

REPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

UNITED STATES SENATE

SUBJECT: Ambassadorial Nomination: Certificate of
Demonstrated Competence -- Foreign Service
Act, Section 304(a)(4)

RELEASED IN FULL

POST: Gabonese Republic and Republic of Sao Tome & Principe

CANDIDATE: Cynthia H. Akuetteh

Cynthia H. Akuetteh, a career member of the Foreign Service, has wide-ranging experience in Africa as a two-time Deputy Chief of Mission and Peace Corps staff member. She has actively promoted good governance and anti-corruption. With her strong background working on energy issues, she will be well-placed to serve in Gabon, a major oil exporter. As a leader, she fosters collaboration within the mission and with the greater diplomatic community.

Ms. Akuetteh currently serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of African Affairs. Previously, she served as Director, Office of Europe, Middle East, and Africa in the Bureau of Energy Resources (2011-2012), Director, Office of Central African Affairs (2009-2011), Deputy Chief of Mission in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (2007-2009), Deputy Chief of Mission in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (2005-2007), Deputy Director, Office of Economic Policy, Bureau of African Affairs (2004-2005), and Deputy Division Chief and Economic Officer, Bureau of Economic Affairs (1999-2001). She has also served at U.S. missions in Canada, Niger, and Tanzania, as well in other assignments in Washington, including a detail to the office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Formerly, Ms. Akuetteh was Deputy Peace Corps Director in Ghana, Peace Corps Desk Officer in Washington, and Program Officer for two nongovernmental organizations.

Ms. Akuetteh earned a Masters of Arts degree from the National Defense University, pursued graduate studies at Columbia University, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from C.W. Post College of Long Island University. She speaks and reads French.

She is the recipient of an individual Superior Honor Award, four individual Meritorious Honor Awards, and a Senior Foreign Service Performance Award.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer