

Questions for the Record
Submitted by Senator Richard Lugar
From the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
For Mr. Eli Whitney Debevoise, II
Nomination Hearing
March 13, 2007

1. If you are confirmed and should any Senate or House Committee call you to testify at a hearing, will you be willing to testify before that Committee?

Response:

Yes.

2. If confirmed and assuming concurrence by the next administration, will you be willing to serve your entire two-year term as United States Executive Director?

Response:

I fully intend to serve my entire two-year term, if confirmed. However, I understand that I would serve at the pleasure of the President.

3. Will you provide summaries of U.S. Executive Director statements on major policies and programs on the internet?

Response:

The Treasury Department currently publishes on its website a record of its votes on all multilateral development bank loans. In addition, consistent with the International Financial Institutions Act, the Treasury Department will publish on its website a statement or explanation of the position of the U.S. government on all operational policies of the World Bank and the position on any World Bank proposal that is likely to have a significant environmental impact.

4. What do you see as the top priorities for the U.S. Executive Director at the World Bank?

Response:

Priorities for the U.S. Executive Director are established in consultation with Treasury Department and the Administration. That said, it is my understanding that, within the overall context of promoting economic development and poverty reduction, improving the effectiveness and measuring the results of Bank assistance, increasing transparency and combating corruption are among the top ongoing priorities of the United States. If confirmed, I pledge my full efforts to achieve these and other priorities of the United States.

5. If confirmed, how would you further promote anti-corruption efforts at the World Bank?

Response:

President Wolfowitz has made fighting corruption a top—if not the highest—priority for the Bank. He has said that, “Corruption is a disease ... It’s a threat to development everywhere in the world.” If confirmed, I expect that fighting corruption and improving governance in the developing world will be one of the top U.S. priorities that I will advocate.

6. What is the role of the U.S. Executive Director in the IDA replenishment negotiations? What are the Administration’s priorities in the negotiations? Should the U.S. be funding a higher share of IDA?

Response:

It is my understanding that the U.S. Governor, the Secretary of Treasury, is responsible for heading the replenishment negotiations for IDA. I also understand that the U.S. Governor delegates responsibility for the replenishment negotiations to senior officials in Treasury International Affairs. If confirmed as U.S. Executive Director, I will work closely with Treasury to help advance the Administration’s priorities in the negotiations.

7. The World Bank’s Operations Evaluation Department issued a report entitled “Debt Relief for the Poorest.” What are the lessons learned in the report that should inform future debt relief actions?

Response:

Debt relief for the heavily indebted poorest countries is an essential part of supporting economic growth and poverty reduction. The United States was instrumental in securing agreement on the recent Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. If confirmed, I look forward to reviewing carefully the 2006 evaluation report on debt relief for the poorest countries, which I understand highlights the importance of an enhanced focus on debt sustainability.

8. As part of the Strategic Compact in 1997, the Board required reform of the World Bank’s policies for the selection and promotion of managers to promote greater accountability, but these reforms have reportedly not been maintained. Do you think reform of the World Bank’s human resources system is required? If yes, how so?

Response:

While I do not know the details of the situation, an effective human resources system with quality professional staff is critical to delivering development results. If confirmed, I will look into the status of reform within the Bank’s human resources system.

9. The World Bank Group’s Conflict Resolution System Working Group drafted a report entitled, “Enhancing the Conflict Resolution System,” which does not fully address the weaknesses identified in the Government Accountability Office’s

(GAO) 1999 report entitled World Bank: Status of Grievance Process Reform (GAO/NSIAD-99-96) and does not include the best practices proposed in the United Nation's Report of the Redesign Panel on the United Nations System of Administration of Justice. If confirmed, how would you address whistleblower protection issues and the proposed changes to the internal grievance process at the World Bank?

Response:

Conflict resolution systems for international organizations are extremely complex, particularly given the international immunities that these organizations are afforded. That said, I understand a good deal of progress has been made in a number of international organizations for devising systems that, among other things, protect whistleblowers, and I expect the World Bank to adopt best practices. If confirmed, I would work with my fellow Executive Directors to have the necessary set of updated policies implemented by the Management.