

July 17, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510-7020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510-7010

To the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders:

We write today regarding the nomination of Bathsheba Crocker to be Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs and specifically to urge you to act expeditiously on her nomination.* Ms. Crocker, whose nomination faces no known opposition in the Senate and was voted unanimously out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has nevertheless been waiting over 250 days for a confirmation vote.

While we understand that the Senate faces competing priorities and a tight legislative schedule this year, time is of the essence with regards to Ms. Crocker's confirmation. In September, the United States will assume the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council for one month, where it will undoubtedly face an agenda crowded with issues of importance to our national security. This will coincide with the opening of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly, when leaders from around the world will converge at UN Headquarters in New York to discuss an array of pressing development, global health, and security-related matters. Given the importance of these events, we believe it is all the more critical that Ms. Crocker be confirmed and in place in her new position as soon as possible.

As the senior diplomat responsible for coordinating U.S. policy and strategy across the broad spectrum of international organizations to which the U.S. belongs, the Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs plays an instrumental role in advancing and defending American interests and values on the world stage. From ensuring progress on our nation's UN reform agenda, to defending key U.S. allies like Israel at international fora, building multilateral support to counter Iran's nuclear ambitions, and addressing persistent insecurity and internecine conflict in countries like South Sudan and the Central African Republic, filling this position will allow the U.S. to better promote its priorities on a variety of issues. We firmly believe that Ms. Crocker, who has served in senior positions at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the UN, and the State Department, is eminently qualified to fulfill this role.

As a result, we urge you to hold a vote in the Senate on Ms. Crocker's nomination before the start of the August recess. Thank you for your continued leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Affiliations are for identification purposes only, and do not represent any institutional endorsement by the affiliated organizations.

Amb. Morton Abramowitz
The Century Foundation

Nazanin Ash
Former Dep. Asst. Secretary
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs

Nancy Birdsall
President, Center for Global Development

The Hon. Esther Brimmer
George Washington University, Former
Asst. Secretary for International
Organization Affairs

Christopher S. Chivvis
Senior Political Scientist, RAND
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Executive Vice President, Center for
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Amb. Paula J. Dobriansky
Former Under Secretary of State for Global
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of Law

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