



United Nations Association of the USA **Talking Points for 74th UN Day**

GENERAL

- The United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) is a grassroots movement of Americans who support the work of the UN, and advocate for a strong U.S.-UN partnership.
- UNA-USA's network has more than 200 chapters in communities and on college campuses in 45 states in the U.S.—including the District of Columbia—and a total of 20,000 members. About 60 percent of UNA-USA's members are under 26-years-old.
- Together with our sister organization, the Better World Campaign, we represent the single largest network of supporters of the UN in the world. UNA-USA members are united in their commitment to global engagement and their belief that each of us plays a critical role in advancing the UN's mission and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- UNA-USA chapters host hundreds of events every year to connect American communities with the work of the UN.
- UNA-USA's four infinity groups provide members with opportunities to organize, network, and participate at the UN. UNA-USA's infinity groups include UNA Women, UNA Young Professionals, UNA LGBTI, and UNA Educators.

UNA-USA CELEBRATES 74TH UNITED NATIONS DAY

- United Nations Day marks the anniversary of the UN charter's official entry into force, which took place on October 24, 1945.
- Every year, UNA-USA's 200+ chapters and 20,000 members celebrate the United Nations and its work throughout the whole month of October by hosting events in their communities around a theme.
- This year's theme is "Our Planet. Our Future." Chapters are hosting events in their communities to raise awareness on the climate crisis by lending their unique voices and diverse perspectives to the global fight against climate change.
- UNA-USA members are asking U.S. leaders at the local, state, and federal level to work together with the UN to combat climate change.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- In 2015, all 193 Member States adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which provides a shared blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The SDGs, also known as the Global Goals, seek to address some of the world's most pressing challenges, such as poverty, injustice, inequality, climate change, and hunger.
- All Member States have expressed their commitment to working together to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

HISTORY OF UNA-USA

- UNA-USA was founded in 1943 and played an instrumental role in the creation of the UN Charter, its ratification by the U.S. Congress, and in every chapter of the U.S.-UN relationship since the UN's founding. Former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt was largely responsible for growing UNA-USA's membership during the 1950s and served as UNA-USA's Board Chairwoman.
- UNA-USA played a critical role in the creation of the SDGs. UNA-USA conducted the U.S. national public consultation process for the development of the UN's SDGs, hosting hundreds of events and sourcing thousands of individual public submissions from Americans on priorities.

FULLY FUNDING THE UN + SUPPORT FOR THE UN

- Funding the UN has bipartisan support. A recent nationwide poll found that 7 out of 10 voters support paying our UN dues, including majorities of Republicans, Independents, and Democrats.
- Funding the UN benefits the U.S. economy. The UN is a good deal for the U.S. economy. Since 2010, U.S. companies have received more than \$9.5 billion in contracts with the UN, and the U.S. economy receives more revenue from the UN than we spend on our UN regular budget and peacekeeping dues.
- Funding the UN is cost-effective. According to the Government Accountability Office, UN peacekeeping missions are eight times less expensive than deploying U.S. forces alone. The UN Secretariat is streamlined and staffed by 38,000 personnel—less than the U.S. Department of Commerce.
- Funding the UN helps achieve U.S. foreign policy goals. Ending extreme poverty and hunger, ensuring access to safe drinking water, combating infectious diseases, empowering women and girls, and promoting employment and economic growth are not only U.S. priorities—they are UN priorities enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals.
- American support for the UN is at a 10-year high. Eighty-three percent of Americans—across party lines—believe that it's important for the U.S. to maintain an active role in the UN.