Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First, Dr. Lute, let me thank you for your service and your commitment

to do everything you can to help the people in the Sudan.

I think you share our frustration. It’s been 5 years. And I ask

myself, on a regular basis, is there anything more I can do as a

Senator? And we’re all frustrated. The tragedies continue. And we

look at what we can do to be more effective.

Now, you have one responsibility. I appreciated that you started

your testimony by accepting responsibility for the role that you

play in trying to get the forces on the ground to provide the stability

and security in the Darfur region of Sudan so that humanitarian

assistance can be delivered and people can live without fear

of being killed. That’s one part of the problem. And, in that area,

we’re not getting the international cooperation we should. Too

many countries have not cooperated.

When you responded to Senator Menendez’s point about the 80

percent by the end of the year, you put, as you should, many ‘‘ifs.’’

Some of those ifs involve players that have been far from consistent,

including the Sudanese government. We don’t know what

their attitude will be tomorrow.

The difficulty we have is that it’s not just the stability on the

ground, it’s the peace process within Sudan, it’s the meddling of

Sudan’s neighbors, it’s a complicated situation.

So, my question to you is: Who is responsible here for the overall

strategy? The United Nations is the premier international organization.

We know that the leadership within the region is not capable

or willing to resolve the problems, and it involves the international

community. We’ve acknowledged that with the U.N. resolutions.

So, if you were the chairman of this committee, who would

you suggest that we bring in for briefings? Who can bring this all

together? As you make progress on one front, we lose ground on the

peace process, or we find that Chad’s getting involved here in a

very unconstructive way. So, who? Is it the President of the United

States? Who is the person who can bring the type of progress that

each one of us wants? We don’t want to continue to say that genocide

is continuing under our watch.

The problem is that a lot of the players you just

mentioned have very narrow views. There’s a power struggle,

there’s hatred, there’s all things that go on when people’s lives are

destroyed. Yes, they could do more. But what can the international

community do to stop the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan?

What can we do to end this? Our chairman, at one time, suggested

a more robust U.S. involvement, militarily, to stop the genocide. I

can’t think of a more appropriate use of military than to stop genocide.

So, what can we do?

And I would suggest one more thing we need—

and our chairman has really been out in front on this—is to keep

this issue before the public.

And I appreciate the fact that we have a large

group at this hearing. I think that’s reflective that the United

States, people of this Nation, are really concerned about what’s

happening. We cannot let countries and leaders and factions continue

to go unchallenged.

I’m frustrated. I would like to see us come up with creative new

ideas. I think that we’ve let a lot of deadlines go by without action.

To me, that just encourages the factions that want to cause problems

to continue to cause problems. I think we should have been

a lot firmer earlier. I am disappointed that the international com-

munity has not shown the same urgency that I think has been

demonstrated by your activities and by the activities of our country.

I am proud that America has really made this a priority. I think

we could have done a lot more. But, we certainly haven’t had the

help of the other countries with the same urgency that this circumstance

requires.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.