

STATEMENT OF ERIC T. SCHULTZ
UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO ZAMBIA
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

December 17, 2013

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 deeply honored by the confidence that President Obama and Secretary Kerry have placed in me. I am also grateful for the support of my wife Klaudia as well as that of my two sons, Alek and Adam, all of whom were able to join us today.

If confirmed, this will be an exciting time to return to Africa, a continent my family and I love very much, having served only a few years ago in Zambia's southern neighbor, Zimbabwe.

Zambia's economy has averaged better than six percent growth per year. If confirmed, one of my priorities as Ambassador would be to expand opportunities for U.S. companies as Zambia pushes in the near-term to a status as a middle income country. In particular, I am committed to increasing U.S. trade and investment with Zambia. U.S. business can play an important role in Zambia's economic future, and those businesses can prosper in the process -- doing well by

doing good. In all of my previous assignments, American businesses set an example of how to conduct business honestly, without corruption, and they brought jobs to local citizens.

I would be especially happy to represent the United States in a country with Zambia's record of peaceful and stable democratic traditions. Zambia lies at the heart of southern and central Africa, a country of stunning beauty that can and should be a model for the continent. For that to happen, Zambia needs to build even further on its democratic achievements. This has been a U.S. Government priority, and if I am confirmed, it will remain so. Although Zambia has a justifiable reputation for peace and stability and a record of commitment to multiparty democracy, over the past year, the United States has expressed increasing concern about human rights and the trajectory of good governance in Zambia. If confirmed, I will encourage Zambians to uphold the standards they have set for themselves on human rights and rule of law, recognizing that democratic principles are in Zambia's own interest, and central to U.S. policy.

If confirmed, I will work to strengthen our partnership to amplify the positive aspects of peace and security and encourage respect for the rights of all people and the institutions of a strong democracy. Zambia successfully conducted elections in September 2011 that were generally peaceful and credible and which resulted in the peaceful transition of power. Yet, recent regional by-elections have

been marked by violence and allegations of abuse of government resources, raising concerns about freedom and fairness. If confirmed, I will vocally advocate for an open, robust dialogue among political parties, media, and civil society in order to help strengthen Zambia's democratic institutions. In fact, promotion of democracy has been a part of my career from the beginning. In particular, I have worked to identify and promote development of new generations of leaders in the former Soviet Union and in Africa, and if confirmed, this will be among my first priorities in Zambia. A particular emphasis of mine will be supporting young leaders in the public sector, private sector and civil society through the President's Young African Leader's Initiative.

One of Zambia's greatest challenges is the crippling burden of disease, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. More than 12 percent of Zambians are HIV positive. In partnership with Zambia, the United States invests extensively in health assistance programs, including treatment, care, and prevention of HIV transmission as well as building the Zambian government's own capacity to address the healthcare needs of their citizens through a substantial PEPFAR program. Since the program's inception in 2004, the United States has contributed roughly \$2.25 billion to Zambia to help arrest and then reverse the pandemic's tide. Today over half a million Zambians are alive because of U.S. HIV/AIDS assistance. If confirmed, I will continue to constructively implement

our assistance programs, ensure American taxpayers' funds are spent wisely and effectively, and continue to work in partnership to increase ownership by the Zambian government of health care for all Zambians.

A Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact with Zambia focused on improving access to clean water and sanitation facilities in the capital city of Lusaka entered into force on November 15, 2013. Throughout the course of compact implementation, Zambia must continue to meet the Millennium Challenge Account indicators – in particular, adherence to standards of democracy and governance and respect for human rights for all Zambians, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, faith, or sexual orientation as well as vigilant implementation of sound fiscal policy. If confirmed, I will champion respect for rule of law and the liberties guaranteed by Zambia's constitution.

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 – all of which can help accelerate growth throughout the region and potentially benefit American companies who do business in the region.

I was most recently the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine, where I partnered with an exceptional Ambassador conducting a full and challenging bilateral relationship in a large and strategically important country. One of our top priorities was the security of the Mission, and if confirmed, I promise to make security, especially the safety of our employees, job one.

Prior to Kyiv, as Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, I led our complicated economic relationship with this key trading partner. Throughout my career, I have been dedicated to building economic ties with other countries and increasing American opportunities abroad, while at the same time upholding our fundamental principles, including ensuring the right of individuals to have governments that represent their interests.

Finally, as Deputy Chief of Mission in Harare, I worked tirelessly to support the Zimbabwean people's efforts to have a government that respected the right to freely express their opinions, assemble, and vote without fear of retribution.

I hope my experience in service to our nation has prepared me for this assignment so that if confirmed, I will be able to successfully represent the American people. My service has convinced me of the importance of American engagement in the world and strengthened my belief that effective partnerships require both respect and 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.