

**TESTIMONY OF BROOKE D. ANDERSON**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**  
**February 2, 2010**

Mr. Chairman and other distinguished Members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

I am deeply honored to be President Obama's nominee for Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs at the United Nations. I am grateful to the President, to Secretary Clinton and to Ambassador Rice for this opportunity.

In 1953, President Eisenhower said "With all the defects, with all the failures that we can check up against it, the U.N. still represents man's best-organized hope to substitute the conference table for the battlefield."

The qualities that made the United Nations essential in President Eisenhower's time have been magnified in our time. The number of transnational threats we face, the seriousness of these threats, and the number of countries whose cooperation we need to address them are all expanding. The spread of nuclear weapons. The rise of global terrorist groups. Environmental threats that endanger our air, water and soil. Infectious disease and pandemics. The lawless chaos of failed states. These are not challenges that can be addressed by any one nation acting alone; they require the concerted actions of many.

This increases the value and relevance of the United Nations, which after 65 years, still performs the indispensable daily miracle of bringing the whole world together in the same place at the same time. Of course, gathering nations together is not enough. And there are some days when it doesn't even seem like the best approach -- one hundred and ninety-two countries, each with its disparate national interests, can make progress seem agonizingly slow. But progress, when it comes, leads to coalitions that give our goals and interests a global momentum that we could never generate alone.

That is why the United Nations is not the only instrument we use in addressing global challenges, but it is a crucial one. The United Nations can be a formidable vehicle for putting our values into action and mobilizing global coalitions against common threats and for translating those commitments into action -- for preventing the spread and use of nuclear weapons, advancing peace in war-torn lands, addressing grave poverty that challenges our common humanity, advancing human rights and rushing aid to victims of natural disasters as we are seeing today in Haiti.

Under Ambassador Rice, the United States Mission to the United Nations has strengthened America's leadership at the United Nations -- engaging on critical issues, building alliances and gaining agreement to take action against global threats.

After North Korea's nuclear test last May, the United States led in the Security Council to impose the toughest array of sanctions now in place on any country in the world today -- including asset freezes, financial sanctions, and a complete embargo on arms exports.

In September, President Obama convened a Security Council summit that adopted unanimously a resolution committing to bold, global actions to reduce nuclear dangers.

The U.S. Mission to the United Nations is also strengthening lifesaving UN peacekeeping operations – reviewing current missions for potential course corrections, improving plans for post-peacekeeping transition, seeking to better equip peacekeepers to protect civilians, including from sexual violence, and improving training, conduct and discipline in the missions. These are among the issues President Obama discussed directly with the leaders of top troop and police contributing countries at a meeting he convened at the United Nations last September.

If confirmed by the Senate, I will work to strengthen UN missions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, Haiti, the Democratic Republic of Congo and elsewhere. I will work to address the dangers posed by Iran and North Korea’s nuclear programs, and I will support efforts for security and peace in the Middle East.

Throughout, I will be mindful that we have two related goals at the United Nations: pursuing actions that will make us more secure and improving the United Nations itself by building the political will for reform and the operational capacity for effective action. That means standing firmly for America’s core values and America’s security and strengthening areas where the United Nations functions poorly or slowly, ensuring sound governance so our taxpayer’s money is spent wisely.

Mr. Chairman, I have more than 20 years experience working in the public policy arena -- serving as a staff member in the US House of Representatives, as an official at the U.S. Department of Energy, as a Senior Director on the National Security Council, as part of the leadership team at the nonprofit Nuclear Threat Initiative and now as chief of staff and counselor to Ambassador Rice at the United States Mission to the United Nations. These roles have given me the opportunity to work on a broad array of policy issues in every region of the world. If confirmed by the Senate, I will bring that perspective and experience to this new role.

My former boss, Senator Sam Nunn, frequently describes our security situation today as “a race between cooperation and catastrophe.” I share that view. And I believe that the cooperation that will avert catastrophe must be based on common interests and built through patient, sustained and determined diplomacy.

If confirmed by the Senate, I will be a strong advocate for American interests. I will never stop pressing for the cooperation that will make America and the world more secure.

I am deeply grateful to this committee for considering my nomination, and if confirmed, I look forward to working closely with the members and staff on these critical issues.