Thank you, Madam Chair.

Welcome to you both. Thank you for being here today. And congratulations,

Under Secretary Sherman, for your new role. We look

forward to working with you.

I wanted to start really talking about Iran. We hear reports

about increasing divisions. We see in the region the movements of

the Arab spring in different stages in different countries. The regime

has certainly repressed talk of any reforms there very well in

recent years. But what do you think is the viability for renewed democracy

movements in Iran, given movements elsewhere in the region?

And I want to start with Under Secretary Sherman.

Thank you.

And Under Secretary Cohen?

Then I will move on. Thank you.

Next, I want to turn to Syria, the U.S.-backed resolution calling

for an end to ongoing violence vetoed by China and Russia. Secretary

Rice, you know, led that effort vigorously. But I guess my

question is, what is our strategy moving forward? There has certainly

been progress made in building international consensus. And

I guess the question is, what are our next steps and what specifically

do we need to do to work with China and Russia to address

their concerns?

And specifically I wanted to ask about our strategy

dealing with Russia and China, addressing their concerns.

And Under Secretary Cohen?