efforts and work with the Zambian government to reinforce its own anti-corruption stance.

Zambia is now preparing for 2011 national and parliamentary elections. Zambian elections have been generally peaceful and credible. Yet, recent regional by-elections were marked by violence and allegations of abuse of government resources, raising concerns about the freedom and fairness of the 2011 vote. If confirmed, I will vocally advocate an open, robust dialogue among political parties, media, and civil society and strongly encourage the Zambian government to include all of its people in deciding the future of its democratic institutions.

If confirmed, I will also serve as the United States' Special Representative to the region's economic group, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), which is based in Lusaka. I look forward to working with COMESA's leadership to support their efforts to promote intra-African trade, remove trade impediments and secure favorable conditions for long-term investment, development, and diversification of trade in the COMESA region.

My experience in service to our nation has convinced me of the importance of American engagement in the world. Effective partnerships require respect as well as candor. If confirmed, I will work with the Zambian government and the Zambian people to deepen our relationship and promote regional stability. It would be my privilege to lead Embassy Lusaka as we strengthen this partnership.

I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am happy to address any questions.