

**Opening Statement of Eric Meyer  
Nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the  
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
December 11, 2025**

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the United States Ambassador to Sri Lanka.

I am honored by this nomination and grateful to President Trump and Secretary Rubio for the trust and confidence they have shown in me. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this committee to advance U.S. foreign policy interests in Sri Lanka.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to my family—my wife, Karina, and our daughters, Amelia and Anika—for their unwavering support and optimism throughout our career in the Foreign Service. They are currently at our posting in Oslo and have met each of our moves, as well as my long absences, with endless love, resilience, and grace.

I am also profoundly grateful to my parents for their steadfast and enduring love, support, and guidance, which continue to inspire me every day.

It has been an honor and a privilege the last 24 years to serve alongside the men and women of the United States Foreign Service. Our most important duty is to protect U.S. citizens and U.S. interests abroad. If confirmed, my top priority will be to ensure the safety and security of all U.S. citizens in Sri Lanka.

First, I want to acknowledge the devastating impact of Cyclone Ditwah and the tragic loss of over 600 people, the hundreds more that remain missing, and the hundreds of thousands displaced. I should also highlight Embassy Colombo's efforts to support Sri Lanka during one of the largest and most challenging natural disasters it has faced.

The United States has committed \$2 million in urgent assistance and leveraged the United States' military's strategic airlift capabilities to support relief efforts. The U.S. response speaks to our strong and enduring partnership with Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka sits astride some of the world's busiest shipping lanes in the Indian Ocean, with U.S. Navy vessels and two-thirds of the world's seaborne crude oil regularly transiting its waters. Its strategic location makes it a focal point for U.S. efforts to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific and counter adversarial influences, including China's growing presence in the region. If confirmed, I will lead government and industry partners to promote and protect U.S. security and commercial interests in the Indian Ocean region. Safeguarding waterways and ports for trade, locking in commercial opportunities for U.S. companies, and supporting Sri Lanka's maritime and economic sovereignty are key aspects of my vision for enhancing our bilateral ties.

From the economic and political crises of 2022 to the recent natural disaster, Sri Lanka is a resilient country poised to become a regional economic leader. In the next year, for example, the Port of Colombo – recognized among the top 25 largest ports globally – stands to double its cargo handling capacity, highlighting the significant and strategic opportunities that lie in Sri Lanka's ports, logistics, and shipping sectors. If confirmed, I will continue to encourage the Government of Sri Lanka to adopt economic reforms that improve its business climate for U.S. companies and strengthen U.S.-Sri Lanka economic ties.

Sri Lanka's proximity to global maritime lanes also calls for close collaboration in promoting a secure Indo-Pacific region. Our defense and law enforcement partnerships are critical to addressing security challenges, including assisting in disaster relief, countering transnational crime and trafficking, enhancing maritime domain awareness, and safeguarding Sri Lanka's maritime sovereignty and port security. If confirmed, I will work to deepen our shared commitment to an open, secure, and prosperous Indo-

Pacific region and foster Sri Lanka's role as an emerging regional security partner.

If confirmed, I look forward to leading, developing, and empowering our talented interagency team to implement a foreign policy that makes America safer, stronger, and more prosperous. I also pledge to work closely with you to support our growing strategic partnership with Sri Lanka. I'm grateful to this committee for its consideration and I look forward to your questions. Thank you.