

Statement of Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
February 2, 2010

Thank you, Chairman and Members of the Committee.

I am honored to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to be Deputy Representative to the United Nations. I am grateful to President Obama for my nomination and to Secretary Clinton and Ambassador Rice for their confidence. Thank you, Chairman, for conducting this hearing during a very busy time.

If confirmed, I look forward to advancing America's interests at the United Nations at a time of unprecedented threats that go beyond traditional security challenges and a time of historic opportunities for the United States. As a career Foreign Service officer, I have dealt with many of the issues that come before the United Nations, including unresolved issues related to conflicts in the Balkans when I was Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs.

With an assignment on the National Security Council staff and two assignments to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations over the last ten years, most recently in my current assignment as Alternate Representative, I have helped shape our policies toward the United Nations and worked to promote our interests through that institution.

In 2001, for example, as the U.N. Security Council grappled with the horrors of the attacks on September 11, the United States worked with our allies and partners to persuade the United Nations to adopt measures to oblige governments to take the necessary legal and enforcement measures to criminalize terrorist acts. As a result of our continuing efforts, the Security Council also went on to adopt similar provisions to criminalize proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Council also established important peacekeeping missions in Liberia and Haiti, two countries with close ties to the United States. And today, at U.S. initiative and with U.S. support, the United Nations is leading civilian efforts in Afghanistan, working to stabilize Sudan and Somalia and implementing measures to improve conditions for women and children worldwide, and particularly during conflict.

Chairman, President Obama has stressed that the global nature of threats today cannot be adequately addressed by one nation alone. Working through the United Nations, the United States can bring the full weight of the international community to our foreign policy objectives. But American leadership is essential. If confirmed, I will seek to expand the number of capable and willing partners working with us at the United Nations and seek to unite them in common cause against our common challenges.

The President, Secretary Clinton and Ambassador Rice, have outlined four major priorities for our work at the United Nations: to prevent the spread and use of weapons of mass destruction; to maintain international peace and security, including through strengthening U.N. peacekeeping; to

address climate change; and to reduce poverty, fight disease and promote sustainable economic development. If confirmed, I will spare no effort to pursue achievement of these objectives.

Of the many challenges we face today, none is more serious than the threat of the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Building on President Obama's successful Security Council summit meeting on non-proliferation and disarmament last September and the unanimous adoption of Resolution 1887, in which Member States expressed their commitment to a world without nuclear weapons, we have renewed momentum to pursue our non-proliferation objectives at the United Nations. Existing Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea must be fully implemented, and we must continue to work with Council members to address this threat.

U.N. support for our efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq continue to be a priority. We must work to ensure that U.N. missions in these countries provide the necessary political, humanitarian and development support to local populations in a way that complements our objectives. Also, U.N. peacekeeping is in our national interest, as it enables us to leverage military and financial resources to resolve crises throughout the world. But the number of U.N. peacekeepers mandated by the Security Council has tripled in the last ten years and peacekeeping operations have become more complex. We must continue to advance reform of peacekeeping so that missions have achievable mandates, adequate resources to achieve their goals, and clear exit strategies.

There is no peace without justice, and our agenda must also include promoting accountability for genocide and crimes against humanity in Sudan and elsewhere. And we must address the growing problem of gender-based sexual violence during conflict. Last fall, Secretary Clinton led Security Council members in the adoption of broad measures to address conflict-related sexual violence. If confirmed, I will use all my skills and expertise to advance implementation of these measures and to promote respect for human rights.

Climate change is an issue that concerns all U.N. members. Our efforts to garner more support for the Copenhagen Accord will set the stage for further progress on this issue at the December meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change in Mexico. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which President Obama embraced as America's goals, set objectives to reduce poverty and disease, promote universal education and advance sustainable development. We are working with U.N. agencies to strengthen their effectiveness in assisting developing countries achieve these goals and hope to have a good story to tell when Member States assess progress on MDGs at a high-level meeting this September.

The United States has an interest in seeing the United Nations fulfill the principles of its Charter to promote peace, strengthen democracy and promote respect for human rights. To achieve this end, the United Nations must become a more effective and efficient body. If confirmed, I will continue to promote the principles of transparency and accountability within the U.N. system as well as budgetary discipline. I will also work to promote greater coherence of U.N. programs and initiatives.

Chairman, if confirmed, it will be my highest honor to advance our country's interests at the United Nations and I pledge to work closely with the members and staff of this committee on issues of importance to the United States.