



UNA-USA TALKING POINTS 2018

1. OUR STORY

I'm a UNA-USA member and a voter from [INSERT STATE/TOWN]. I'm here today to tell you that I support the vital work of the United Nations and am deeply concerned about the President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request, which cuts the International Affairs budget by 30% and severely cuts or outright eliminates U.S. contributions to several critical UN agencies and programs.

While I know several congressional leaders of both parties have publicly stated that these cuts are not in our interests, I wanted to share with you why I believe funding and engaging with the United Nations is so important to our nation's moral and political leadership around the world.

2. OUR CORE ASK

You may not always see its work up close, but the UN is on the front lines of some of the globe's biggest challenges and crises. Right now, the UN Refugee Agency and the World Food Programme are feeding and sheltering over half a million Rohingya refugees. In Iraq, the UN Development Programme has restored electricity to over 20 cities liberated from ISIS and rebuilt dozens of schools and hospitals across the country. In Mali, over 10,000 UN peacekeepers are supporting Western-led counterterrorism operations to destroy Al-Qaeda, ISIS, and their affiliates in the region – a cause that's cost the lives of over 150 peacekeepers since the mission began in 2013. And in New York, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley has leveraged the power of the UN Security Council to bring together the international community to impose unprecedented sanctions on North Korea for its illicit nuclear weapons program.

The UN's efforts to promote peace and security, protect civilians caught in harm's way, coordinate responses to global pandemics and diseases, establish international business norms, and deliver lifesaving humanitarian aid help make the U.S. stronger and safer – there's no doubt about it. **That's why I am asking you to fully fund our UN peacekeeping and regular budget dues and maintain robust U.S. support for vital UN agencies and programs that advance our core national security and foreign policy goals.** I'm not alone in this request; a bipartisan poll conducted in late 2017 found that an overwhelming 88 percent of Americans believe it is important for the U.S. to maintain an active role at the UN – and that means ensuring the UN has the resources it needs to get the job done.

3. OUR HUMAN RIGHTS ASK

This year is the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights –the historic document championed by Eleanor Roosevelt that, for the first time, articulated the rights and freedoms to which every human being is equally entitled. The UDHR is the core document underpinning the UN's role in championing human rights. It is a powerful tool in the fight against oppression, impunity, and affronts to human dignity. I hope that you will join UNA-USA as we commemorate this special occasion on Dec. 10, 2018, speak up about the importance of protecting these fundamental rights in the United States, and leverage our membership in the UN Human Rights Council to challenge human rights abusers in places like Syria, North Korea, Myanmar, and Venezuela.

4. OUR GLOBAL GOALS ASK

Finally, I believe the U.S. should work with the UN to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, 17 priorities for lifting a billion people out of poverty, ending human trafficking, addressing climate change, and meeting other pressing challenges vital to U.S. interests and the world. The Global Goals were adopted unanimously by all 193 UN member nations in 2015. They were created with strong U.S. leadership, including the input of over 70,000 Americans, reflect bipartisan priorities, and are built on the successes the Millennium Development Goals achieved in public health and other areas.



**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

1750 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,
Suite 300 Washington, D.C. 20006
+1 202 887-9040

Twitter & Facebook: @UNAUSA
Instagram: @UNA.USA
unausa.org | #USAforUN

CHEAT SHEET:

What to Say and How to Say It



The United Nations needs YOUR support now more than ever. Use these helpful points below to share your story and ask your Senators and Representative to ensure the UN has the resources it needs to continue its lifesaving work around the world:

Our Story

- I'm here to tell you that I support the vital work of the United Nations
- I'm concerned about the President's 2019 Budget Request because it will severely cut or eliminate U.S. contributions to several critical UN agencies and programs
- I want to share with you why I believe funding the UN is so important to our nation's leadership

Our Core Ask

- The UN is on the front lines of some of the world's biggest challenges and crises
- The UN's efforts to promote peace and security help make the U.S. stronger and safer
- I'm asking you to fully fund our UN peacekeeping and regular budget dues and maintain U.S. support for vital UN agencies and programs
- I'm not alone in this request, this is a bipartisan issue that is supported by 88% of Americans

Our Human Rights Ask

- This year is the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
- The UDHR is the core document underpinning the UN's role in championing human rights
- I hope you speak up on December 10, 2018 as we commemorate the importance of protecting these fundamental rights in the United States

Our Global Goals Ask

- I believe the U.S. should work with the UN to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, which are 17 social and economic priorities for making the world a better place for everyone
- These goals were created with strong U.S. leadership and reflect bipartisan priorities

