

**STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR NANCY POWELL
U.S. AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO INDIA
SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
DATE: FEBRUARY 7, 2012**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

I am honored to appear today as President Obama's nominee to be the Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of India and am grateful for the President's and Secretary Clinton's trust and confidence in me. I would like to thank the Committee for giving me the opportunity to appear before this esteemed body today. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with you to advance our strategic partnership with India.

I have had the pleasure of serving in India previously from 1992 through 1995 as Consul General in Kolkata and Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs in New Delhi. I thoroughly enjoyed my tour in India where I had the opportunity to observe the beginnings of India's dramatic economic transformation and to participate in the early efforts to expand our bilateral relations. Today I see an India that has revolutionized itself onto the global stage. India is becoming an economic powerhouse, having averaged seven percent annual economic growth over the last decade, lifting tens of millions of its citizens out of poverty. India will also be a leading security partner of the United States in the 21st century. The number and kinds of interactions between our two countries at all levels is

staggering in its breadth and depth. At its heart are the people-to-people links – students, businesses, and tourists along with the three million strong Indian-American community. At the government-to-government level, our relations are firmly grounded in a set of shared democratic values and an increasingly shared strategic vision of both the opportunities that can promote them as well as the threats that can undermine them.

If confirmed, I will be working with an inter-agency team at our embassy in New Delhi and the four consulates to advance a growing agenda that includes issues that are most vital to our national security and prosperity. Among our top priorities will be the following:

- **Bolstering trade and investment:** We have made unprecedented progress in expanding our economic relations with India. Our bilateral goods and services trade will top \$100 billion in 2012. This represents an astounding quadrupling of trade since 2000, moving India up from our 25th largest trading partner to our 12th. I look forward to working with a wide inter-agency team and with our Indian counterparts to reduce barriers, including through negotiation of a Bilateral Investment Treaty, and to expand the areas where we do business. I am eager to support the efforts to ensure full implementation of the Civil Nuclear Cooperation

Agreement, including ensuring a level playing field for American companies in the commercial applications of nuclear energy.

- The U.S. Mission in India actively seeks opportunities to keep and create jobs in America. In response to the President's National Export Initiative, the U.S. Mission promotes the export of U.S. products, services and technologies, supporting tens of thousands of jobs in the United States. India, with its population of 1.2 billion people and large and balanced consumer economy, represents a huge, fast growing market for U.S. manufactured goods, and our exports are growing at nearly over 17 percent a year. At this rate, exports from the United States to India are expected to nearly double in the five years from 2009 to 2014.
- Expanding our defense cooperation, which currently is at a cumulative all-time high: U.S. defense sales to India reached nearly \$8 billion last year and India holds more military exercises with the United States than any other country. As stated in the National Security Strategy, we see India as a net security provider in the Indo-Pacific region. As India continues to modernize its armed forces, there are additional opportunities for us to expand our cooperation across all the services and at all levels. I appreciate the Congress's support for expanding defense

ties, and note the report delivered to Congress in November on potential future defense cooperation with India.

- Enhancing our cooperation in international and multi-lateral fora:
Reflecting its growing importance, India is an increasingly active member of key international bodies, including its current tenure on the United Nations Security Council, its inclusion in the G-20, the East Asia Summit, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, and the World Trade Organization. In December, we held the first ever trilateral consultations with Japan, India, and the United States. Encouraging India's leadership and cooperation across the Asia Pacific will be a top priority. If confirmed, I look forward to expanding our consultations and collaboration, narrowing our differences on key multilateral issues, and working with the Government of India to advance international peace and security through common understandings and approaches to strengthening these bodies and the international community's ability to address the threats that face our world.
- Encouraging India's role in supporting peace and stability in the Indian Ocean region: India and the United States share a common interest in supporting continued efforts to establish a peaceful, prosperous, and democratic Indian Ocean region. Taking its cue from history, the New

Silk Road vision foresees a network of economic, transit, trade, and people-to-people connections across South and Central Asia that will embed Afghanistan more firmly into its neighborhood. India supports this vision and is a significant donor in Afghanistan and has taken steps to facilitate trade with Pakistan.

- Increasing cooperation on counter-terrorism and global threats: Terrorist groups like Lashkar-e-Tayibba pose a critical threat not only to our partners like India, but to U.S. strategic objectives in the region. If confirmed, I will work to expand the current level of consultation and coordination on key counter-terrorism exchanges, as well as advance our efforts to expand cooperation in the areas of non-proliferation and nuclear security. As National Intelligence Officer for South Asia, these were issues I dealt with firsthand.
- If confirmed, I will continue U.S. engagement with all Indians to advance human rights and freedoms that are constitutionally protected in both of our countries, and work with India to encourage democratic institutions in countries like Afghanistan.

If confirmed, I look forward to participating in and advancing the U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue, as well as the substantive exchanges on more than 20 distinct policy areas, including education, energy, agriculture, and development. I hope we

can use this framework to address issues of mutual concern and enhance collaboration to achieve concrete results that create additional opportunities for our two peoples and that eliminate threats to our two democracies.

I take seriously my role as Chief of Mission in the management of our government resources – the people, infrastructure, and programs that are committed to this relationship – and will work to ensure that they are protected and used creatively to enhance U.S. interests.

If confirmed, I will devote my energies and experience to enlarging and expanding our relations with India. I believe we can continue to convert our vision for a future of peace and prosperity based on our mutual democratic values into reality through expanded exchange, dialogue, and engagement at all levels of society and government. Thank you.