

Hon. Yleem D.S. Poblete, Ph.D.¹



Dr. Yleem D.S. Poblete is a seasoned professional with over three decades of experience in the foreign affairs and national security arena, primarily in U.S. government service, developing policy and spearheading efforts on virtually every regional and functional matter. She has held the highest levels of security clearances (reactivated in October 2024), including Special Access Program/Special Access Required.

A strategic thinker, problem-solver, and skilled negotiator, Yleem is an executive with a proven record of success in mission-driven settings, working with America's allies and partners, including at international forums, and with elected officials and private sector representatives to achieve desired results.

Dr. Poblete is called upon to provide expert testimony for national security-related cases in U.S. courts and strategic advice for various clients via the Poblete Analysis Group LLC. She and the PAG team have worked on U.S. government projects and continue to provide in-depth analysis and policy recommendations for clients and senior Members of Congress and their staff.

Her last government post was as Assistant Secretary of State for Verification and Compliance in the Trump administration, serving as the lead Presidential appointee for the United States on arms control, nonproliferation, and disarmament treaties and executive agreements, and the principal policy community representative with the interagency and intelligence community on verification and compliance. She led an expansive team of civilian, military, intelligence, technical, scientific, and policy experts in the Bureau; oversaw activities at two U.S. missions; reformed and managed programs to identify and fund the development of technologies and methods to enhance U.S. monitoring and detection capabilities; and leveraged U.S. leadership in the international organizations under her areas of jurisdiction to secure zero growth budgets, burden sharing, and reorient funding to technological advances in monitoring and verification. She led the diplomatic and interagency efforts for the U.S. withdrawal from the INF Treaty, leading to overwhelming support at NATO and the United Nations system, including at the UN First Committee (UNFC), where Russian countermeasures were resoundingly defeated.

Her tenure was marked with other notable successes for the U.S. in her areas of responsibility covering conventional, nuclear, radiological, chemical, and biological weapons, activities in the undersea and outer space domains, and diplomatic efforts concerning missile defense and strategic security and deterrence. Dr. Poblete developed and delivered the first public presentation at multilateral forums of Russian and Chinese threats in outer space, spearheaded efforts which served as the foundation for public U.S. intelligence and defense reports,

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diplomatic strategy supporting the implementation of the newly created Space Force, statements and actions from NATO and other partners/allies in support of U.S. efforts; and led inaugural bilateral space security and space traffic management dialogues. She secured further declassification of intelligence and briefed U.S. allies, turning votes to defeat Russian and Chinese measures at UN forums; bolstered the case on China's violations of the Biological Weapons Convention and returned its inclusion in the unclassified version of the Compliance Report to Congress released in 2019. In the aftermath of the poisoning of former Russian double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter with a military-grade nerve agent Novichok, Dr. Poblete spearheaded U.S. efforts and personally secured votes from key partners for the addition of the Novichok chemical families to the Schedule 1 Annex of the Chemical Weapons Convention. She secured the determination, after 20 years of USG efforts, of Iran's violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC); the first U.S. determination of Burma's violation of the CWC; the inclusion of Hemispheric commitment on chemical and biological weapons; and the inclusion of arms control, nonproliferation verification and compliance experts for the February 2020 inspection pursuant to Article VII of the Antarctic Treaty of 1959.

She served in the Senior Executive Service at the Department of State before her unanimous confirmation by the Senate; on the National Security Council Agency Action and Landing teams for the Trump 2016 presidential pre-transition and transition; and as an advisor to the National Security group of the Policy Implementation team for the Trump 2016 presidential transition.

As Chief of Staff and Staff Director of the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee, Dr. Poblete worked with Congressional leaders and committee members to develop the policy and oversight agenda and led the development, drafting, and negotiations on scores of consequential legislation across regions and issues, securing their enactment into law and their subsequent implementation. She managed a multi-million dollar annual Committee budget, reconfiguring accounts to maximize efficiency and impact with reduced funding. She returned unused Committee budget funds to the U.S. Treasury every year and implemented a policy requiring detailed documentation and specific policy outcomes for all oversight travel and return to the U.S. Treasury of unused funds. *National Journal* identified her as one of the "*14 Top Women on the Hill for 2011*" and one of only a handful of minorities in the House and Senate senior staff leadership.

During her tenure on the Committee, she also served as Republican Minority Chief of Staff and Staff Director; Staff Director of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia; Staff Director and Deputy Staff Director/Professional Staff Member, Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights; and as Professional Staff Member, Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade. While on the staff of the Subcommittee on Africa, she was a policy advisor to the Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere and the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Inter-American Terrorism Task Force.

Dr. Poblete has worked in academia, at think tanks, in the legal division and executive office of an international financial institution, and at the White House, Office of the Counsel to the President, in the George H.W. Bush administration.

She serves on the Board of Advisors of educational and foreign policy advocacy organizations, is a guest lecturer at academic institutions, and a presenter at foreign policy conferences and panel discussions. Dr. Poblete has been interviewed by the U.S. and foreign media on international developments and has been published in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The National Interest*, *The Hill*, *The Washington Times*, *The Times of Israel*, *World Affairs Journal*, among others.

Dr. Poblete pursued her education while working full-time. She earned a Ph.D. with dual regional concentrations in the Middle East and Western Hemisphere and functional focus on international political economy from The Catholic University of America. Her dissertation focused on: “*The Viability of Sanctions as Effective Foreign Policy Tools: The Cases of Iran and Syria.*” She pursued national security and government studies at Georgetown University; and as a recipient of the Albert Pick International Relations scholarship, earned a Master of Arts in International Relations (also with dual regional concentrations) and in Communications from the University of Miami (Florida). In less than two years, on full scholarship, Yleem earned a Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude, in International Relations from St. Thomas University (Miami, Florida).

Her high I.Q. led to her integration into the Gifted Program during her elementary and junior high school education and, combined with other criteria, her selection during her senior year of high school, for the Gifted and Leadership Externship Program of the Miami-Dade County Public School system to work in the major crimes division of the Dade County State Attorney’s Office.

She is a native Spanish speaker with professional proficiency and has basic competency in French.

Yleem and her husband Jason are members of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and Malta (Order of Malta) and are active in other faith-based and charitable organizations and activities.