

Statement of Rosemary DiCarlo
Nominee for Alternate Representative of the United States of America
for Special Political Affairs to the United Nations
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 18, 2008

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee.

I am honored to appear before you today as President Bush's nominee to be Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs to the United Nations. I am grateful to President Bush for my nomination and to Secretary Rice for her confidence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for convening 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 great flux in the international system, with unprecedented threats to peace and security that go beyond the traditional security challenges, and at a time of historic opportunities for the United States. As a career member of the Foreign Service, I have dealt with many of the issues that come before the United Nations. I served as Director of the Washington office of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in 2001, as the international community grappled with the horrors of the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11. The United Nations Security Council responded immediately to these attacks with the unanimous adoption of Resolution 1373, which criminalized terrorist acts by non-state actors, and obliged governments to take the necessary legal measures to prevent such acts. As Director for United Nations Affairs on the National Security Council staff, I contributed to the development of Resolution 1540, which criminalized proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and worked on a plan for reform of the United Nations that was deliberated at the 2005 World Summit.

If confirmed, I will help represent the United States at the United Nations Security Council. Many challenges face the Council, but none are more serious than preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Iran has ignored calls by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Security Council to suspend fully and verifiably all proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities, including enrichment-related activities. In response, the Security Council has adopted three binding resolutions placing Iran under sanctions unless it ceased uranium enrichment activities and

cooperated with the IAEA. The last, Resolution 1803, made clear that the Council would consider adoption of further appropriate measures should Iran fail to comply.

The United Nations has served an important role in combating terrorism, and the Administration is committed to strengthening the organization's ability to address this threat. Our mission to the United Nations is working to strengthen the effectiveness of the 1267 Committee, which imposes targeted sanctions on the Taliban, Usama Bin Laden and Al-Qaeda, and to intensify the efforts of the Counter Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate to develop the capacity of Members States to prevent terrorist acts.

Mr. Chairman, the Administration believes United Nations peacekeeping to be in our national interest. Through UN peacekeeping operations, the United States is able to leverage military and financial resources to resolve crises throughout the world. It deserves and receives our political and financial support as well as our close attention and oversight. Should I be confirmed, peacekeeping would be one of my major responsibilities. I would work with partners on the Council to achieve more effective peacekeeping operations that are appropriate for the circumstances in a given country and achievable within available resources. Given the growth of our contributions to peacekeeping, which have almost doubled in the last two years, I would work with others in the Administration to look seriously at possibilities for achieving savings in these operations.

The humanitarian crisis in Darfur remains of utmost concern and the Administration will continue to press for rapid deployment of the United Nations-African Union hybrid peacekeeping operation in Darfur. When fully deployed, this peacekeeping mission will be the largest of existing missions and will contribute to the protection of civilians in that troubled region. Finding an appropriate means to address the long-running political and humanitarian crisis in Somalia is another high priority.

A serious concern for the United States is sexual exploitation and abuse in UN peacekeeping missions. If confirmed, I will continue our efforts to ensure that the United Nations carefully monitors the behavior of UN peacekeepers and enforces its policy of zero tolerance regarding sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers.

There are many issues where the Security Council has played a vital role. The Council helped to stabilize the situation in Lebanon by calling for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and expanding the mandate of the existing United Nations peacekeeping mission to assist the Government of Lebanon in extending its control throughout Lebanese territory. We must, however, continue to press for full implementation of Council resolutions calling for all countries to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Lebanon, and to demand that Syria and Iran refrain from destabilizing the country.

If confirmed, I will seek opportunities to raise matters of great concern to the United States before the Security Council. The Security Council should continue to monitor the political situation and humanitarian crisis in Burma and actively support the Secretary General's efforts to engage the regime in a dialogue with the opposition. The Council should also press for peaceful, fair and free elections in Zimbabwe.

Mr. Chairman, working through the United Nations, the United States can bring the full weight of the international community to our foreign policy objectives. To be truly effective, the United Nations must be able to address the new threats to peace and security and to implement reforms aimed at strengthening this important body. American leadership is essential. If confirmed, I look forward to working with this Committee to advance our interests at the United Nations and to assist the international community in meeting these new challenges.