THE U.S. AND
THE UN IN 2017

CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING BOOK
Dear Colleague:

The 115th Congress, with 59 new members of the House and Senate, takes office facing some of the most difficult domestic and international challenges in history. The Better World Campaign (BWC) and United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) have developed a briefing book to provide you with information on the critical work of the United Nations and how it benefits the United States. While much has changed in the world over the past two years, the UN remains a critical partner for the United States as it seeks to create a more secure, prosperous, just, and healthy world.

The UN is not a perfect institution, but it serves a near-perfect purpose: to promote global cooperation and address some of the world’s most pressing challenges that no single country can resolve alone. Among other things, the UN is a platform for multilateral efforts to counter terrorism, stem the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and, through peacekeeping missions, to maintain order in some of the world’s most dangerous places so U.S. forces don’t have to. The UN also plays a leadership role on a variety of other issues—providing lifesaving humanitarian aid to millions affected by conflict and natural disasters; promoting democratic governance, human rights, and efforts to increase economic development and reduce poverty around the world; and coordinating the global response to public health challenges. All of these activities help buttress core American interests and values, allowing our nation to share the responsibility of promoting global peace, stability, and development with the rest of the international community.

For these reasons, it is absolutely critical that the U.S. maintain its seat at the table by engaging constructively with the UN. That means paying our peacekeeping and regular budget dues on-time, in-full, and without preconditions. The American people understand this; in fact, year after year a bipartisan polling team has found that Americans overwhelmingly support a strong U.S.-UN partnership.

We hope that you find the enclosed briefings—which cover a variety of key aspects of the U.S.-UN relationship—helpful, and invite you to visit our websites at betterworldcampaign.org and unausa.org for additional information. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Peter Yeo
President
Better World Campaign

Chris Whatley
Executive Director
UNA-USA
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THE BETTER WORLD CAMPAIGN (BWC) works to foster a strong, effective relationship between the United States and the United Nations to promote core American interests and build a more secure, prosperous, and healthy world. BWC engages policymakers, the media, and the American public alike to increase awareness of the critical role played by the UN in world affairs and the importance of constructive U.S.-UN relations.

THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (UNA-USA) is a grassroots organization with 180 chapters and over 20,000 members nationwide devoted to strengthening the U.S.-UN relationship through public education and advocacy. For more than six decades, UNA-USA and its chapters and regions have stood at the forefront of building American support for the UN. Together, BWC and UNA-USA represent the single largest network of advocates and supporters of the UN in the world.
Each year, BWC and UNA-USA build support for U.S. policies that reinforce U.S. engagement in the United Nations and educate people about the real benefits the U.S. receives through our relationship with the UN. So that the UN can better address the transnational challenges of the 21st century, we are working with the Administration and Congress in 2017 to accomplish the following:

- **Ensure** payment of our nation’s UN regular budget and peacekeeping dues on time, in full, and without conditions;

- **Promote** greater U.S. assistance to UN peacekeeping operations to strengthen each mission’s capabilities in logistics, training, doctrine, and management expertise;

- **Spotlight** the value of UN specialized agencies in enhancing American interests and realize the restoration of funding for the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);

- **Further constructive engagement** on structural and management reforms at the UN and the continued implementation of ongoing reforms;

- **Encourage** continued U.S. participation in the UN Human Rights Council;

- **Advocate** for progress towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015;

- **Support** Senate ratification of key international agreements, including the Conventions on the Law of the Sea, the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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**ANTÓNIO GUTERRES**  
Secretary-General  
of the United Nations

**NIKKI HALEY**  
United States Ambassador  
to the United Nations
The VALUE OF THE UN
DELIVERING AROUND THE WORLD

Every day, the UN works to create a more secure, peaceful, and healthy world. Often with little fanfare or media attention, the UN does everything from providing humanitarian aid to the victims of war and natural disasters, to stabilizing conflict zones and helping prevent the collapse of fragile states, to promoting development and fighting poverty, to stemming the spread of infectious diseases. The UN’s work in these areas promotes American values and advances our nation’s core foreign policy, national security, global health, and economic interests. By working through the UN and sharing the financial burden with the international community, U.S. interests are advanced at a much lower cost than if we attempted to carry out these activities alone.

PROMOTING PEACE AND DEMOCRACY

• UN peacekeeping constitutes the largest deployed multinational military force in the world, with nearly 125,000 personnel deployed to 16 missions across four continents. UN peacekeepers work to stabilize countries torn apart by conflict, protecting civilians from violence, supporting disarmament and demobilization programs, training local police forces to uphold law and order, facilitating humanitarian assistance, and helping build stable governing institutions. These activities protect U.S. national security interests by helping to avert the collapse of fragile states, prevent civil wars from metastasizing into regional conflicts, reduce forced displacement and refugee outflows, and decrease the likelihood that dormant conflicts will flare up again. UN peacekeeping operations are a bargain for American taxpayers, found by the GAO to be eight times cheaper than U.S. forces acting alone. They are also an excellent example of burden-sharing: while the U.S., as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, has final say over the decision to deploy peacekeepers, it provides very few troops and police to UN missions. A range of other countries, including Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Italy, Nepal, Ghana, Jordan, and China, pick up the slack, collectively providing tens of thousands of uniformed personnel.

• The UN Development Program and UN peacekeeping missions support peaceful and democratic transitions of power by providing electoral assistance to an average of 67 countries every year. Recently, the UN has facilitated elections in Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia, Tunisia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Mali, and Haiti, helping millions of people exercise their democratic rights.

PROVIDING LIFESAVING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

• The world is facing its worst humanitarian crisis since the end of World War II: more than 65 million people have been driven from their homes by war and persecution, and 20 million people across four countries (Somalia, Yemen, South Sudan, and Nigeria) are facing the threat of famine. UN agencies like the World Food Program (WFP), UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and UN Population Fund (UNFPA) are playing a lead role in the global response, providing food, shelter, medical care, education, maternal health care, and other forms of life-sustaining aid to tens of millions of people whose lives have been upended by conflict or natural disasters.

UN PEACEKEEPING operations are a bargain for American taxpayers, found by the GAO to be eight times cheaper than U.S. forces acting alone.
SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO COUNTER TERRORIST GROUPS AND ROGUE STATES

• The UN is a critical partner in U.S.-led efforts to confront violent extremism and isolate rogue regimes. For example, the Security Council has adopted sanctions targeting terrorist groups like ISIS and Al-Qaeda and rogue regimes like North Korea. These measures—which are legally binding on all UN member states—include arms embargoes, travel bans, and asset freezes designed to increase pressure on these groups, undercut their ability to carry out nefarious activities, and hold entities that do business with them to account. U.S. contributions to the UN Regular Budget help finance efforts to monitor international compliance with these measures, in order to ensure that they are being implemented effectively and adjust accordingly. In late November 2016, the Security Council adopted new sanctions against North Korea which are expected to lead to a decline in North Korean coal exports—a major source of revenue for the regime—by 60 percent.

RESPONDING TO GLOBAL HEALTH THREATS

• The World Health Organization (WHO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, serves as a coordinating authority on international public health. It is responsible for leading the global response to health emergencies, monitoring outbreaks of infectious disease, spearheading global vaccination efforts, and developing campaigns to combat life threatening diseases like polio, malaria, and HIV/AIDS. In addition to a number of other critical activities, WHO played a leading role in international efforts to combat the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and is currently helping coordinate the international response to the Zika virus.

BENEFITING THE U.S. ECONOMY

• The U.S. derives noteworthy benefits from the work of the UN. U.S. businesses provided a range of goods and services to support UN operations, including telecommunications, construction, medical care, food production, and financial services.

IN 2014 AND 2015, corporations and organizations operating in the U.S. received contracts totaling more than $1 billion with the UN Secretariat.

• In addition, the New York City economy benefits greatly as the permanent host city of the UN. Not only is the organization a leading source of local jobs, a study released by the NYC Mayor’s Office for International Affairs in December 2016 found that the annual economic output generated by the UN community contributed approximately $3.69 billion to the city’s economy in 2014. To provide some context, that figure is seven times higher than the economic impact a city would receive from hosting the Super Bowl every year.
The Fiscal Year 2018 White House Budget proposal – which proposes significant reductions in funding for the State Department and USAID – would severely jeopardize American national security and foreign policy objectives. Overall, the FY18 Budget includes a total of $37.6 billion for the State Department and USAID, a 31 percent cut from the FY17 Continuing Resolution. This includes base funding ($25.6 billion) and Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding ($12 billion). If enacted this would be the lowest level of funding for these programs since 2001 in real, inflation adjusted terms.

THE DEVASTATING IMPACTS OF CUTS TO UNITED NATIONS FUNDING

The Fiscal Year 2018 White House Budget proposal – which proposes significant reductions in funding for the State Department and USAID – would severely jeopardize American national security and foreign policy objectives. Overall, the FY18 Budget includes a total of $37.6 billion for the State Department and USAID, a 31 percent cut from the FY17 Continuing Resolution. This includes base funding ($25.6 billion) and Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding ($12 billion). If enacted this would be the lowest level of funding for these programs since 2001 in real, inflation adjusted terms.

WITH RESPECT TO THE UN, THE BUDGET:

- Calls for “reducing or ending direct funding for international organizations”, and the cuts to foreign affairs spending in the overall budget make reductions to the UN and international organizations not only inevitable but far reaching;

- Mandates the reduction of U.S. contributions to UN peacekeeping from 28 percent to 25 percent – a cut of more than over $260 million - which would also put the United States back into arrears at the UN for the first time in nearly a decade; and

- Ends U.S. funding for UN climate change programs, including the Green Climate Fund.

If adopted by Congress, such reductions would cripple vital counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, humanitarian, health and development programs at a time of increased challenges to global security and stability. Slashing U.S. funding to the United Nations would obstruct President Trump’s policy priorities to make America stronger and safer, and cede ground to countries that do not share American interests and pose a risk to American values. Furthermore, it would make UN reform much more difficult and greatly weaken the new Secretary-General’s efforts to strengthen and streamline the organization.

Although imperfect, no other organization has the reach, scale, and impact of the UN. It is the only global convener that can ensure countries around the world share the burden of maintaining international security and stability. Our partnerships at the UN and with implementing agencies on the ground are helping to stamp out violent extremism and stabilize fragile states, while promoting core American interests of democracy and freedom and providing lifesaving aid to millions of innocent people around the world.
Peacekeeping Operations

- While other countries pay more than 70 percent of the costs of UN peacekeeping missions, the U.S. remains the largest financial contributor. A U.S. decision to slash peacekeeping funding would have far-reaching consequences in the field, making it much more difficult for peacekeepers to effectively manage conflict and protect civilians from harm. Research has clearly shown that in places with a significant peacekeeping presence, civilian deaths fall markedly. In one study, the authors examined monthly civilian death tolls from civil wars in sub-Saharan Africa over fifteen years. Their findings were striking: in instances where no peacekeeping troops were deployed, the monthly average of civilian deaths was 106. In instances where at least 8,000 UN troops were present, by contrast, the average monthly death toll fell to less than two. Drastic cuts in UN peacekeeping would prevent the deployment of the larger and more robust missions sometimes necessary to prevent civilian casualties and unnecessary loss of life.

- UN peacekeeping missions are authorized by the UN Security Council, of which the U.S. is a permanent, veto-wielding member. As a result, no peacekeeping mission can be deployed without U.S. consent in the first place. If the U.S. unilaterally cuts its peacekeeping payments, we would go into arrears. This, in turn, would negatively impact our ability to advance our key priorities at the Council, as it would impair our relations with other Member states. This would include the U.S. priority, as articulated by U.S. ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley, to push for key peacekeeping reforms.

Humanitarian Assistance

- A massive cut from the U.S., the world’s single largest humanitarian funder, would have catastrophic consequences on millions of lives and could further destabilize already fragile countries and populations. Cuts would impact funds that support UN agencies serving the world’s most vulnerable populations in areas of U.S. national security interest, including the World Food Program (WFP), UNICEF, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the UN Development Program (UNDP), and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). Turning our back on this type of support flies in the face of American values and ideals. It also makes us less safe.

- Famine has already been declared in parts of South Sudan, with the threat of famine looming across Yemen, Somalia, and Nigeria, putting more than 20 million people at risk. The UN is playing a central role in response to this crisis, working to provide food and nutrition assistance, shelter, medical care, clean water, and sanitation services to those affected. The UN is also responding to a massive humanitarian crisis in Syria and the humanitarian impacts of the Mosul operation in Iraq.

IF ENACTED, THE PROPOSED CUTS WOULD THREATEN THE UN’S MOST VITAL PROGRAMS AND EFFORTS, INCLUDING:
The world is grappling with the worst refugee crisis in history. Without U.S. support, pressures will increase on frontline refugee-hosting states already bearing the heaviest financial, political, and human costs. Mounting pressures could stoke sectarian tensions, fuel resentment of refugees, and destabilize governments in already vulnerable states, including U.S. allies like Jordan, Iraq, and Turkey.

Cuts could compel more people who are not getting essential services to risk dangerous journeys at the hands of smugglers and traffickers whose profits often finance terrorist networks, endangering innocent people’s lives and posing potential security risks across borders and continents. In 2015, after years of war in Syria, the World Food Program was forced to drastically restrict its food voucher initiative, leaving hundreds of thousands of refugees without a vital lifeline and driving many of them to flee their homes. This was one of the drivers of the displacement crisis that brought millions of asylum seekers to Europe’s borders in 2015.

In Iraq, failure to meet basic humanitarian needs will erode the Iraqi people’s faith in their government, further destabilizing the country and region. In just one day in December 2016, UN agencies including UNFPA, UNICEF, and WFP delivered desperately-needed aid to 42,000 people in eastern Mosul. UNFPA and the Iraqi government created a survivors’ center to meet the needs of women and girls fleeing abuse at the hands of ISIL. The Center is 100 percent supported by funding from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.

In Somalia, cuts could create a fertile recruitment environment for al-Shabaab and other insurgent groups, which have already gained hold in the country, leading to increased regional terrorist activities.

In Jordan, cuts will likely mean The UNHCR will be forced to drastically reduce its assistance (shelter, core relief items, energy, community services, and health care) to 115,000 Syrian refugees living in camps—more than half of whom are children. Without the critical support of the U.S., the UN’s work in supporting women and girls and preventing a “lost generation” would also be at risk. For example, at a UNFPA maternal health clinic in a Jordanian refugee camp, 7,000 children have been delivered without one maternal death (even though 60 percent of all maternal deaths happen in humanitarian emergencies).

Global Health

In the past, cuts to the World Health Organization (WHO) led to major reductions in their outbreak and emergency response units, elimination of critical staff, and severe scale-backs in disease surveillance. This played a central role in the slowed response to the Ebola crisis, which cost the U.S. nearly $2.4 billion.

The U.S. has long been a key contributor to UNICEF, which is responsible for procuring vaccines that reach 45 percent of the world’s children. Major cuts would have a devastating impact on the agency’s ability to deliver cost-effective, high-impact global
immunizations. Childhood vaccination is one of the most successful medical interventions in the last 50 years, and is responsible for saving the lives of 2.5 million children each year. Cuts of this magnitude would result in fewer kids being vaccinated, higher child mortality, and greater economic instability in vulnerable countries.

- The new WHO Health Emergencies Program, requested by Member States and approved at last year’s World Health Assembly, is only partially funded. If WHO isn’t able to secure full funding, the world is at risk of another major outbreak or worse: a global pandemic. Global collaboration, including the sharing of pathogens and timely reporting of outbreaks, is only possible through a trusted multilateral platform such as the UN and is absolutely critical in preventing health emergencies. A large-scale disease outbreak could cost the global economy up to $6 trillion.

- The world has never been closer to eradicating polio. The U.S. is the largest government donor to global polio eradication efforts and has been vital to the work of UN agencies in reducing polio by 99.9 percent, from 350,000 wild poliovirus cases in 1988 to just 37 in 2016. Cuts to WHO and UNICEF’s polio programs would curtail progress towards eradication, potentially allowing the disease to spread to polio-free countries and affect as many as 200,000 people across the world per year within five years. The cumulative costs of relying on routine immunization over the next 20 years would exceed $35 billion, while the net benefit of eradication would be $19 to 25 billion over the same period.

- The U.S. is one of the largest contributors to the Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), which works with and amplifies programs like PEPFAR to coordinate global action on HIV/AIDS. A cut in funding to the UN would have a devastating impact on the efforts of WHO, UNAIDS, and PEPFAR to scale up treatment/prevention for HIV/AIDS and to achieve an AIDS-free generation.

- Last year, U.S. contributions for international reproductive health prevented an estimated 320,000 unintended pregnancies, 100,000 unsafe abortions, and 10,000 maternal deaths. The loss of U.S. funding to UNFPA for one year would prevent the delivery of services, including sexual and reproductive health assistance and gender-based violence counseling, to nine million people in humanitarian settings.
• Assessed Funding Structures Get Other Countries to Pay Their Fair Share. Other nations pay 78 percent of UN Regular Budget costs and 72 percent of UN Peacekeeping costs. This means the U.S. does pay above 20 percent for the Regular and peacekeeping budgets, rates largely based on America’s gross national income (GNI) and GNI per capita, both of which are among the highest in the world. While these U.S. assessment rates are significant, other nations are still paying the great majority of costs at the UN for a range of activities directly in our national interest. In fact, this system of each country being treaty obligated to pay a certain percentage of its dues requires countries to contribute to activities like sanctions enforcement or the political missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, which in a voluntary system, they would be unlikely to support. With respect to voluntarily-funded UN humanitarian agencies, the U.S. pays a higher proportion of the budgets of agencies like WFP and UNHCR. This is done because it has consistently been in our interest, but it also refutes the argument that voluntary funding arrangements save the U.S. money. On the contrary, under these types of scenarios, the U.S. often ends up paying more. As noted, the beauty of assessed funding structures like the Regular and peacekeeping budgets is that they require other countries—by virtue of their membership in the UN—to support the organization at a specific level. This actually leads the U.S. to save money in the long-run.

• U.S. Leaders and Experts Agree that Voluntary Funding is Problematic. In June 2005, the House passed The United Nations Reform Act of 2005, which proposed that the U.S. automatically withhold dues from the UN unless certain specific reforms were met, including switching to a system of voluntary financing. The Bush Administration issued a Statement of Administration Policy which said that it has “serious concerns” about the legislation because it “could detract from and undermine our efforts,” and “asks that Congress reconsider this legislation.” In spite of this, the legislation remains in place today.

• Voluntary Funding Proposals Compromise U.S. Influence and Power. A voluntary funding scheme would severely compromise U.S. power and influence within the UN and the nation’s ability to set the agenda of the organization. It would also hurt the U.S. ability to obtain UN help and support when needed. Most issues that the UN deals with, particularly those of a political nature, are unforeseeable or happen with little notice. The U.S. cannot expect to seek the UN’s help in the middle of an unforeseen crisis if the country has not made a permanent commitment to be a full standing member of the organization and comply with the responsibilities that entails.

• Voluntary Funding Proposals Will Not Make the UN More Effective. It is invalid to say that voluntarily funded organizations are more effective than those that are not. Voluntarily-funded organizations usually tend to have humanitarian, program-oriented missions delivering products, and therefore have more quantifiable results (tons of food delivered, number of children vaccinated, etc.). The programs funded through assessed budgets, such as those at the UN, tend to be more political in nature and therefore harder to quantify, requiring budget flexibility. This is one reason why the U.S government itself has an assessed funding scheme. Relying on donor countries to choose their amount would undoubtedly lead to underfunding of key priorities.
PUTTING THE UN’S BUDGET IN PERSPECTIVE:

TOTAL UN REGULAR BUDGET

$5.5B

Less than what Americans spend on greeting cards per year ($6.5b)

THE U.S. SHARE OF THE UN REGULAR BUDGET

$630m

Less than the city of Tulsa, Oklahoma’s FY17 budget ($767m)

THE U.S. SHARE OF UN PEACEKEEPING BUDGET

$2.4B

Equivalent to what Americans spent on Easter candy in 2016 ($2.4b)

TOTAL UN PEACEKEEPING BUDGET

$8.7B

Less than the state of Rhode Island’s FY17 Budget ($8.9b)
Funding for the UN amounts to 0.2 percent of the total FY17 federal budget.
Research conducted by the Better World Campaign has found that corporations and organizations operating in the U.S. received contracts totaling over $1 billion with the UN Secretariat—which includes the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other core UN offices—over the course of 2014 and 2015. Between 2007 and 2014, the U.S. was the largest recipient of these contracts. These businesses provided a range of goods and services to support UN operations, including vehicle sales, telecommunications, construction, medical care, food production, and financial services.

**The UN contracts were executed in 30 states spanning more than 100 cities and communities, including Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Indiana. The vast majority of the businesses are U.S.-owned.** A sampling of the contracts include:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPANY</th>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books International Imports</td>
<td>$1,272,751</td>
<td>McLean, Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caterpillar</td>
<td>$3,815,978</td>
<td>Peoria, Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diebold Enterprise Security Systems</td>
<td>$3,869,965</td>
<td>North Canton, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulbright &amp; Jaworski, LLP</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
<td>Houston, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Fleet Sales (Ford Motors)</td>
<td>$7,746,891</td>
<td>Bonita Springs, Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hatzel &amp; Buehler</td>
<td>$700,000</td>
<td>Livonia, Michigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson Controls</td>
<td>$916,609</td>
<td>Milwaukee, Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ColorID</td>
<td>$353,192</td>
<td>Cornelius, North Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onsite Occupational Health</td>
<td>$3,388,674</td>
<td>Princeton, Indiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAP Public Services</td>
<td>$5,336,717</td>
<td>Newton Square, Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more than seven decades, U.S. engagement with, and financial investments in, the UN have advanced America’s core interests and values on the world stage. Perhaps less obvious is the fact that in addition to these larger foreign policy and national security considerations, the U.S. also derives tangible economic benefits from the work of the UN on a variety of fronts.
UN IN NEW YORK = 7 SUPER BOWLS EVERY YEAR

In addition, the New York City economy benefits greatly as the permanent host city of the United Nations. Not only is the organization a leading source of local jobs, a study released by the NYC Mayor’s Office for International Affairs in December 2016 found that the annual economic output generated by the UN community contributed approximately $3.69 billion to the New York City economy in 2014. To provide some context, that figure is seven times higher than the economic impact a city would receive from hosting the Super Bowl every year.
In January 2017, the poll once again found that registered voters remain unified in support of international cooperation and diplomacy as key tools of American foreign policy. More than 8 in 10—81 percent—of Americans agreed that to achieve our foreign policy goals, it is better for the United States to “work with major allies and through international organizations” rather than act mainly on its own. An overwhelming majority—88 percent—believe it is important for the U.S. to maintain an active role at the United Nations.

Importantly, respondents were equally split between Republican and Democratic voters and those who supported Donald J. Trump and Hillary Clinton for president in the 2016 election.
The poll showed that a strong majority of Americans, 61 percent, maintain a favorable impression of the UN. An even greater majority of Americans, 67 percent, continue to support the U.S. paying its dues to the UN on time and in full. When asked specifically about UN peacekeeping dues, support increases further to 70 percent.

Respondents agreed that – after terrorism – hostile nations, international trade, and conflicts in Syria and Iraq are the most pressing international issues for the Trump Administration. They also agreed that keeping America strong and secure around the world and finding the right balance of toughness and diplomacy in working with other countries should be foreign policy priorities for the Trump Administration.

**POLLING SHOWS VOTERS WANT U.S. DUES PAID IN FULL**

More than two-thirds of voters (67%) continue to support the U.S. paying its dues to the UN on time and in full.
AMERICANS AT THE UN

The UN Secretariat employs more than 2,600 Americans in the United States and UN offices abroad. A past U.S. Government Accountability Office study found that Americans comprise the largest number of staff in all professional positions within the UN agencies it reviewed.

PROVIDED BELOW ARE EXAMPLES OF AMERICANS IN LEADERSHIP ROLES AT THE UN:

• **UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake**, who began serving in May 2010, leads global efforts to promote the protection of children’s rights in 190 countries. UNICEF’s work on behalf of children includes education, HIV/AIDS prevention, protection from abuse, and other activities that save lives, such as the provision of vaccines, nutritional supplements, and anti-malarial bed nets.

• **World Food Program Executive Director David Beasley** oversees the world’s largest humanitarian agency addressing hunger. The WFP provides food to an average of more than 80 million people in 82 countries each year.

• **Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman**, has managed the Department of Political Affairs since July 2012, which plays a key role in UN efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts around the world. He also advises the Secretary-General on global peace and security issues, working closely with political missions and peace envoys on the ground. Previously, Mr. Feltman served as U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs from 2009-2012.
Other Americans serving in senior UN leadership positions include:

- **Ray Chambers**, Special Envoy for Health in Agenda 2030 and for Malaria;
- **Matthew Nimetz**, the Secretary-General’s Envoy for Talks Between Greece and Macedonia;
- **Lisa Buttenheim**, Assistant Secretary-General for Field Support;
- **Lise Grande**, Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI);
- **Eric Goosby**, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Tuberculosis;
- **Jane Holl Lute**, Special Coordinator on Improving United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse;
- **Simone Monasebian**, Director, UNODC New York Office;
- **Geeta Rao Gupta**, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF;
- **D. Stephen Mathias**, Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs;
- **Atefeh Riazi**, Assistant Secretary-General, Chief Information Technology Officer;
- **Kenneth Payumo**, Section Chief at United Nations;
- **Kelly Clements**, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR;
PEACE AND SECURITY ISSUES
Peacekeeping operations are some of the most visible, complex, and impactful activities undertaken by the United Nations today. With nearly 125,000 uniformed and civilian personnel currently serving on 16 missions across four continents, UN peacekeeping constitutes the largest deployed multinational military force in the world. Every day, peacekeepers work to stabilize countries stricken by conflict, serving as a buffer between warring parties, protecting civilians from violence, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance, training local security forces to uphold law and order, and supporting free and fair elections and the creation of stable governing institutions.

Over the last two decades, under both Democratic and Republican Administrations, the U.S. has used its permanent seat on the UN Security Council to push for larger peacekeeping missions with more complex mandates. The reasons for this bipartisan support are clear: countries undergoing conflict provide fertile ground for the growth of extremist groups and organized crime, potentially threatening U.S. national security and economic interests. Furthermore, armed conflicts frequently involve high levels of deprivation and human rights abuses against civilians, both of which are an affront to the values of the American people. By undertaking a range of stabilization and protection activities, such as those detailed above, UN peacekeepers can help avert the collapse of fragile states, prevent civil wars from metastasizing into regional conflagrations, reduce forced displacement and refugee outflows, and decrease the likelihood that conflicts will flare-up again. In this way, UN peacekeeping advances a variety of U.S. foreign policy, national security, and humanitarian priorities. By harnessing the collective resources and will of the international community, UN peacekeeping also helps ensure that the U.S. will not have to confront these challenges alone.
**BENEFITS OF UN PEACEKEEPING**

- **Promotes Stability and Protects Civilians:**
  While far from a panacea, UN peacekeeping operations have proven to be very effective at reducing violence and preventing its resurgence in countries emerging from conflict. For example, a study conducted by Virginia Page Fortna of Columbia University found that deploying UN peacekeepers reduces the likelihood that a country will return to war by about half. In addition to promoting stability in a broader sense, UN peacekeeping missions have also been documented to be quite effective in enhancing civilian protection. This was confirmed in a 2013 paper by Swedish and American researchers, who found that deploying large numbers of UN peacekeepers “significantly decreases violence against civilians.” To support their hypothesis, the authors examined monthly civilian death tolls from civil wars in sub-Saharan Africa between 1991 and 2008. Their findings were striking: in instances where no peacekeeping troops were deployed, monthly civilian deaths averaged 106. In instances where at least 8,000 UN troops were present, by contrast, the average civilian death toll fell to less than two. The paper concluded that ensuring UN peacekeeping forces “are appropriately tasked and deployed in large numbers” is critical to their ability to protect civilians.

- **A Relative Bargain for Taxpayers:**
  While the U.S. currently pays approximately 28 percent of the UN’s annual peacekeeping budget, this figure must be kept in perspective: UN peacekeeping operations are significantly more cost-effective than other forms of military intervention. In a 2007 assessment of the UN mission in Haiti, for example, the U.S. Government Accountability Office determined that dispatching a UN peacekeeping force to the country cost American taxpayers eight times less than sending a hypothetical U.S. force.

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**OVERALL,** UN peacekeeping operations account for less than 0.5% of annual global military spending, even though they currently constitute the largest deployed multinational military force in the world.

- **“Peacekeeping Gets Other Countries to Stand Up, Rather Than Stand By”:** The U.S. is the wealthiest and most powerful country in the world, but it cannot, and should not, take on the responsibility of maintaining global peace and security alone. In a November 2014 speech at the American Enterprise Institute, then-U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN Samantha Power stated that UN peacekeeping “gets other countries to stand up, rather than stand by.” Indeed, UN peacekeeping is an excellent example of the benefits of multilateral burden-sharing. While the United States, as a permanent, veto-wielding member of the Security Council, has final say over the decision to deploy UN peacekeepers in the first place and plays a key role in crafting their mandates, it puts very few boots on the ground to support these missions. Currently, the U.S. provides only 68 soldiers, military advisors, and police officers to UN peacekeeping operations, constituting less than 0.1 percent of the 100,000 uniformed personnel deployed. By contrast, a range of other countries like Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nepal, Senegal, Pakistan, and Jordan provide the vast majority of troops and police that serve on these missions.
Central African Republic (CAR)
Beginning in 2013, CAR was convulsed by political strife and vicious sectarian violence, leaving thousands dead and sparking concerns that the situation could devolve into genocide. While an African Union-led peacekeeping operation and French military contingent were deployed to help stabilize the country, these forces were unable to stem the bloodshed, and in April 2014, the Security Council voted to dispatch a UN mission. The UN force is working to carry out a number of essential activities, including protecting civilians from violence, providing assistance to help the country carry out elections, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid, monitoring, investigating, and reporting on human rights violations, and helping build the capacity of CAR’s police force and court system. Due to the collapse of virtually any semblance of law and order in the country, peacekeepers are also mandated to arrest and detain people in order to crack down on impunity. Over the last year, CAR has seen some promising signs of progress, with peacekeepers playing an important role. As a result of improvements in the overall security situation in the country, CAR organized, with UN support, largely peaceful and credible presidential and legislative elections in 2016.

Mali
The UN Mission in Mali (known by its French acronym, MINUSMA) was deployed in July 2013 to stabilize the country’s northern regions, which had been overrun by several extremist groups, including a regional affiliate of al-Qaeda, before a French military intervention forced them out in 2012. Working alongside French and Malian forces, MINUSMA is responsible for helping to extend government authority in northern population centers, protect civilians from violence, monitor, investigate, and report on human rights violations, and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to civilians. MINUSMA has also played an important role in supporting successful efforts to restore democratic governance in Mali, which experienced a military coup in March 2012. Unfortunately, in the three years since its deployment, MINUSMA has turned out to be the UN’s most dangerous peacekeeping mission. So far, more than 100 UN personnel have been killed in Mali, including 70 in attacks by militants.
Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire

Long-running UN missions in Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire have had a significant positive impact on security in both countries, which emerged from a devastating civil war and a major political crisis, respectively. UN peacekeeping forces have successfully supported peaceful democratic elections and transitions of power in both countries, helped disarm and demobilize former combatants, and trained local police forces to ensure law and order. The stability engendered in part by the presence of peacekeepers has helped allow hundreds of thousands of displaced Liberians and Ivoirians to return home. As a result of these achievements, both peacekeeping missions are currently in the process of drawing down.

South Sudan

Civil war broke out in South Sudan in December 2013, leaving tens of thousands of people dead, driving nearly three million people from their homes, and leaving 4.8 million in urgent need of food aid. The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), originally deployed to support South Sudan’s stability and development following its independence from Sudan in 2011, was immediately forced to shift its focus to civilian protection. In an unprecedented move, UNMISS opened the gates of its bases to those fleeing the violence, and soon had tens of thousands of South Sudanese descend on its compounds in Juba seeking shelter. As fighting spread outside of the capital, several other UNMISS bases likewise became de facto displacement camps, referred to as Protection of Civilians (POC) sites. Currently, UNMISS is providing physical protection to more than 200,000 civilians at six POC sites around the country. This has saved the lives of many people who likely would have otherwise been directly targeted by parties to the conflict.
The UN is a critical partner in this unparalleled challenge. The UN’s global efforts to stamp out radical, violent extremism help amplify and broaden the reach of our nation’s own counterterrorism initiatives. Provided below is a selection of recent actions taken by the UN on this issue.

- **Multilateral Sanctions:** For more than 15 years, the UN Security Council has had in place robust, legally-binding sanctions – including asset freezes, travel bans, and arms embargoes – targeting individuals, groups, and entities associated with al-Qaeda. Through these measures, the UN Security Council is able to harness the unique power of the international community to confront this issue, while minimizing unintended humanitarian consequences on the population at large. UN sanctions imposed by the Security Council are considered the “gold standard” for coordinated international action and are preferred by businesses as it ensures a level playing field. While the U.S. can impose unilateral sanctions, many countries will not adopt their own sanctions absent the important global legal imprimatur of a United Nations decision. In December 2015, the U.S. chaired a special meeting of the Security Council to discuss measures the international community could take to restrict ISIS’s ability to finance its criminal operations via activities such as oil smuggling, kidnapping, human trafficking, and the sale of stolen antiquities. The session resulted in the unanimous adoption of a resolution requiring member states to criminalize all financial transactions related to terrorism and enhance engagement with the private sector. Continued American engagement in this process will prove immensely critical in the coming years and has already proven complimentary to U.S.-led efforts to combat ISIS and its affiliates.

“Through the United Nations, we’ve acted to block the sale of oil to finance ISIS’s operations. The Security Council has also taken steps to prevent weapons of mass destruction from falling into the hands of terrorists.”

**PETER YEO,**
President Of the Better World Campaign
Security Council Resolutions on Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Intelligence Sharing:
The rise of ISIS and other extremist groups in Iraq and Syria has pushed the issue of foreign fighters – and how to suppress the recruitment and travel of these individuals to conflict zones – to the forefront of global policy debates. In late 2014, the UN Security Council, with strong backing from the U.S., unanimously adopted a legally-binding resolution compelling all countries to put in place domestic laws to prosecute anyone who travels abroad to join a terrorist organization – including anyone who aids a potential terrorist by, for instance, helping raise funds for their trip. The Security Council followed up this action in December 2016 with a resolution aimed at enhancing and fortifying juridical cooperation in the fight against ISIS and similar terrorist groups. The resolution called on member states to share biometric and biographic information about terrorists and, where appropriate, provide official intelligence threat data to front-line screeners, such as immigration, customs, and border security.

Counterterrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED): In the wake of the September 11 attacks, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1373, requiring countries to criminalize terrorism financing, freeze funds related to persons involved in terrorist acts, and cooperate with other governments to arrest, prosecute, and extradite terrorism suspects. The resolution also established a Counterterrorism Committee, made up of all 15 members of the Security Council, to help UN member states implement the terms of the resolution. As part of these efforts, the Committee and its Executive Directorate (CTED) have facilitated technical assistance to more than 60 countries to help address terrorism financing, border and customs controls, arms trafficking, transportation security, and a number of other issues. Following up on the Security Council’s resolution on foreign fighters, the CTED is helping member states, other UN agencies, and aligned organizations such as NATO confront the challenges posed by the influx of foreign fighters to places like Syria and Iraq.
SUPPORTING GLOBAL NONPROLIFERATION EFFORTS

The UN is a key platform for countries to work together to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The General Assembly, Security Council, and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) all provide venues for countries to share resources and information, create frameworks for addressing breaches of international agreements, and build unified fronts against rogue states. As a result, the UN is a critical asset to American nuclear non-proliferation efforts, helping to ensure these dangerous weapons do not fall into the wrong hands.

THE UN’S CORE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION MECHANISMS

• Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): The NPT commits states to preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technologies while at the same time working towards nuclear disarmament. All but four countries are parties to this treaty.

• International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA): The IAEA verifies member state compliance with the NPT and other nonproliferation agreements by monitoring and inspecting nuclear facilities and material in more than 140 countries to ensure their peaceful use. These activities can help provide the international community with advanced warning of and trigger a global response to the existence of an illicit nuclear weapons program, including by providing a basis for action by the Security Council.

• Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT): The CTBT, ratified by 157 UN member states, obliges parties not to detonate nuclear weapons or support those who do. The United States has signed but not ratified the CTBT.

THE UN’S CORE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION MECHANISMS

In November 2016, the UN Security Council passed historic new sanctions that have deeply impacted the North Korean regime’s ability to raise hard currency – a major funding source for the country’s illegal nuclear weapons program. The U.S.-drafted and unanimously approved resolution capped DPRK’s coal sales – the country’s single largest export – by approximately 60 percent and banned the export of copper, nickel, silver, and zinc, as well as the sale of several additional “luxury” items.

Signaling its support for the U.S.-led measure, China announced in February that it had completely suspended all North Korean coal imports, blocking as much as 22 million metric tons of coal from entering the country. In describing the measures, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, said the resolution would “…slash by at least $800 million per year the hard currency that the DPRK has to fund its prohibited weapons programs, which constitutes a full 25 percent of the DPRK’s entire export revenues.” The sanctions are a clear example of how U.S. engagement with the UN, by allowing us to work multilaterally, advances key American foreign policy goals.
The UN has played a crucial role in U.S.-led efforts to isolate Iran and sharpen the choices of its leadership over its controversial nuclear program. In 2010, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1929, creating the toughest multilateral sanctions ever faced by the Iranian government. This action set the stage for stronger bilateral sanctions by the U.S., EU, Australia, Canada, South Korea, Japan and other countries – the impact of which deeply affected the Iranian economy and helped push the country to the negotiating table.

In fact, former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said the multilateral and bilateral sanctions caused “the heaviest economic onslaught on our nation in history.”

After several years of diplomatic pressure, the P5+1 (the five permanent UN Security Council members and Germany) and Iran struck an agreement on July 14, 2015 to constrain Iran’s nuclear program in exchange for phased-in sanctions relief. The agreement (known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA) imposed restrictions on Iran’s longstanding nuclear program, including requiring the Islamic Republic to ship 97 percent of its enriched uranium out of the country; dismantle and remove two-thirds of its centrifuges; and remove the core of its Arak heavy water reactor and fill it with cement. The agreement also empowered the IAEA to inspect and verify Iranian compliance, allowing international monitors unprecedented access to the country’s nuclear facilities and supply chain. Regardless of one’s view of the JCPOA, the IAEA is playing – and will continue to play – an essential role in verifying that Iran is complying with its obligations.

In that spirit, IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano confirmed in early January 2016 that Iran had completed the necessary preparatory steps to begin the implementation of the JCPOA. Moving forward, the nuclear watchdog will be tasked with continually verifying that Iran’s remaining nuclear work is conducted for purely peaceful purposes. While some sanctions have been rescinded – such as a restriction on Iranian crude oil sales – others will not take effect for many years. For example, sanctions banning conventional arms sales will not be lifted for five years and restrictions on ballistic missile sales will remain in place for eight years – each subject to IAEA verification that Iran is upholding its end of the agreement.

In order to maintain these continuous monitoring activities, the JCPOA Additional Protocol grants the IAEA complementary authority to inspect any site in the country – including Iranian military bases and high-tech factories – that it suspects may be conducting illicit nuclear activity. In addition, the IAEA is leveraging new technologies to enhance its on the ground capabilities. The nuclear watchdog recently installed a high-tech device known as an Online Enrichment Monitor (OLEM) at Iran’s Natanz facility to ensure uranium enrichment activities do not exceed agreed upon levels. The device enables 24/7 monitoring of the facility and, when paired with expanded traditional investigation mechanisms, allows the IAEA unprecedented oversight of Iran’s nuclear program.
GIVEN THE SCOPE AND MANDATE OF ITS WORK,

Iran has become the second most expensive country for the IAEA to inspect. Iranian inspection needs are projected to cost the agency approximately $10.4 million annually over the course of the JCPOA’s ten year lifespan. IAEA’s Iran task force is staffed with 45 inspectors dedicated to holding the country accountable, each logging 110 days per year in the field as opposed to the typical 80 days per year other inspectors are required to serve. Throughout the life of the Iran deal – and beyond – the IAEA and its team of international experts will be relied upon by the U.S. and its allies to independently monitor Iran’s nuclear activities and verify that the country is acting responsibly and transparently. As a result, American support for the IAEA, including the financial resources required to maintain these enhanced monitoring activities, will remain critical to international peace and security.
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES
For many people, the UN is the world’s ‘911 service’ in the aftermath of natural disasters or conflicts - a first-responder and essential provider of food, shelter, clean water, medical assistance, and education in times of crisis. Given its high degree of international legitimacy, capacity, and operational reach, the UN is uniquely positioned to coordinate these types of relief efforts. Over the last year, UN humanitarian agencies like the World Food Program (WFP), UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and others have responded to crises in a diverse set of countries, providing life-sustaining aid to tens of millions of people in the process. Provided below is a snapshot of their critical work.

**SYRIA & IRAQ**

The world is currently in the throes of a massive forced displacement crisis. Conflict in the Middle East is a driving force behind much of this increase in displacement. In Syria, for example, nearly six years of civil war has caused five million people to flee the country and left an additional six million Syrians displaced within it. Across the border in Iraq, more than three million have fled their homes since 2014, when ISIS captured vast swathes of territory in the country’s north and west. These complex, intertwined conflicts have sparked severe humanitarian crises in both Syria and Iraq, strained the resources of neighboring countries who are hosting millions of refugees, and driven hundreds of thousands of desperate civilians to risk their lives by crossing the Mediterranean to reach Europe.

UN humanitarian agencies are playing a central role in responding to these crises, providing food aid, shelter, hygiene supplies, clean water, emergency obstetric care, vaccines, psychosocial counseling, educational support, and a variety of other forms of aid to millions of refugees, internally displaced people, and others in need throughout the region. These activities have powerful knock-on effects that reach beyond the immediate beneficiaries as well. For example, electronic food vouchers provided by WFP to Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, and Egypt have helped inject more than $1 billion into local economies in recent years, helping to create thousands of jobs in the food retail sector in these countries.

Unfortunately, despite the generosity of the U.S. and other countries, ever-growing humanitarian needs in the region have consistently outpaced available financial resources over the past several years. This has negatively impacted UN aid operations, with agencies being forced to scale back assistance to vulnerable populations, which in turn has been one of the key drivers of the refugee exodus to Europe. As a result, it is critical that the U.S. continue to provide robust funding for the work of WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, and other critical UN agencies in the region, and encourage other countries to do the same.

**ACCORDING TO UNHCR,**

as of the end of 2015, more than 65 million people—1 in every 113 on the planet—had been driven from their homes by war, persecution, or human rights abuses, the highest level recorded since the end of World War II.
SOUTH SUDAN

Syria and Iraq are not the only countries where conflict is contributing to record levels of forced displacement, unfortunately. In December 2013, South Sudan—the world’s newest country—was plunged into a vicious civil war when fighting erupted between rival armed factions supporting the President, Salva Kiir, and former Vice President, Riek Machar. Since then, the war has taken on ethnic overtones, leaving tens of thousands of people dead and more than 4.8 million facing severe food shortages. Overall, nearly 1.3 million South Sudanese have fled to neighboring countries and 1.8 million more are internally displaced. Recently, a Commission of Inquiry mandated by the UN Human Rights Council to investigate human rights abuses in South Sudan documented staggering levels of sexual violence committed by South Sudanese police or soldiers, and warned that “a steady process of ethnic cleansing is already underway in some parts of the country.”

With regards to the humanitarian response, UN agencies and partner organizations have taken a lead role. WFP, for example, provided food and nutrition assistance to 3.2 million people in South Sudan in 2016. This includes 200,000 children who benefit from WFP school meal programs, which have the added benefit of increasing school attendance in communities where they are implemented. UNICEF, for its part, is helping to facilitate the release of child soldiers from various armed groups in South Sudan, and is providing reintegration services, including psychosocial support, education, shelter, and medical care, while their families are traced so they can eventually return home. UNFPA is providing a number of lifesaving reproductive health services to women in South Sudan, and is helping to train health service providers on clinical care and psychological first aid for victims of rape and gender-based violence.

CURRENTLY, the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan is working to protect more than 200,000 civilians who have sought shelter at its bases throughout the country.

NIGERIA

The Boko Haram insurgency in northeastern Nigeria has caused immense hardship for civilians in the area: nearly two million Nigerians have been driven from their homes since 2014, and nearly 5.1 million people are expected to face severe food shortages this year due to the disruptions to agriculture provoked by insecurity. Here too, UN humanitarian agencies are on the front lines working to provide lifesaving assistance. UNHCR is scaling up its operations in the region, providing shelter, psychosocial support, and material assistance, including mattresses, cooking supplies, mosquito nets, hygiene materials, and other critical items to the displaced. UNICEF and WFP, meanwhile, are working to tackle severe malnutrition among children, providing mineral and vitamin supplements, funding for families to purchase nutritious food, and treatment for children with diarrhea. UNICEF is also working to improve education for displaced children and provide support for women and girls who have been the victims of sexual violence by Boko Haram.
The UN Human Rights Council is the only global intergovernmental body created with the exclusive purpose of upholding universal human rights. It is composed of 47 member states, elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly and based on equitable geographical distribution. A political body rather than a court, the Council meets several times throughout the year, passing resolutions on individual human rights situations, ordering inquiries into allegations of human rights violations, and appointing special rapporteurs—independent experts—on a range of subjects to investigate particular countries or thematic human rights issues.

The UN Human Rights Council was created by the UN General Assembly in June 2006 to replace an earlier UN human rights body which had been criticized as ineffective, politicized, and biased against Israel. Initially, the U.S. declined to run for a seat on the new body, and in its early years the Council struggled to fulfill its mandate to promote and protect internationally recognized human rights. The Council’s work was unduly focused on Israel and characterized by antagonistic relationships among regional blocs of states.

In 2009, however, the U.S. changed course, successfully running for a seat on the Council with the goal of changing the body’s dynamics; it was reelected to the Council in 2012 and again in 2016 by the UN General Assembly. The United States launched its third, three-year term on the Council in January 2017.

Overall, the record is clear that U.S. membership on the UN Human Rights Council has produced tangible, positive outcomes on a number of core American foreign policy objectives. For example:

- Council membership has aided U.S. efforts to normalize Israel’s treatment at the UN. While the Council is imperfect and maintains a disproportionate focus on Israel, the proportion of Israel-specific resolutions has significantly declined since the U.S. joined the Council as a member. According to the American Jewish Committee’s Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, there was a 30 percent decrease in Israeli country specific resolutions during U.S. membership on the Council versus the period when we were off. The number of special sessions on Israel also dropped significantly since U.S. membership began - six during the three years before we joined the Council and one during our two terms of as a member. With U.S. backing, Israel also officially joined a key UN regional group in 2014, providing a new platform to pursue its interests while collaborating with relevant partners at the Council. Participation in these regional coordinating groups matters because they are where much of the behind-the-scenes work at the UN gets done.

- The Council, with U.S. support, established a Commission of Inquiry (COI) to investigate human rights violations in North Korea. In February 2014, the Commission released a 400-page report—unprecedented in scope—implicating the North Korean regime of a wide range of crimes against humanity, including murder, torture, rape, enslavement, forced abortions, and knowingly causing prolonged starvation. As a result, the human rights situation in North Korea was added to the official agenda of the UN Security Council and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) established a field office in Seoul to track human rights violations in North Korea. According to Human Rights Watch: “[The UN Office] is something that Kim Jong Un should be staying awake at night thinking about, because he is going to be facing a determined team of professional investigators looking and speaking to people to find out the abuses that are taking place against them.”

- The Council established a COI on the human rights situation in Syria, which has helped gather evidence against specific individuals for their involvement in crimes against humanity. In 2015, the COI moved to share its findings, including a “perpetrators list,” with international judicial bodies, a key step toward accountability. This list includes the heads of Syrian government detention facilities and intelligence branches involved in torture, military commanders and leaders of armed groups who target civilians, and officials overseeing airports from where barrel bomb attacks are launched, among

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other alleged human rights violators. In February 2017, the Commission released the results of an independent investigation into atrocities in Aleppo. Using first-hand accounts and satellite imagery, the COI implicated the Syrian government in war crimes, including “deliberate” attacks on civilians and aid convoys.

- The U.S. worked with other Council members to establish a UN special rapporteur to scrutinize the human rights situation in Iran. In his most recent report, issued in March 2016, the special rapporteur called out the government for its extremely high rate of executions, noting that Iran had executed at least 966 prisoners in 2015, including juvenile offenders. The March report also documented a number of other areas of concern, including restrictions on the right to freedom of expression and association, violations of women’s rights, and abuses against religious and ethnic minorities. According to then President of Freedom House Ambassador Mark P. Lagon the Council and resolutions on Iran “remain important vehicles for the world to increase pressure on Iran to improve its human rights record.”

- The U.S. has exercised a leadership role in the Council’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism, a tool that assesses the human rights records of all UN members on a quadrennial basis. For example, during Cuba’s 2013 review, the U.S. called for Havana to “Eliminate or cease enforcing laws impeding freedom of expression.” During the review of the Russian Federation in the same year, the U.S. called for “The removal of legislation that restricts civil society from receiving international funding, and cease[d] unannounced inspections aimed at intimidating civil society organizations.”

- In September 2014, the UN Human Rights Council convened a special session focused on human rights violations and alleged atrocities committed by ISIS. In a unanimous resolution, Council members, including the U.S., voted to dispatch an investigation focused on ISIS’s rights abuses and condemned the group in the “strongest possible terms.”

- With U.S. leadership, the Human Rights Council passed three historic resolutions on combatting discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity in 2011, 2014, and 2016. The first two resolutions created mandates for unprecedented global-level reporting on international human rights challenges facing LGBT individuals, including extrajudicial killings, brutalization, and criminalization of consensual same-sex relationships. On June 30, 2016, the Council took these efforts a step further, voting to establish an independent expert focused on combating violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The new independent expert has an appointment of three years and will conduct country visits to assess the status of LGBT rights, provide reports and recommendations for the Human Rights Council and UN General Assembly, as well as engage activists, governments, and other human rights defenders.

- The Council has been active on the issue of freedom of expression on the Internet. On July 1, 2016, the Council adopted a resolution condemning for the first time governments that intentionally block or disrupt access to the Internet. The resolution also condemns violence and intimidation against people for “exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms on the Internet.”

- In July 2014, Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, an Italian judge, was appointed UN special rapporteur on trafficking in persons. The U.S. has strongly supported this position, joining a consensus decision on renewing her mandate this year. On April 5, 2017, the UN announced that Ms. Giammarinaro would be travelling to Cuba to assess the situation of human trafficking in the country, particularly its effect on women and children. Ms. Giammarinaro will be the first independent UN human rights expert to visit Cuba in more than 10 years.

- The January 2017 Council on Foreign Relations report “Bolstering the UN Human Rights Council’s Effectiveness” found U.S. catalytic leadership on the Council has played a critical role in diluting anti-Israel bias, growing the organ’s appetite for timely country-specific action, advancing fundamental freedoms reflective of U.S. values, and helping lay the groundwork for accountability in cases of war crimes. On the other hand, the report notes that in the period when the U.S. was disengaged, the Council was largely dominated—and its agenda circumscribed—by countries including Algeria, Cuba, Egypt, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia.
GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Over the last 70 years, the health and welfare of people around the world has been at the core of the United Nations. Key UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNDP and WHO have long partnered with NGOs, faith-based organizations, and national governments, and as a result people around the world are living longer, more prosperous lives. As the largest overall donor to the UN, the U.S. is a critical partner in UN activities, working to ensure the vision of the UN comes to fruition in an efficient and effective manner. This partnership serves to mutually reinforce the goals and ideals of U.S. foreign policy, allowing the UN to serve as a key global platform to advance U.S. development and foreign policy priorities.

KEY AREAS WHERE THE U.S. AND UN ARE WORKING TOGETHER:

Iraq
In just one day in December 2016, UN agencies including UNFPA, UNICEF, and the World Food Program delivered desperately-needed aid to 42,000 people in eastern Mosul. UNFPA and the Iraqi government created a survivors’ center to meet the needs of women and girls fleeing abuse at the hands of ISIL. The Center is 100 percent supported by funding from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.

Jordan
The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is leading the response to the Syrian refugee crisis, providing shelter, core relief items, energy, community services, and health care to 115,000 Syrian refugees living in camps—more than half of whom are children.

- Agencies like UNFPA have a maternal health clinic in the Za’atari camp that has delivered over 7,000 babies without one maternal death (even though 60 percent of all maternal deaths happen in humanitarian emergencies).
- There are over 333,000 child refugees throughout Jordan. UNICEF Jordan provides education and psychosocial support for child refugees at Za’atari. There are about 21 Makanis (“My Space” in Arabic) learning centers teaching technical skills such as computer science and music to over 3,045 children. In addition, there are nine schools that provide formal education for 15,450 students.
- UN Women is providing literacy and computer classes and recycling and handicraft workshops while offering on-site child day care through the “Oasis for Women and Girls” in a building donated to them by the U.S.
Afghanistan
In a collaboration between the UN Development Programme, the Government of Afghanistan, and the Global Fund to Fight HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria, six schools have been established across Afghanistan to train women to be nurses. The WHO estimates that 40 percent of all health facilities are without female staff so these nurses will be critical for women to get access to the health care they need.

Children’s Health
The U.S. has long been a key contributor to UNICEF, which is responsible for procuring vaccines that reach 45 percent of the world’s children. Major cuts would have a devastating impact on the agency’s ability to deliver cost-effective, high-impact global immunizations. Childhood vaccination is one of the most successful medical interventions in the last 50 years, responsible for saving the lives of 2.5 million children each year.

Polio
The world has never been closer to eradicating polio. The U.S. is the largest government donor to global polio eradication efforts and has been vital to the work of UN agencies in reducing polio by 99.9 percent, from 350,000 wild poliovirus cases in 1988 to just 37 in 2016.
Global Pandemics
The UN system is well positioned with the international credibility, convening power, and organizational mechanisms to facilitate and coordinate health work on a global scale in a way that the U.S. cannot do alone in order to better detect, prevent, or respond to fast-moving pandemics and infectious diseases.

- In the past, cuts to the World Health Organization (WHO) led to major reductions in their outbreak and emergency response units, elimination of critical staff, and severe scale-backs in disease surveillance. This played a central role in the slowed response to the Ebola crisis, which cost the U.S. nearly $2.4 billion.

- The new WHO Health Emergencies Program, requested by Member States and approved at last year’s World Health Assembly, is only partially funded. If WHO isn’t able to secure full funding, including maintained funding from the U.S. – one of its largest donors – the world is at risk of another major outbreak or worse: a global pandemic. Global collaboration, including the sharing of pathogens and timely reporting of outbreaks, is only possible through a trusted multilateral platform such as the UN and is absolutely critical in preventing health emergencies. A large-scale disease outbreak could cost the global economy up to $6 trillion.

HIV/AIDS
The U.S. is one of the largest contributors to the UN Joint Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). UNAIDS has been an essential partner of the U.S. government since the launch of the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and plays a critical role in global efforts to end the AIDS epidemic. UNAIDS helps articulate the vision and mobilize the political will and resources that support the U.S. goals of saving lives, achieving epidemic control and increasing global burden sharing. UNAIDS ambitious targets for expanded prevention and treatment set the vision for the response to AIDS while UNAIDS annual global report tracks progress, drives accountability, and identifies opportunities to reach as many in need as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Women’s Health
The U.S. has historically been a leader in international reproductive health and family planning (IRH/FP) efforts and is the largest donor to IRH/FP in the world. Last year, U.S. contributions to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) prevented an estimated 320,000 unintended pregnancies, 100,000 unsafe abortions, and 10,000 maternal deaths. Cuts to UNFPA, the largest provider of family planning and reproductive health services globally, would cause millions of girls, women, and their families to lose life-saving care. The loss of U.S. funding to UNFPA for one year would also prevent the delivery of services, including sexual and reproductive health services and gender-based violence counseling, to 9 million people in humanitarian settings.

Malaria
The UN catalyzed a global commitment to combat malaria through the Millennium Development Goals when the disease was still considered neglected. Subsequently, the rate of malaria-related deaths among children under five has dropped 69 percent since 2000. This progress was made possible by leadership demonstrated by the United States in the fight against malaria through the President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI), as well as U.S. contributions and partnership with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. In 2015, the U.S. and other countries reconfirmed their commitment to eliminate malaria through their endorsement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to reduce malaria cases and deaths by 90 percent and eliminate malaria from 35 countries by 2030. Achievement of these targets would result in an estimated 4.5 million more lives saved from malaria, 1.3 billion cases averted, and an additional $4.1 trillion in additional economic output.
BRIEF HISTORY

Over the last 200 years, modern energy, agriculture, and industrial practices have greatly increased the level of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (especially carbon dioxide and methane), and there is broad scientific agreement that the world is warming as a result, with damaging and unpredictable impacts on the weather.

In 1992, the international community agreed to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This treaty committed signatories to avoiding dangerous human interference with the climate system and to reducing emissions commensurate with their levels of development. President George H.W. Bush signed the treaty, and the Senate immediately and unanimously ratified it. After years of negotiations on implementation of the treaty – including the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 and the Copenhagen Accord in 2009 – a breakthrough was achieved with the Paris Agreement in 2015. The agreement, which was adopted by 195 countries, seeks to keep the increase in global average temperatures to “well below 2°C” (3.6° Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels while “pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C” (2.7° F). This goal is supported by voluntary national commitments to reduce emissions.

SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS

In 1988, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was created by the World Meteorological Organization and the UN Environment Program to establish a strong scientific basis for policy on climate change. The IPCC – which depends on the uncompensated engagement of hundreds of climate experts from leading academic and research institutions worldwide – has released five Assessment Reports, each expressing increasing certainty about the human contribution to climate change and warning of the likely consequences if the world does not respond. In 2007, the IPCC received the Nobel Peace Prize for its work.

In 2014, the IPCC concluded its most recent cycle of work and published its Fifth Assessment Report on Climate Change. The assessment made clear that scientists agree that climate change is real, that it is already having adverse impacts on people and the natural world, and that the situation will get much worse in the coming years without immediate and sustained action.

The IPCC has since started work on three new Special Reports: (1) on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C and pathways to achieve it; (2) on the impacts of climate change on the oceans and polar regions; and (3) on climate change, desertification, sustainable land management, and food security. The first report will be finalized in 2018, the second and third in 2019.
THE UN’S ROLE

The United Nations annually convenes the nations of the world to address climate change through the UNFCCC and informs the debate through the IPCC’s assessments of the published, peer-reviewed scientific literature. Additionally, the UN responds directly to the widening impacts of a warming world through its many arms – for example, the World Health Organization is helping combat mosquito-borne malaria and the Food and Agriculture Organization is helping farmers adapt to changing weather patterns.

A public-private partnership launched by the UN in 2011, “Sustainable Energy for All,” promotes three objectives (echoed in the Sustainable Development Goals) to be achieved by 2030: ensuring universal access to modern energy services; doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and doubling the share of renewable energy. Billions of dollars have been committed to these objectives, including a pledge by Bank of America to invest $125 billion in low-carbon business by 2025.

UN CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

In 1997, 170 countries adopted the Kyoto Protocol as an implementing agreement to the Framework Convention. The Protocol called on developed countries to reduce their emissions by 5 to 7 percent from 1990 levels by 2012. The U.S. signed but never ratified the Protocol.

In 2009, in Copenhagen, the world made a second attempt at implementation, but the conference was ultimately unsuccessful at brokering an agreement on emissions reductions.

The Paris Agreement, reached in December 2015, for the first time brings all nations under a common framework to combat climate change. The Agreement commits the world to keeping global temperatures from rising more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit temperature increases to 1.5°C. The Agreement received broad support – led by the U.S., China, and India – and entered into force on November 4, 2016.

The Paris Agreement is based on country action plans (“nationally determined contributions”), which are to be strengthened over time in five-year increments starting in 2020. The Agreement also reaffirms a commitment made in Copenhagen to mobilize $100 billion a year from public and private sources to help developing countries deal with the impacts of climate change, and it provides for regular reporting on progress. For the first time, it invites non-governmental actors (businesses, cities, states, and NGOs) to engage with the UN process and make commitments on climate.

In addition to the formal climate negotiations, significant progress was made through UN processes in 2016 on reducing emissions from aviation, as well as chemical coolants that are powerful greenhouse gases:

- At a meeting in Montreal convened by the UN’s aviation arm, for the first time, 191 countries agreed to limit greenhouse gas emissions from international flights. Aviation already produces more emissions than entire countries like Canada and South Korea; without this decision, those emissions were projected to triple by 2050.

- A series of UN negotiations concluded successfully in Kigali, Rwanda, with a new deal agreed by 170 countries to phase out the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Used in air conditioners and refrigeration systems around the world, HFCs are pound for pound far more powerful greenhouse gases than carbon dioxide.
U.S.- UN PRIORITIES FOR 2017
Funding from member states for the UN and its affiliated programs and specialized agencies comes from two main sources: assessed and voluntary contributions.

- **Assessed contributions** are payments that all UN member states, including the U.S., are obligated to make by virtue of their membership in the organization. These assessments provide a reliable source of funding to core functions of the UN Secretariat via the UN regular and peacekeeping budgets. In addition, each of the UN’s specialized agencies have their own assessed budgets that member states are obligated to help finance.

- **Voluntary contributions** are not obligatory, but instead left to the discretion of individual member states. These contributions are vital to the work of the UN’s humanitarian and development agencies, including the UN Children’s Fund, World Food Program, UN Development Program, and UN Refugee Agency.

**ASSESSMENTS FOR THE REGULAR BUDGET AND UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES**

The UN Regular Budget finances the UN’s core bodies and activities, including political missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Libya that are directly in our national interests and working to promote stability in key regions of the world. The current assessment structure for the Regular Budget sets maximum (22%) and minimum (.001%) rates for all UN member states, which are primarily determined by gross national income (GNI) and GNI per capita. Since the U.S. has some of the highest levels of both indicators, its rate is higher than those of other member states. Over time, the U.S. has negotiated several reductions in this rate, most notably an agreement in 2000 that capped contributions at 22 percent. If this ceiling did not exist, the U.S. would pay a significantly larger portion of the Regular Budget.

The U.S. contribution to the UN regular budget is appropriated under the State Department’s “Contributions to International Organizations” (CIO) account. In addition to the Regular Budget, CIO covers U.S. dues payments to more than 40 other UN and non-UN international organizations, including NATO, the IAEA, and WHO.
ASSESSMENTS FOR THE UN PEACEKEEPING BUDGET

UN peacekeeping missions are funded through assessments on member states similar to those made for the Regular Budget, but with greater discounts for poorer nations. The resulting funding deficit is compensated for by the five permanent members (P5) of the UN Security Council—the U.S., UK, France, Russia, and China. Under this formula, the U.S. is assessed 28.46 percent of the total peacekeeping budget in 2017—a level the U.S. negotiated and voted for in the UN General Assembly in late 2015. For the past several years, however, the U.S. has only paid 27.14 percent of the cost of each mission, in line with the U.S. peacekeeping rate effective in 2012. If left unchanged by Congress, this situation could cause shortfalls in U.S. funding for UN peacekeeping. U.S. contributions to UN peacekeeping operations are appropriated under the State Department’s “Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities” (CIPA) account.

Since each of the P5 countries have veto power over Security Council decisions, no UN peacekeeping mission can be deployed, withdrawn, or expanded without U.S. support. While this unique responsibility for establishing and renewing UN peacekeeping operations means the U.S. pays a greater portion of the bill, the vast majority of personnel deployed on these missions come from less developed countries, such as Bangladesh, Jordan, Ghana, Ethiopia, and Nepal. Currently, a historic number of personnel—nearly 125,000 soldiers, police, and civilians—are serving on 16 UN peacekeeping missions around the world. The U.S., under both Republican and Democratic Presidents, has actively used its position on the Security Council to push for an increase in the deployment UN peacekeepers over the last two decades.

FISCAL YEAR 2017 AND 2018 FUNDING LEVELS

For the better part of a decade, the U.S. has largely honored its financial obligations to the UN. This is critical, given the growing role the UN is being asked to take on a variety of global challenges, particularly in terms of peacekeeping. Provided below is a table summarizing recent and requested future funding levels for peacekeeping operations and the CIO account - which are largely flat-lined from last year's President's request.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>FY'15 Actual</th>
<th>FY'16 Omnibus/Continuing Resolution</th>
<th>FY'17 President's Budget</th>
<th>FY'17 House SFOPS</th>
<th>FY'17 Senate SFOPS</th>
<th>BWC FY'18 Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CIPA</td>
<td>$2.118 billion</td>
<td>$2.460 billion</td>
<td>$2.394 billion</td>
<td>$1.949 billion</td>
<td>$2.369 billion</td>
<td>$2.398 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIO</td>
<td>$1.496 billion</td>
<td>$1.446 billion</td>
<td>$1.387 billion</td>
<td>$1.346 billion</td>
<td>$1.375 billion</td>
<td>$1.387 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PKO</td>
<td>$473.691 million</td>
<td>$600.63 million</td>
<td>$475.391 million</td>
<td>$631.523 million</td>
<td>$388.441 million</td>
<td>$475.391 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The FY'17 House bill includes funding for U.S. assessments for the UN Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) under the PKO account, which funds a number of regionally focused peacekeeping and security initiatives. UNSOS provides logistical support and equipment to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which while not technically a UN peacekeeping mission, does operate under a Security Council mandate. The Administration’s request and the Senate bill include funding for UNSOS under the CIPA account.
UN STRENGTHENING & REFORM

In order to meet the challenges of the 21st century and to ensure member state resources are used most effectively, the United Nations continues to update its operations and management practices. Changes have taken place in nearly every area of UN operations, from the management of peacekeeping missions, to tougher ethics rules, to streamlined budget processes, to delivery of humanitarian aid on the ground. However, reform takes concerted engagement by all member states, and positive U.S. leadership will be essential to continuing the reform agenda. Provided below is a selection of completed and ongoing UN reform efforts.

PRACTICING BUDGETARY RESTRAINT

In December 2015, the General Assembly approved the UN Regular Budget—which covers the organization’s core activities and expenses, including political missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya—for the 2016-2017 biennium. Overall, the budget for that two-year period came in at $5.4 billion, roughly 2 percent less than the 2014-2015 regular budget approved by the Assembly in December 2013, and around $400 million less than the final appropriation of $5.8 billion for those years.

Among other provisions, the 2016-2017 budget eliminated 150 redundant staff posts and achieved a 5 percent reduction in expenses on supplies, travel, furniture, and other equipment. The General Assembly also reassessed the UN’s staff compensation package for the first time in 26 years, approving a unified base/floor salary scale structure to replace the current separate scales for staff with and without dependents.
COMBATING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

In recent years, the UN has been buffeted by a number of high-profile allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) committed by UN peacekeepers, most notably in the Central African Republic. In response, the UN is working to implement a number of measures and changes in policy to help combat these appalling crimes. These include, among other efforts:

- **Expanding** UN vetting mechanisms currently in place for civilian personnel to cover all troops and police serving on UN peacekeeping missions;

- **Requiring** UN investigative entities to conclude their own investigations into SEA cases within a six-month timeframe, which will be shortened to three months “where circumstances suggest the need for greater urgency”;

- **Developing** an e-Learning program mandatory for all UN field personnel to allow for the flexible delivery of SEA-related pre-deployment training in multiple languages;

- **Establishing** complaint reception mechanisms within local communities to provide victims with safe and confidential means to report SEA violations by UN personnel;

- **Repatriating** entire military or police units to their home countries when there is evidence of widespread or systematic violations by members of these units;

- **Suspending** reimbursement payments to troop-contributing and police-contributing countries in connection with individuals suspected of committing SEA;

- **Creating** a trust fund to support the provision of critical services—including psychological assistance, medical care, access to legal help, and assistance in settling paternity claims—to victims of SEA.

In addition, the UN committed to “naming and shaming” individual member states by publishing country-specific data on the number of credible allegations of SEA against uniformed peacekeeping personnel. In early March 2016, the Secretary-General fulfilled this pledge, publishing a report identifying the nationalities of personnel accused of SEA in 2015 and providing details on the status of investigations against them by their home governments. Later on in March, the UN Security Council weighed in on the issue, adopting its first-ever resolution aimed specifically at addressing SEA in peacekeeping. The resolution—which was drafted by the U.S.—endorsed key parts of the Secretary-General’s reform agenda, including his decision to repatriate entire peacekeeping units that engage in widespread or systemic SEA. The resolution went further on this point however, also calling on the UN to replace entire peacekeeping contingents from countries that fail to properly investigate SEA allegations, hold perpetrators accountable, or keep the UN informed about the progress of investigations or actions taken against their personnel. The resolution also requests that the UN assess whether a member state has taken appropriate steps to investigate and punish cases of SEA when determining that country’s participation in other current or future missions.
ENSURING THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

The last several years have witnessed the adoption and implementation of some important reforms and advancements in UN peacekeeping operations. For example, the UN has implemented the Global Field Support Strategy (GFSS), a five-year project (2010-2015) aimed at improving the efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and speed of administrative and logistics support to UN field missions. As a result of the UN's implementation of GFSS, the cost per peacekeeper declined by 18 percent between 2008 and 2015. Moreover the number of support and security staff serving on UN peacekeeping missions declined by 3,000 over the same period, despite the fact that the number of uniformed personnel in the field has actually increased.

STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY

In the spirit of transparency, the UN now makes all internal audit reports issued by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) publicly available online. This development followed similar decisions by UNICEF, UNDP, and UNFPA. The U.S. Mission to the UN has called this commitment to transparency “a turning point in how the UN does business.”
THE UN AND ISRAEL: A CASE FOR CONTINUED U.S. ENGAGEMENT

Since the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 181 in November 1947, which recommended the partition of Mandatory Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, the UN has played an important role in efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Through its participation in the Middle East Quartet—which also includes the U.S., EU, and Russia—the UN has worked with a variety of international partners and successive U.S. Administrations to support mediation efforts with the goal of reaching a sustainable and just two-state solution.

While the U.S., UN, and wider international community have an important role to play, it is also clear that true peace will only result from negotiation and agreement between the two parties. The UN Secretariat acknowledges this reality, and has repeatedly called on both Israel and the Palestinians “to do their part to create the necessary conditions to launch direct negotiations.”

In late December 2016, the UN Security Council voted by a margin of 14-0, with the U.S. abstaining, in favor of a resolution condemning Israeli settlements. In the wake of this decision, some in Congress have called for withholding U.S. funding for the UN or even withdrawing from the organization completely. Such proposals are counterproductive and inimical to U.S. interests.

The UN and its family of agencies, funds, and programs carries out a wide range of activities that advance core American values and national security, foreign policy, and humanitarian objectives. Defunding or withdrawing from the UN would seriously undermine or cripple these activities, including the UN’s peacekeeping and political missions, humanitarian assistance, and sanctions monitoring for rogue states and terrorists (all outlined in more detail earlier in this briefing book).

In addition to undermining UN activities and programs that serve vital U.S. interests, giving up our seat at the table at the UN would also compromise our ability to defend Israel there. While some criticize the UN as demonstrating a reflexive anti-Israel bias, and there are serious and legitimate questions surrounding the disproportionate focus of some UN bodies on Israel, the fact remains that Israel is a member of the organization and works assiduously to raise its profile in various UN organs, forums, and activities. Indeed, Israel has announced its intention to seek a rotating seat on the UN Security Council in 2019, an effort that is unlikely to succeed without robust diplomatic support from the U.S. in New York.
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Over the years, strong and constructive U.S. engagement and participation has been absolutely critical to normalizing Israel’s status at the UN and fighting back against institutionalized biased treatment. Nowhere are the benefits of the U.S. maintaining its seat at the table more evident than the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC). The Council—a 47-member intergovernmental body mandated to protect and promote universal human rights—was created by the UN General Assembly in 2006 to replace a previous UN human rights body which had been criticized as ineffective, politicized, and biased against Israel. During its first several years, the U.S. refused to run for a seat on the Council, fearing it would be no better than its predecessor. This absence played a key role in allowing Agenda Item 7, which placed “the human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories” on its permanent agenda – to be adopted. In addition, during the period (2006-2009) when the U.S. refused to participate in or engage with the UNHRC, the Council held six special sessions on and devoted more than half of all country-specific resolutions to Israel.

That record of biased treatment began to change in 2009, when the U.S. reversed course and successfully ran for the first of two consecutive three-year terms of membership on the UNHRC. While the permanent agenda item remains in place, there have been noteworthy improvements in other areas. For example, since 2009, the Council has only held one special session on Israel, a marked difference from the three-year period prior to U.S. membership. In addition, the proportion of country-specific resolutions focused on Israel has declined significantly. At the same time, the Council has broadened its repertoire, adopting strong resolutions and establishing independent investigatory mechanisms to scrutinize human rights abuses in Iran, Syria, North Korea, Belarus, and Eritrea, among other countries. The UNHRC is, now more than ever, working to address a much broader set of human rights challenges; this is a direct result of the U.S.’s decision to serve as a member of the Council.

U.S. engagement has helped bolster Israel’s position at the UN in other ways as well. In late 2013, the Western European and Others Group in Geneva, one of several regional groupings of countries, invited Israel to become a member. This was a positive development in Israel’s overall treatment at the UN, providing Israel with greater opportunities for engagement with the Human Rights Council. In February 2014, Israel participated for the first time in the JUSCANZ caucus at the General Assembly’s Third Committee, another core regional coordinating group for human rights and social policy at the UN. According to a State Department press release on the issue: “Israel is now able to fully participate in the main regional and core coordinating groups in New York and Geneva where much of the behind-the-scenes work at the UN gets done.” This also meant it could seek membership in key UN bodies, including enabling its current campaign for a seat on the Security Council.

IN AN OP-ED PUBLISHED AT THE TIME, THE NEW YORK BOARD OF RABBIS CONCLUDED THAT, “Without continued U.S. engagement — and fiscal responsibility to the organization — we would not have the required leverage to bolster Israel’s position or to help defend it against bias from UN member states”. 
This importance of continued U.S. participation was also recently emphasized by the American Jewish Committee in a March 10, 2017 letter to Congress. In it, they stated, “While the impulse to retaliate against ‘the United Nations’ for obsessive condemnation of Israel is understandable, it is short-sighted since Member States – and not the UN per se – are responsible. Moreover, a “slash and burn” approach, as critically characterized by Ambassador Nikki Haley, would lead to significant negative consequences for the U.S. and Israel. Should the U.S. cede its leadership at the UN, other States will rush to fill the vacuum, to the detriment of international peace and security. Moreover, should the U.S. retreat at the UN General Assembly or UN Human Rights Council, other Member States will only increase their campaign to use these bodies as vehicles for attacking Israel. States including China, Cuba, and Venezuela would be handed an opportunity to shape the human rights agenda in ways that would distort it completely, destroying international commitments to universality, equality, and freedom that the U.S. has invested so much energy in securing in the decades since World War II.

Furthermore, AJC argued that, “Despite its flaws, the UN serves several essential purposes. It promotes a rules-based international order that relies upon collective action to maintain international peace and security, reaffirms the universality of human rights, and seeks to impartially monitor States’ compliance with these international norms. It serves as a forum for identifying and promoting diplomatic resolutions to international disputes and crises. It provides essential humanitarian and development assistance, including support for refugees fleeing persecution. It also carries out peacekeeping operations that offset the financial and human burdens associated with policing conflict areas and promoting global stability.”

UNRWA

Besides the Human Rights Council and the UN system more generally, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has also been a target of intense Israel-related criticism over the years. This criticism is misplaced, however, as UNRWA’s work directly advances key American and Israeli interests.

Federal law conditions U.S. contributions to UNRWA on the agency taking “all possible measures” to ensure that no U.S. funding goes to assist any refugee involved in terrorism. UNRWA has agreed to conform to these requirements, and two separate investigations by the U.S. Government Accountability Office in recent years have failed to find UNRWA in violation of these conditions.

Aiding Palestinian refugees in this area of the world continues to be an important priority for both the U.S. and Israel. If UNRWA were unable to provide aid due to lack of support, extremist groups like Hamas would likely fill the vacuum in Gaza. In the West Bank, meanwhile, Israel itself could be responsible for providing many of these services in UNRWA’s absence.
UNRWA PROVIDES A NUMBER OF CRITICAL HUMANITARIAN SERVICES TO PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN THE WEST BANK, GAZA, JORDAN, LEBANON, AND SYRIA.

For example, UNRWA operates one of the region’s largest school systems, with primary and junior secondary schools free to refugee children. UNRWA schools achieved gender parity in the 1960s, and have maintained this record ever since. Overall, more than 50 percent of the agency’s budget is applied towards education, reaching nearly 500,000 Palestinian children with a curriculum centered on tolerance, gender equality, human rights, and non-violence. In addition to education, UNRWA provides comprehensive health services (including primary health care, maternal care, child health, disease prevention and control, and dental care), camp infrastructure maintenance, microfinance, and emergency support in case of armed conflict. Currently, UNRWA is responding to the needs of Palestinians in Syria, more than 50 percent of whom have been displaced by the civil war there.
APPENDIX I
KEY UN INSTITUTIONS
THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

The UN Security Council is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security. The five permanent members of the Security Council are the United States, China, Russia, France, and the United Kingdom. Ten non-permanent members each serve two-year non-consecutive terms.

In terms of the Council’s non-permanent seats, regional groups choose rotating members who are confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the UN General Assembly. The African group has three seats on the Council, the Eastern European group has one, and the Latin America and Caribbean, Asian, and “Western Europe and Others” groups each have two.

HISTORY AND RELEVANCE

On October 24, 1945, the World War II victors ratified the UN Charter, creating the Security Council and establishing themselves as its five permanent members with the unique ability to veto resolutions. Originally, there were six temporary members, rotating every two years and distributed on an equitable geographic basis. That rule was more explicitly defined in 1965, when the number of temporary members was increased to ten.

As outlined in the UN Charter, the Security Council’s purpose is to: “Investigate any dispute, or any situation which might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute, in order to determine whether the continuance of the dispute or situation is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security”. The Charter empowers the Council to respond to threats to international peace by:

- **Recommending** procedures for peaceful resolution of a dispute;
- **Calling** upon other member nations to completely or partially interrupt economic relations as well as sea, air, postal, and radio communications, or to sever diplomatic relations; and
- **Enforcing** its decisions militarily, if necessary.

On January 17, 1946, the Security Council met for the first time in London. Since then, the Council has helped defuse innumerable international crises and strengthen international cooperation on counterterrorism and nonproliferation. Through Security Council resolutions, the UN has undertaken 71 peacekeeping missions in some of the most dangerous places in the world since 1948, helped implement peaceful settlements that have ended conflicts, and enabled millions of people in dozens of countries to take part in free and fair elections to pave the way for democracy.

REFORM AND ENLARGEMENT

There have been frequent calls to enlarge the Council’s membership in order to preserve the UN Security Council’s legitimacy and ensure that it reflects today’s global power and economic realities.

The most popular reform proposal would accept Japan, Germany, India, and Brazil (known as the G4) as permanent members. Japan and Germany are among the largest contributors to the UN budget. India is a nuclear power, the world’s largest democracy, and the second most populous nation. Brazil is the largest and most populous nation in Latin America. Regional groups and individual countries have floated several other proposals, but the Security Council has not responded positively to any of them.

Veto power is a key element in moving forward on Security Council reform. It can prevent the adoption of any substantive draft Council resolution, regardless of the level of international support for the draft. Currently, the five permanent members of the Council (the so-called P5) are the only members who have such authority. Some have proposed that a reformed Security Council grant the veto to new members or alternatively restrict the use of the veto by the P5 nations. The U.S. and other P5 members, however, strongly resist diluting or weakening the veto, and successive U.S. Administrations have publicly opposed any reform which alters the veto structure.

Changes to the Security Council require the unanimous agreement of the P5, and some P5 members may threaten to veto giving a permanent seat to their regional competitors. To get around these obstacles and increase the legitimacy of the Council, some have proposed reforming current working methods to allow non-permanent countries to be represented. This could include holding sessions in which, for instance, countries contributing peacekeeping troops and other UN members have a chance to voice their views.
THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the world’s premiere deliberative body with universal representation. While the exclusive Security Council grants unique veto rights to five nations, all 193 UN member states have equal voting rights in the General Assembly, making it unique among world bodies.

The General Assembly admits new UN members and elects members to other UN organs. It is the primary platform for the dialogue between developed and developing states. Its responsibilities include:

- **Reviewing** reports from the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council;
- **Making** recommendations on international political cooperation;
- **Developing** and systematizing international collaboration in economic, social, cultural, educational, and health fields;
- **Counseling** and encouraging peaceful settlement of hostile situations amongst nations;
- **Appointing** the Secretary-General in conjunction with the Security Council, electing the other ten non-permanent members of the Security Council, judges of the International Court of Justice, and members of the Economic and Social Council; and
- **Setting** the UN budget and approving budget-related decisions that affect the functioning of the Secretariat.

VOTING AND SESSIONS

Each September, a new General Assembly session convenes in New York City with two weeks of open debate during which many world leaders address the body directly. This event provides heads of state and government the only universal forum in which to address one another. After these world leaders return to their capitals, representatives from their missions in New York continue to debate issues in a session that typically suspends in late December and reconvenes as needed throughout the following year.

All 193 UN member states vote in the General Assembly. Additionally, several entities, such as the Vatican, have non-voting, observer status allowing them to participate in debate but not vote. Recommendations on peace and security, the election of members to organs, the admission, suspension, and expulsion of members, and budgetary matters each require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting to pass. Resolutions on all other matters only require a simple majority, and budgets are in practice now adopted by consensus. Aside from budgetary matters that relate to setting the budget for the UN Secretariat, General Assembly resolutions are non-binding on member states.

STRUCTURE

A president, elected prior to the annual opening session, heads the General Assembly and helps set its agenda. Peter Thomson, a Fijian diplomat, is the current president of the General Assembly, now in its 71st session.

The General Assembly has six main committees of the whole: Disarmament and International Security; Economic and Financial; Social, Cultural and Humanitarian; Special Political and Decolonization; Administrative and Budgetary; and Legal. There are seven commissions, including the International Law Commission and the Peacebuilding Commission. There are also smaller councils and panels, such as the Human Rights Council, and other committees covering a broad range of topics, such as the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Finally, representatives meet in working groups to discuss particular issues.
HISTORY AND RELEVANCE

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is, perhaps, the most famous General Assembly Declaration. Adopted in 1948, largely due to the efforts of former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, this document has become the international guidebook for human rights. The Uniting for Peace Resolution, passed in 1950 allow police action to protect South Korea from North Korean aggression, is also noteworthy.

In 2000, the General Assembly adopted a Millennium Development Declaration to achieve specific goals related to poverty, illiteracy, health, and environmental progress by 2015. In September 2015, the General Assembly approved a wide-ranging and ambitious development agenda for the next 15 years, in order to build on the progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In 2005, the General Assembly passed a resolution, the World Summit Outcome, for comprehensive reform to make the organization more efficient, transparent, and accountable and enable it to better address human rights, peacebuilding, and protection challenges.

VOTING PATTERNS

There has been some argument in the past that countries routinely oppose U.S. diplomatic initiatives and vote against the U.S. in the General Assembly (GA). This argument fails to take account of the realities of UN voting. In a manner somewhat akin to the workings of our own Senate—which makes extensive use of unanimous consent agreements—most resolutions adopted by the GA are decided on consensus, meaning no formal vote is taken. Resolutions, which require a vote, are only a relatively small subset of the actions taken by the GA. Even so, on non-consensus issues, the average voting coincidence of all UN member states with the U.S. is above 50 percent. When consensus resolutions are factored in, that number rises to 85 percent. Thus, it is not accurate to say that most Member States are using the UN to counter American interests and policies. On the contrary, the great majority of Member States are supportive of U.S. positions and proposals at the UN.
THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT

The UN Secretariat is headed by the Secretary-General and staffed by 40,000 personnel worldwide, making it smaller in size than Google. The Secretariat carries out the day-to-day work of managing the general operations of the UN globally, implementing mandates adopted by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and other relevant UN bodies. The Secretariat has responsibility over UN peacekeeping operations and political missions but does not include UN funds, programs, and agencies that have their own executive boards.

AREAS OF WORK

Although the work of the Secretariat changes according to the work of the United Nations, some of its main functions include planning and managing UN peacekeeping operations, mediating international disputes and supporting the Secretary-General’s good offices function, assisting in the implementation of Security Council decisions and sanctions, coordinating disaster relief across dozens of humanitarian organizations, promoting social and economic development and tracking statistics and research on progress made, and planning and facilitating discussion and meetings among 193 countries on a daily basis, which includes translating documents and speeches into the UN’s six official languages. All of this is done with an annual budget of approximately $2.7 billion, less than one-third of the state budget of Rhode Island. The United States contributes 22 percent of the budget of the UN Secretariat.

LEADERSHIP

The Secretariat is led by the Secretary-General, who is selected every five years by the Security Council and approved by the General Assembly. Although there is no formal limit to the number of five-year terms a Secretary-General may serve, they generally serve no more than two. The current Secretary-General of the United Nations is Antonio Guterres of Portugal, who assumed office on January 1, 2017. Prior to his election as Secretary-General, Mr. Guterres served as Prime Minister of Portugal from 1995-2002 and UN High Commissioner for Refugees from 2005-2015.

KEY DEPARTMENTS OF THE UN SECRETARIAT

Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO): This critical department is in charge of managing UN peacekeeping missions, giving political and executive direction to the missions, and maintaining contact with the Security Council, troop and financial contributors, and parties to conflicts. DPKO works to coordinate efforts by the UN, governments, and NGOs in carrying out peacekeeping operations.

Department of Field Support (DFS): Created in 2007, DFS coordinates the provision of support to peacekeeping operations and special political and/or peacebuilding missions in the areas of logistics, information and communications technology, finance, human resources. It also has the critical responsibility for overseeing the Conduct and Discipline Unit (CDU), which formulates all policy on training, outreach and discipline in field missions, and implements the UN’s zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel.

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA): OCHA mobilizes and coordinates humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors in the event of disasters and emergencies. OCHA advocates for the rights of people in need, promotes preparedness and prevention, and facilitates sustainable solutions.
**Department of Management:** This body manages the UN budget, human resources, and central services, putting it in charge of everything from financing lifesaving peacekeeping missions, to information technology, to the renovation of UN headquarters.

**Department of Public Information (DPI):** DPI provides valuable services that inform the world about the work of the UN, such as the UN News Center and UN Radio, while also managing UN publications, the United Nations’ Dag Hammarskjöld Library, and the UN CyberSchoolBus, which is an initiative to educate children about the United Nations and international issues.

**Department of Political Affairs (DPA):** The Department of Political Affairs plays a central role in working to prevent and resolve deadly conflicts around the globe and to promote lasting peace in societies emerging from war by monitoring and assessing global political developments, advising the Secretary-General on how to advance the cause of peace, providing support and guidance to UN peace envoys, and coordinating electoral assistance to member states. DPA currently manages 11 UN political and peacebuilding field missions.

**Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS):** This office provides internal oversight advice to the Secretary-General and the General Assembly on their obligations to oversee UN programs and ensure that they comply with appropriate resolutions, regulations, rules, and policies. OIOS is focused on helping the Secretary-General and the General Assembly on preventing and detecting fraud, waste, abuse, malfeasance, or mismanagement and has the authority to monitor, audit, inspect, evaluate, or investigate any UN activity necessary to support the Secretary-General in fulfilling his oversight responsibilities. The UN’s Board of Auditors, by contrast, provides external oversight and is wholly independent of the Secretary-General.
THE NEW UN SECRETARY-GENERAL: 
A RECORD OF REFORM

The new UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, takes office at a time when the United Nations is facing an array of transnational and multifaceted challenges. Growing demands and finite resources, however, mean the UN must strive to reform its operations and management practices as it works to confront these obstacles head on. As the former Prime Minister of Portugal and the head of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), Mr. Guterres has done exactly that. During his decade-long tenure at UNHCR, Mr. Guterres led the most profound structural reform process in the agency’s history. UNHCR tripled its annual activities, increased its efficiency in delivery and coordination, and dramatically reduced the burden of its structural and administration costs. This occurred all while responding to the largest human displacement since the end of World War II.

For example, Mr. Guterres, pushed for a major reduction in staff and operating expenses to make UNHCR more nimble and reflexive. In 2006, UNHCR had 1,047 staff members in Geneva. Three years later, the number had been reduced to 700. The savings were derived from moving many staff and offices to Budapest, a far less expensive city than Geneva. The transfer led to a significant reduction in the agency’s headquarters budget. In 2006, UNHCR’s HQ budget was 13.9 percent of total expenditures – by 2008 it had been cut to approximately 9 percent.

U.S.-UN Reform Efforts: These and similar efforts are the kind of common sense reforms we expect the new Secretary-General to pursue a process the U.S. will play a critical role in advancing. Over the past decade, the U.S. has been firmly engaged at the UN and paid our dues in full, resulting in enactment of a number of reforms that cut costs, enhance effectiveness, and promote transparency.

Why U.S. Engagement Matters: These types of priorities should be further pursued in partnership with the new Secretary-General and require concentrated engagement and participation in the UN system. Efforts to reform the UN from the “outside” – via threats to withhold dues or switch to a voluntary funding model have been debated for years and shown to be counter-productive.
ANTÓNIO GUTERRES
Secretary-General of the United Nations

“In times of insecurity the success of the United Nations and the international community lies in our common commitment to our common values.”
APPENDIX II: THE UN SYSTEM
UN FUNDS & PROGRAMS

The UN system is comprised of more than 30 affiliated organizations—programs, funds, and specialized agencies—with their own membership, leadership, and budget processes. These groups work with and through the UN Secretariat to promote peace and prosperity.

UN programs and funds are financed through voluntary contributions rather than assessed contributions, and include the following:

- **United Nations Development Program (UNDP):** On the ground in 170 countries, UNDP is the UN’s global development network, focusing on the challenges of democratic governance, poverty reduction, crisis prevention and recovery, energy and environment, and HIV/AIDS. UNDP is also one of the primary implementing bodies for UN electoral assistance, helping to facilitate on average one free and fair election somewhere in the world every two weeks. Over the last year, in the field, UNDP has helped host communities in Lebanon and Jordan cope with an influx of Syrian refugees by improving local infrastructure and boosting economic opportunities; provided debris removal and reconstruction assistance to Ecuador as it recovered from a major earthquake; and helped thousands of people displaced by conflict in eastern Ukraine access jobs and psychological counselling.

- **United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF):** UNICEF provides long-term humanitarian and development assistance to children and mothers. UNICEF is involved in a number of critical initiatives, working to help increase the number of girls enrolled in school in Afghanistan; supplying lifesaving vaccines to more than 45% of the world’s children; and providing clean water, sanitation, educational support, and nutritional assistance to children in disaster zones and war-torn regions around the world, including Syria, Iraq, the Central African Republic, and South Sudan.

- **World Food Program (WFP):** WFP is the world’s largest humanitarian agency dedicated to the goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition. On average, the agency provides lifesaving food aid to more than 80 million people in 80 countries annually. Over the last year, WFP has played a key role in the humanitarian response to displacement caused by the Mosul offensive in Iraq, as well as provided assistance to more than 400,000 people in Haiti affected by Hurricane Matthew.

- **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):** UNHCR protects refugees worldwide and facilitates their resettlement or return home. UNHCR is currently working on the ground in 120 countries to help the more than 65 million people currently displaced by armed conflict and persecution in Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia, Somalia, and Yemen. Over the last decade, UNHCR has helped millions of Afghan refugees return to their home country and provided assistance as they reintegrate into society.

- **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):** UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs, organized crime, corruption and terrorism. The Vienna-based organization helps member states address these challenges by providing field-based technical support to enhance the capacity of criminal justice systems and adherence to the rule of law, helping states implement relevant international treaties, and serving as a source of research and information to help guide policy decisions on countering drugs and crime. UNODC also works to improve cross-border cooperation to combat human trafficking.

- **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):** UNFPA, which operates in more than 150 countries, is the largest international source of funding for population and reproductive health programs in the world. UNFPA helps women, men, and young people plan their families, including the number, timing, and spacing of their children, go through pregnancy and childbirth safely, and avoid sexually transmitted infections. UNFPA also combats violence against women and promotes women’s equality. UNFPA does not provide, support, or advocate for abortion, nor does it support, promote, or condone coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization.
• **United Nations Environment Program (UNEP):** UNEP coordinates the UN’s environmental activities. It develops international environmental conventions, assesses global environmental trends, encourages new civil sector partnerships, and strengthens institutions so they might better protect the environment.

• **United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women):** UN Women coordinates the UN response to three issues globally, nationally, and locally: elimination of discrimination against women and girls; empowerment of women; and achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. UN Women was formed as part of the UN reform process, bringing together four different areas of the UN that focused on gender to maximize resources and create a platform for greater impact.

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**UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES**

In addition to the programs, offices, and funds described in the previous section, the UN system is also comprised of a number of affiliated specialized agencies that work with and through the UN to advance international cooperation and progress on a host of critical issues. Through their work, UN specialized agencies promote core U.S. foreign policy, national security, economic, public health, and humanitarian objectives every day. In addition to these benefits, American engagement with these agencies is an extremely cost-effective way to address challenges that cross national borders, as other countries cover the vast majority of their costs. Provided below is a snapshot of the work of these agencies and how they advance U.S. interests.

• **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):** The IAEA works to prevent, detect, and respond to the illicit or non-peaceful use of nuclear material, conducting monitoring and inspection activities in 140 countries to verify compliance with international nuclear safeguard agreements. Currently, the IAEA is playing a central role in monitoring Iran’s compliance with the landmark international agreement reached in 2015 aimed at placing limits and controls on its nuclear program.

• **World Health Organization (WHO):** WHO serves as a coordinating authority on international public health. It is responsible for leading the global response to health emergencies, monitoring outbreaks of infectious disease, spearheading global vaccination efforts, and developing campaigns to combat life threatening diseases like polio, malaria, and HIV/AIDS. In addition to a number of other critical activities, WHO played a leading role in international efforts to combat the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and is currently helping coordinate the international response to the Zika virus.

• **United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):** UNESCO carries out a diverse array of programs in five major areas: education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, and communication and information. UNESCO’s work in these fields serves a number of our nation’s core values and national security interests. For example, UNESCO works to promote freedom of the press, access to primary education for all children, particularly girls, and international Holocaust education. Unfortunately, UNESCO’s work has been severely hampered since October 2011, when a decision by the agency’s General Conference to admit the Palestinians as a member state triggered two U.S. laws from the 1990s requiring our country to cut off funding to any UN agency that does so.
• **International Labor Organization (ILO):** The ILO is responsible for formulating and overseeing the implementation of international labor standards. The agency works to promote the protection of worker rights and improvement of working conditions around the world, the abolition of forced and child labor, and the creation of greater opportunities for employment. Among other benefits, the achievement of these objectives can help improve U.S. economic competitiveness by requiring other countries to operate by a common set of labor-related rules. ILO’s membership structure is unique in that it is the UN’s only tripartite agency: it brings together not only national governments, but employers and workers as well, to jointly shape multilateral labor policies.

• **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):** The FAO fights hunger worldwide by promoting sustainable agricultural development and supporting efforts to rebuild agricultural livelihoods in the wake of natural disasters. In addition, the FAO works to develop global standards for food safety and plant and animal health, which in turn help protect American farmers and consumers, as well as facilitate international trade.

• **International Maritime Organization (IMO):** The IMO sets international safety standards for ships, ports, and maritime facilities, develops ship design and operating requirements, and leads global efforts to prevent maritime pollution. Standards promulgated by the IMO are central to the health of the U.S. economy, as more than 90% of all international trade is carried on ships, and the vast majority of ships that call at U.S. ports have foreign crews and are registered under foreign flags. IMO also works with member states to address security threats to the international shipping industry, including piracy and terrorism.
• **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO):** ICAO enables safe air travel everywhere by setting global standards for navigation, communication, and airline safety. These standards map out airspace jurisdiction and establish “free range” airspace over oceans and seas. This agency also sets international standards for limiting environmental degradation and works to strengthen aviation security by conducting regular audits of aviation security oversight in ICAO member states.

• **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO):** WIPO encourages American innovation and economic growth through the registration and protection of patents, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property, as well as through the adjudication of cross-border disputes on intellectual property. Dozens of major American companies have sought out WIPO’s dispute resolution services as an alternative to costly court proceedings, including the American Automobile Association, Apple, North Face, Costco, and Facebook. Moreover, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, one of 57 NGO observers at WIPO, nearly 19 million Americans are employed in IP-intensive industries, and therefore depend on WIPO-administered IP protection activities.

• **International Telecommunication Union (ITU):** The ITU helps facilitate the connectivity and interoperability of the world’s telecommunications networks, which is of critical importance to the U.S. telecommunications industry and American defense and intelligence communications capabilities. By allocating radio spectrum and satellite orbits, as well as developing technical standards to ensure that networks interconnect seamlessly, the ITU’s work helps make communicating possible even in some of the world’s most remote locations.

• **World Meteorological Organization (WMO):** WMO facilitates the unrestricted international exchange of meteorological data, forecasts and warnings, and works to further their use in the aviation, shipping, agriculture, energy, and defense sectors. Weather knows no boundaries, and through these activities, the WMO helps the U.S. predict and prepare for natural disasters resulting from severe weather events, including hurricanes.

• **Universal Postal Union (UPU):** The UPU facilitates postal service across the globe, helping Americans conduct business everywhere, from Beijing to London to São Paulo. By setting standards for the worldwide postal system and promoting affordable basic postal services in all territories, the UPU enables U.S. businesses to utilize the postal system to conduct business at low costs.

• **World Bank:** The World Bank focuses on poverty reduction and the improvement of living standards worldwide by providing low-interest loans, interest-free credit, and grants to developing countries for education, health, infrastructure, and communications. Dr. Jim Yong Kim of the United States is the 12th president of the World Bank.

• **International Monetary Fund (IMF):** The IMF is an organization of 188 countries that fosters global monetary cooperation, facilitates international trade, promotes high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduces poverty. It offers financial and technical assistance to its members, making it an international lender of last resort. The IMF currently has $78 billion in outstanding loans to 74 nations.
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THE UNITED NATIONS
IMPACT OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN 2017

Each year, the UN:

- Provides food to 80 million people in 80 countries
- Vaccinates 45 percent of the world’s children
- Assists over 65.3 million refugees and people fleeing war, famine or persecution
- Works with 195 countries to combat climate change and make development sustainable
- Keeps peace with 117,000 peacekeepers in 16 operations on 4 continents
- Fights extreme poverty, helping improve the lives of more than 1.1 billion people
- Supports maternal health, helping over 1 million women a month overcome pregnancy risks

And through all of the good that the UN does, it is a resoundingly good bargain for the U.S.:

0.2%
Funding for the UN amounts to 0.2 percent of the total FY17 federal budget

1,000,000,000
The UN has brought more than one billion dollars in revenue to the U.S. from 2014-2016