



PARTNERS IN PROGRESS:

THE U.S. AND THE UN IN 2020



CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING BOOK





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OUR MISSION



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 national grassroots organization devoted to strengthening the U.S.-UN relationship through public education and advocacy. For more than 75 years, UNA-USA and its chapters 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.

AGENDA

Each year, BWC and UNA-USA build support for U.S. policies that reinforce U.S. engagement with 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 2020 to accomplish the following:

- **ENSURE** payment of our nation's UN regular budget and peacekeeping assessments on time, in full, and without conditions;
- **PROMOTE** 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 funds, programs, and agencies in advancing American interests;
- **FURTHER** constructive engagement on structural and management reforms at the UN and the continued implementation of ongoing reforms;
- **ADVOCATE** for full U.S. engagement with key UN bodies and to rejoin the UN Human Rights Council;
- **ENCOURAGE** action towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015; and
- **SUPPORT** Senate ratification of key multilateral agreements.



CHAPTER 1:

THE VALUE OF THE UN

WHY THE UNITED STATES NEEDS THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations was created in the aftermath of World War II at the initiative of the U.S. and the other Allied Powers, tasked with maintaining international peace and security, promoting social progress, and supporting universal human rights.

Now in 2020, as the international community commemorates seventy-five years since its establishment, the UN remains more relevant than ever. As the only international organization capable of bringing 193 countries together under one roof to address an array of issues critical to humanity, the UN is at the center of efforts to promote conflict prevention and peacekeeping, sustainable development and environmental protection, nuclear non-proliferation, humanitarian relief, gender equality, and good governance.

Since its founding, the UN's work in these and many other areas has directly advanced U.S. values and interests around the world. The U.S. has enjoyed a uniquely prominent status within the UN, serving as a veto-wielding permanent member of the UN Security Council, host of UN headquarters in New York City, and its largest financial contributor.

As such, the U.S. has been in a prime position to shape the UN's agenda to advance its national security interests, foreign policy objectives, and values, including through:

» PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

UN peacekeepers are deployed to some of the most dangerous conflict zones in the world, tasked with protecting civilians from violence, facilitating humanitarian assistance, supporting democratic elections, and helping to lay the foundation for sustainable peace. While the U.S. itself provides very few troops to these missions (just several dozen out of a total force of more than 85,000), its seat on the Security Council ensures that it plays a decisive role in determining where peacekeepers should be deployed, for how long, and what responsibilities they should be required to undertake.



» EFFORTS TO COUNTER TERRORISTS AND ROGUE STATES

The UN Charter empowers the Security Council to impose legally-binding sanctions as part of its overall responsibility for addressing threats to international peace and security. From its seat on the Council, the U.S. has successfully pushed for the adoption of robust sanctions—including asset freezes, travel bans, arms embargoes, trade restrictions, and other measures—targeting the malign activities of terrorist groups (Al-Qaeda, ISIS, and the Taliban) and rogue states that seek to obtain weapons of mass destruction (North Korea).

» PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

Since its founding, elevating and advancing human rights has been a key pillar of the UN's work and a longstanding priority of the U.S. government as well, particularly Congress. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) conducts fact-finding missions and provides support to independent investigative mechanisms established by the UN Human Rights Council that probe serious violations in specific countries. In recent years, OHCHR has aided efforts to uncover and report on abuses in Syria, Iran, North Korea, Venezuela, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Iraq, Belarus, Myanmar, Eritrea, and Ukraine, among other places. These activities help raise public awareness of human rights violations, magnify the voices of dissidents and civil society organizations on the ground, and provide a tool for pressuring repressive governments and holding abusers accountable. Since its inception 10 years ago, UN Women has accelerated the work to ensure that women's rights are human rights. From providing countries with policy guidance on women's rights to providing safe spaces for women in refugee camps, UN Women is working around the world to promote women's rights.



» ADDRESSING HUMANITARIAN CRISES

Armed conflict, political instability, climate change, and other factors have led to an unprecedented growth in humanitarian needs around the world. UN agencies like the World Food Programme (WFP), UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and UN Population Fund (UNFPA) are leading 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 in countries in crisis, including Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Afghanistan. Because the U.S. does not have the capacity or reach to lead every humanitarian response, it works closely with the UN, which brings together Member States, NGOs, faith-based organizations, the private sector, and others to address crises.



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» RESPONDING TO INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

Diseases do not know borders, and in our highly interconnected world, a public health emergency in one country can quickly spread across the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) works to meet this challenge by serving as a multilateral coordinating body on international health issues, responsible for monitoring and leading the response to outbreaks of infectious disease, spearheading vaccination efforts, and developing campaigns to combat life threatening illnesses like polio, malaria, and HIV/AIDS. This year also marks the 40th anniversary of the only disease ever to be completely eradicated in nature, smallpox. WHO led the efforts and the elimination serves as one of the greatest accomplishments in the history of the UN system. In recent years, WHO has played a leading role in efforts to combat the Ebola outbreaks in West Africa and DRC and Zika virus in the Western Hemisphere. WHO is leading the UN efforts in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. From coordinating the global clinical trials on therapeutics and vaccines to providing countries with the technical guidance needed to combat the pandemic, WHO's work is critical to stemming COVID-19 everywhere, which will keep Americans safe.

While the UN is not a perfect institution, calls for the U.S. to dramatically scale back its engagement or financial support are strategically unsound. In 2020, the world faces an array of seemingly intractable challenges that transcend national borders—from climate change and extreme poverty, to increasing forced displacement and violent conflicts in the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa. None of these issues exist in a vacuum, and no single country—even one as rich and powerful as the United States—can tackle them alone. By providing a framework for countries to work out their differences peacefully and respond to common threats and challenges collectively, the UN is critical to making the world a more secure, healthy, and humane place. Moreover, by marshalling the resources—financial or otherwise—of the entire international community, working through the UN ensures that neither American taxpayers, nor soldiers, will have to bear the full responsibility for addressing these challenges.

The following briefing book delves into a full suite of issues, including those outlined above, where the U.S. benefits from the work of the UN.

HOW THE UN BENEFITS THE U.S. ECONOMY

American investments in the United Nations help achieve U.S. foreign policy goals, but the return on investment goes well beyond advancing global peace and security. We also see a tangible economic benefit here at home.

Research conducted by the Better World Campaign found that American companies were awarded \$1.64 billion in procurement contracts with the United Nations in 2018 (the most recent year for which data was available), by far the most of any country around the world. Since 2010, U.S. companies have received more than \$10 billion in contracts with the UN overall.

American businesses working with the UN provide a range of goods and services, including telecommunications, financial services, construction, food production, medical care, and armored vehicles. Likewise, the economic impact of these contracts is immensely diverse, benefiting firms from Alaska to Alabama and Connecticut to Colorado. In fact, 84 Senators and 217 members of the House of Representatives have at least one company headquartered in their state or district doing business with the UN.

Below is a small sampling of some of the American companies that rely on a strong U.S.-UN partnership to employ thousands of hard-working Americans:

STATE	COMPANY	VALUE OF CONTRACT
Alaska	Lynden Air Cargo, LLC	\$9,636,363.21
Arizona	Sundanzer Refrigeration, Inc.	\$5,099,000.00
Colorado	Build Change	\$1,234,990.62
Florida	Technology Dinamic, Inc.	\$17,727,242.81
Illinois	Caterpillar Inc.	\$728,315.65
Kansas	SRD Foundation	\$1,817,642.22
Maryland	Schuyler Line Naviation Company, LLC	\$18,600,580.18
New York	LR Architects P.C.	\$546,100.77
South Carolina	Books of Hope LLC	\$408,442.12
Texas	Reliance Bulk Carriers LLC	\$10,937,911.89



The UN not only benefits thousands of American workers from coast-to-coast, but it also generates billions of dollars in revenue each year for New York City. A 2016 report by the New York City Mayor's Office for International Affairs found that the **UN boosts the local economy by \$3.69 billion annually—the equivalent of hosting more than seven Super Bowls each year.**

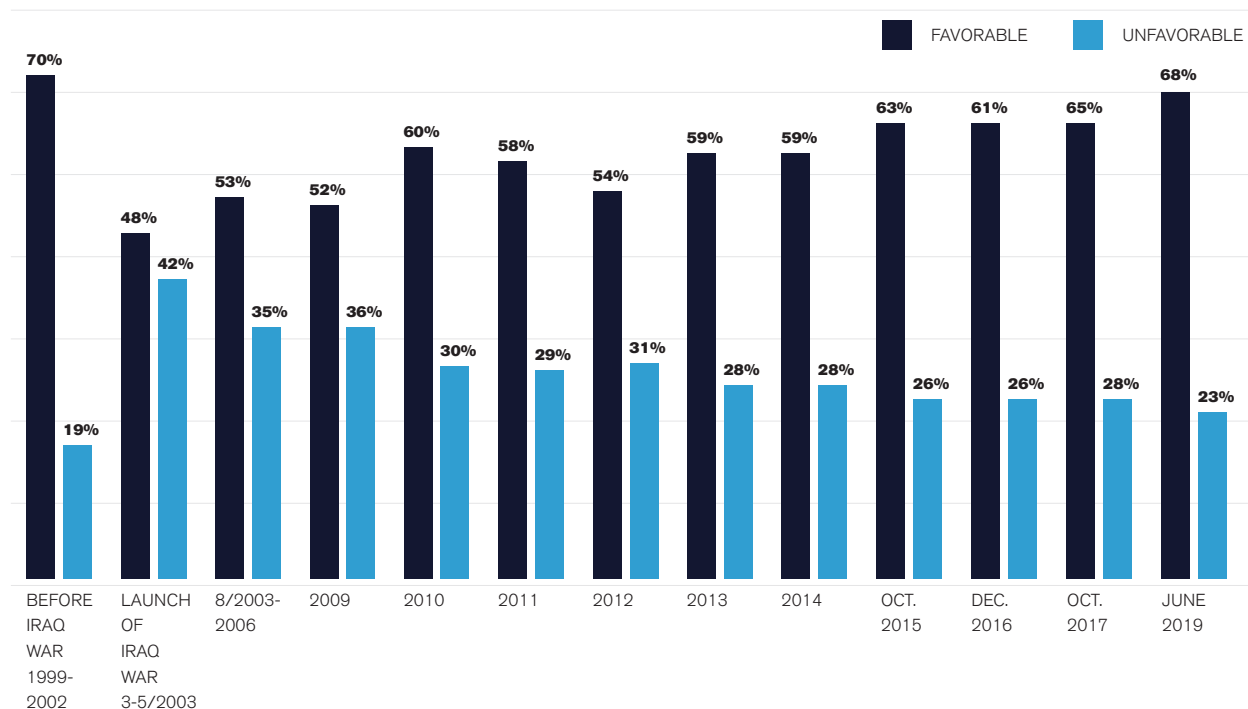
AMERICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE UN

For over ten years, the bipartisan research team of Public Opinion Strategies and Hart Research Associates have conducted research on American attitudes toward the United Nations.

The latest poll, conducted in June 2019, found that voters support the UN with the highest favorability rating in 10 years (68 percent favorable, 23 percent unfavorable, 8 percent neutral). Majorities of Republicans (69 percent), Democrats (96 percent), and Independents (84 percent) also say that it is important for the U.S. to maintain an active role in the UN.

Moreover, Americans overwhelmingly agree that the UN is a smart investment of taxpayer dollars. Majorities of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents all support the U.S. paying our dues on time and in full—the highest support in almost a decade (72 percent favor/25 percent oppose).

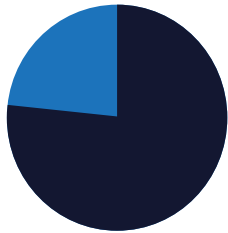
Even when disputes arise or the U.S. does not achieve all of its objectives at the UN, a majority of voters still believe there is greater value in the U.S. remaining engaged. Specifically, nearly six in ten (59 percent) Americans believe the U.S. should try to find a new diplomatic strategy and new allies to achieve its objectives whereas only two in ten (22 percent) say the U.S. should leave the negotiating table and go it alone.



RISING TRENDS:

HOW AMERICANS VIEW U.S. GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

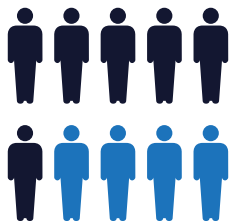
83%



OF VOTERS AGREE THE U.S. MUST REMAIN ENGAGED IN THE UN

Americans across party lines believe that the U.S. must maintain an active role at the UN.

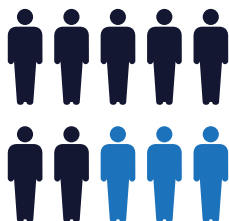
6/10



VOTERS HAVE A FAVORABLE IMAGE OF THE UN

Six in 10 voters have a favorable image of the United Nations (68% favorable/8% neutral/23% unfavorable). This is the highest favorable rating of the UN since our tracking started in 2009.

7/10



VOTERS SUPPORT PAYING OUR UN DUES

Majorities of Republicans, Independents, and Democrats support the U.S. paying our UN general dues on time and in full.



CHAPTER 2:

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL ISSUES

PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

For many people, the UN is the world's '911 service' – a first-responder that helps deliver food, shelter, clean water, medical assistance, and education to those caught in the middle of deadly conflicts or suffering in the aftermath of natural disasters. Given its high degree of international legitimacy, capacity, and reach, the UN is uniquely positioned to coordinate and lead these types of relief efforts.

Over the course of the last year, UN humanitarian agencies like the World Food Programme (WFP), UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and others have answered the call of millions of vulnerable and persecuted people all over the globe.

These efforts, have been mounted at a time when the UN humanitarian system as a whole is facing ever-increasing demands on its resources. An unprecedented 70.8 million people around the world have been driven from their homes by war, persecution, or human rights abuses, the highest level of forced displacement since the end of World War II. This is a trend that has been increasing for several years, and 2020 is expected to continue placing extraordinary strains on the UN's already overworked network of frontline humanitarian agencies.

» YEMEN

In Yemen, where nearly 80 percent of the population relies on humanitarian aid to survive, UN agencies have played a key role in responding to the crisis:

- WFP is working to reach 12 million people per month with food and nutritional assistance;
- UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) continue to respond to a cholera epidemic that has sickened nearly one million people since January 2018, operating treatment facilities and vaccinating people across the country;
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is helping to increase domestic food production through cash transfers, provision of agricultural inputs, vaccinating livestock, and rehabilitating irrigation systems; and
- UNFPA has integrated nutrition assistance for pregnant women into its reproductive health and safe delivery services in the country.

These activities have undoubtedly saved many thousands of lives, even as the country's brutal civil war continues to grind on.



IF THE WORLD IS
SERIOUS ABOUT
SAVING LIVES,
**THE TIME TO ACT
IS NOW.**



DAVID BEASLEY

*Executive Director,
World Food Programme and
Former Governor of South Carolina
November 19, 2019*

» VENEZUELA

More than 4.5 million people have left Venezuela since 2015 amid extreme food and medicine shortages, hyperinflation, rampant crime, and political repression. The country's economic collapse has pushed almost 90 percent of its population below the poverty line, with more than half of families unable to meet basic food needs. Given the severity of the crisis, UN humanitarian agencies are working throughout the region:

- UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration are providing emergency shelter, distributing clean water and hygiene supplies, facilitating access to legal assistance, providing integration services including vocational training and job placement, and supporting government efforts to register displaced Venezuelans in order to better address their needs in Colombia, Brazil, and Peru; and
- WFP is working to deliver food aid to the more than one million Venezuelans who have fled to Colombia, including by partnering with the Catholic Church and civil society organizations to provide hot meals to women, children, senior citizens, and people with disabilities, distributing pre-paid cards to families which allow them to purchase food in local markets, and supporting school meals to help meet the nutritional needs of children and keep them in school.



» THE SAHEL

Failed harvests due to poor rainfall, political instability, increasing violence by militant groups, and other factors have contributed to numerous cycles of severe food insecurity in the Sahel region of West Africa in recent years. In Mali, Burkina Faso, and western Niger alone, 1.8 million people are currently food insecure, and 400,000 children are severely malnourished. Overall, more than 6 million people in the affected countries need some form of humanitarian assistance. WFP has responded with emergency food and cash distributions to affected populations, school feeding initiatives that seek to keep children healthy and in school, and supplementary nutritional support to malnourished children and pregnant and nursing mothers, reaching 2.6 million people overall. UNICEF, for its part, reports that across the Sahel region and Central Africa, more than 9,000 schools have been forced to close due to the increasingly tenuous security environment. In order to address this challenge, UNICEF is working to support alternative learning opportunities, including community learning centers, radio school programs, and faith-based educational programs. The agency is also providing psychosocial support for children in the region who have been affected by violence.

» PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

Established by the UN General Assembly in 1949 to assist Palestinians who were forced from their homes by the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) provides an array of critical services to Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. Perhaps most importantly, UNRWA is a critical provider of education, reaching nearly 500,000 Palestinian children with a curriculum centered on tolerance, gender equality, human rights, and non-violence. In fact, more than 50 percent of the agency's entire budget is spent on education. To put that in perspective, if it were in the U.S., UNRWA would be the country's third largest school system. UNRWA also provides health services to 3 million Palestinian refugees and food aid to more than 1 million people in Gaza.

Despite the U.S. decision to end funding for the agency in 2018, leaving a \$360 million hole in its budget, other countries have stepped into the gap and prevented UNRWA from having to close its doors. Nevertheless, the agency's financial prognosis remains dire, with the agency continuing to face its worst funding crisis in its 70-year history.

THE UN AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The fight for human rights and fundamental freedoms around the world has been a core part of the UN's mission since its inception. The UN works to advance human rights through a number of tools, mechanisms, institutions, and partnerships.

» UN HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE

Established in 1993 with U.S. backing, the UN Human Rights Office operates 14 country and 12 regional offices, and supports 13 human rights components in peace missions. This includes providing technical assistance, monitoring, and public reporting related to human rights issues. It has a Rapid Response Unit to respond to human rights and humanitarian emergencies around the world.

» UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS: SPECIAL PROCEDURES AND TREATY BODIES

There are over 50 UN special procedures with mandates to promote human rights around the world through country visits, expert-level reporting, emergency communications, and supporting the work of activists on the ground. Considered independent from the UN, special procedures do not receive a salary and are expected to serve in their personal, expert capacity. Existing special procedure mandates whose efforts support U.S. priorities include special rapporteurs on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, freedom of religion and belief, freedom of expression, combating human trafficking, and protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

UN human rights treaty bodies, composed of global eminent experts, track compliance with UN human rights treaties that are ratified by national governments. In August 2019, for example, China faced scrutiny from the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination treaty body for its internment of ethnic Uighurs, including pervasive violations of religious freedom. Notably, for the first time in a quarter century, no American currently holds a seat on a UN treaty body.

» UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (UNHRC)

The UNHRC is the only global intergovernmental body created with the exclusive purpose of upholding universal human rights. The Council's 47 Member States pass resolutions on country-specific human rights situations, order inquiries, and appoint independent experts. The Council's "Universal Periodic Review" tool also evaluates the overall human rights records of all UN members and has maintained a 100 percent participation rate from governments.

The U.S. first joined the Council in 2009, and subsequently successfully won reelection twice. During the U.S.'s tenure as a member, UNHRC's capacity increased and, according to the American Jewish Committee's Jacob Blaustein Institute, the proportion of Council resolutions dealing with Israel dropped. Nevertheless, in June 2018 the U.S. left the UNHRC, citing dissatisfaction with the Council's treatment of Israel and membership.

Giving up its seat also forced the U.S. to outsource its flagship efforts at the Council to countries with less of a diplomatic footprint, including initiatives on Iran and Syria. According to a study by the Council on Foreign Relations, staying off the Council also leaves the U.S. with less diplomatic clout to pursue Council reform and other priorities such as combating anti-Israel bias.

The record is clear that the Council produces positive outcomes for core American foreign policy objectives and values, but especially when backed by the U.S. For example:

- In September 2019, the Council voted to create a **fact-finding mission to investigate human rights abuses in Venezuela** including extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, torture, and other cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment. The inquiry will report back to the Council with the goal of ensuring accountability for perpetrators of violations and justice for victims.
- In 2019, the **UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief**, whose mandate was reauthorized by the UNHRC in 2018, released a major report on combatting anti-Semitism. The report called upon governments “to acknowledge that antisemitism poses a threat to stability and security. . .” and “Expression that draws on antisemitic tropes or stereotypes, rejects the right of Israel to exist or advocates discrimination against Jewish individuals because of their religion, should be condemned.”
- In 2018, the Council established the **Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM)** to lay the groundwork for accountability for war crimes in Myanmar. Headed by a U.S. citizen, the IIMM is mandated to “collect, consolidate, preserve and analyze evidence of the most serious international crimes and violations of international law committed in Myanmar.” It will also assist in expediting criminal charges against alleged perpetrators.
- The most recent report of the **UN Special Rapporteur on Iran**—a position that was first established by the UNHRC in 2011 with strong U.S. backing—was released in July 2019 and noted increasing restrictions on the right to freedom of expression, the right to a fair trial, and the right to freedom of association and assembly. The Special Rapporteur also found that Christian converts risk arbitrary arrests, detention, and interrogation about their faith and have faced specious charges. The Special Rapporteur recommended that Iran “end the criminalization of the peaceful expression of faith.”
- In 2019, the Council overwhelmingly voted to renew the mandate of the **UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**. Through country visits, reports to the UN, and statements, the mandate has catalyzed unprecedented global reporting on international human rights challenges facing LGBTI individuals including the criminalization of same-sex relationships, extrajudicial killings, and discrimination.



STOPPING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY: CREATING A SUSTAINABLE AND JUST FUTURE

» BRIEF HISTORY

Since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, modern energy, agriculture, and industrial practices have greatly increased the level of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere. Over 97 percent of climate scientists find that the world is warming from human activities, and it is causing impacts across the climate system that harm people, ecosystems, and economies.

The international community first agreed to address the climate issue through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992. This treaty committed signatories to avoiding dangerous human interference with the climate system and reducing emissions commensurate with their levels of development. President George H.W. Bush signed the treaty, and the Senate unanimously ratified it.

After years of negotiations on the 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, adopted by 195 countries, commits the world to keep global average temperatures from rising more than 2°C (3.6°F) above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit temperature increases to 1.5°C (2.7°F). The goal is supported by voluntary national commitments to reduce emissions. In 2017, however, the Trump administration announced its intention to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement, and on November 4, 2019, the administration followed through with the decision, submitting a formal notice to withdraw (which will go into effect a year from the notice date).

However, Americans from across the country and in all sectors—from state and city governments to businesses, investors, civil society organizations, and citizens—have stood up to support the agreement. This includes the U.S. Climate Alliance, a bipartisan group of 25 governors, who are committed to reducing emissions in line with the goals of the agreement. Together, these states represent more than \$11 trillion in GDP and represent 60 percent of the U.S. population. In 2019 alone, eight new states, including Michigan and New Mexico, joined the alliance.

» SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was created in 1988 to establish a strong scientific basis for climate change policy. The IPCC, which depends on the volunteer engagement of hundreds of climate experts from leading academic and research institutions worldwide, has released five Assessments Reports. Each report expresses increasing certainty about the human contribution to climate change and warning of the likely consequences.

In October 2018, the IPCC released “Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C,” a report that broke through headlines and created a watershed moment for society’s understanding of climate change. The report found that half a degree makes a world of difference: the impacts of climate change—from species loss to crop loss—will be far worse at 2°C warming than 1.5°C. However, to limit warming to 1.5°C, the world must cut greenhouse gas emissions in half over the next 10 years and ultimately reach net-zero emissions by 2050, requiring “rapid and far-reaching transitions” that would be “unprecedented in terms of scale.”

In 2019, the IPCC released three Special Reports that further advanced the scientific understanding of climate change: in May, IPCC released the “2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories,” which provides methodologies for countries managing human-caused emissions inventories; in August, the “Special Report on Climate Change” and Land revealed that human activities on land like farming and deforestation are a key cause of climate change, but land can also be part of the climate solution; and in September, the “Special Report on Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate” found that climate impacts are being felt from the poles and highest mountains to the depths of the ocean, and that some of these effects may be irreversible. The IPCC is expected to release its Sixth Assessment Report in 2021.

» UN CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

Entering into force on November 4, 2016, the Paris Agreement brought all nations together for the first time under a common framework to tackle climate change. The agreement is based on national action plans, called Nationally Determined Contributions, which are to be strengthened over time every five years starting in 2020. To help developing countries deal with the impacts of climate change, the agreement also reaffirms a commitment to mobilize \$100 billion each year from public and private sources.

While the adoption of the Paris Agreement was historic, progress since then has been less celebrated. Each of the past five years were the hottest on record and recent reports have found that global emissions continue to rise. 2019 saw a wave of activism in response, as millions of young people around the world, inspired by Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, went on “climate strikes” from school to urge leaders to do more.

To create a springboard for more ambitious climate action, Guterres convened heads of state at the Climate Action Summit at UN headquarters in September 2019, ahead of the 2020 deadline. While the summit resulted in new commitments from 70 countries, as well as major announcements from investors and companies, these were not enough to meet the challenge and must be followed with more action. The 25th UN Climate Change Conference, held in Madrid, Spain in December 2019, also revealed a lack of resolve from major emitters as negotiations failed to finalize key rules for the Paris Agreement.

Countries, businesses, civil society, investors, local leaders, and more will convene in Glasgow, UK for the 26th UN Climate Change Conference in 2020, where countries are expected to formally raise their national targets in line with the 1.5°C goal. Whether or not major economies step up is key, as just 20 countries are responsible for approximately 80 percent of global emissions.



GLOBAL HEALTH

Over the last 75 years, the health and welfare of people around the world has been at the core of the UN's work. Key UN agencies such as the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UN Development Programme (UNDP), and World Health Organization (WHO) have long partnered with NGOs, faith-based organizations, and governments, and as a result people around the world are living longer, more prosperous lives. Discussed in additional detail below are several areas where the U.S. and UN work together on global health issues.



VACCINES WORK. AND WE
MUST WORK TOGETHER...
**TO GIVE EVERY CHILD,
EVERYWHERE, THE
LIFESAVING GIFT OF
IMMUNIZATION.**



HENRIETTA H. FORE

*Executive Director, UNICEF,
and former Administrator, USAID
July 1, 2019*

» **CHILD IMMUNIZATION**

The U.S. has been a key contributor to UNICEF for over 70 years, and in 2018 alone, the agency procured 2.3 billion doses of vaccines for 99 countries, helping to protect 45 percent of the world's children under the age of five. Childhood vaccination is one of the most successful medical interventions in the last 70 years, responsible for saving the lives of 2.5 million children each year.

This year, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, has had a record level of commitments to fund the purchase and delivery of life-saving vaccines for children in the world's poorest countries, bringing together developed and developing countries, UNICEF, WHO, and the World Bank. The U.S. is Gavi's third largest donor, contributing more than \$2.4 billion over the last twenty years. Gavi will also be instrumental in financing vaccines for COVID-19, ensuring wider availability and more equitable access once these vaccines are ready for distribution. Funding Gavi at \$290 million in Fiscal Year 2021 will allow it to immunize 300 million kids between 2021 and 2025, saving an additional 7-8 million lives.

» **POLIO**

Thanks to the tireless efforts of health workers, local governments UNICEF and WHO, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) has cornered polio in just a few areas of the world. Long a bipartisan priority, GPEI has reduced polio by 99.9 percent, from 350,000 wild poliovirus cases a year in 1988 to 156 in 2019. The WHO and UNICEF are the only organizations capable of reaching the last cases, and if we fail to eradicate polio, within a decade we could see a resurgence of as many as 200,000 new cases each year, at a cost of billions of dollars to national governments.

» **COMBATING EPIDEMICS**

In today's globalized world, diseases can circle the globe in as little as 36 hours. The best way to prevent the spread of infectious disease is to stop it at its source, before it becomes costly and difficult to contain. 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 amplifies the work of U.S. agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Together, multilateral and bilateral cooperation strengthens global capacity to better detect, prevent, or respond to fast-moving pandemics and infectious diseases.

Currently, parts of eastern Congo are grappling with the second-largest Ebola outbreak in history, with more than 3,400 cases and 2,200 deaths since August 2018. The situation is complicated by the fact that it is occurring in an active conflict zone, and has witnessed numerous attacks on health workers by armed groups operating in the region. Nevertheless, the WHO is responding to the outbreak and playing a central role in contact tracing efforts to prevent the spread of the virus, helping to vaccinate more than 260,000 people in the outbreak zone, and supporting Ebola treatment centers with medical supplies and other critical services. UNICEF is involved in these efforts as well, working to provide clean water, hygiene, and sanitation services to encourage infection prevention and control.

WHO is leading the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries around the world are relying on WHO to procure millions of pieces of personal protective equipment and other vital health commodities like tests and testing supplies. Through the groundbreaking "Solidarity Trial," WHO is coordinating the collaboration between over 100 countries on potential therapeutics and vaccines. With the close collaboration of the U.S. CDC and through WHO's credibility, technical guidance, and close working relationship with health ministries in over 150 countries, information is being distributed and health systems are being protected which will save people's lives, here in the U.S. and around the world. And, once vaccine candidates are developed, WHO will be essential to ensuring equitable access and effective distribution, which will save lives, protect Americans, and blunt additional outbreak waves of COVID-19 that could continue to threaten the global economy.

» WOMEN'S HEALTH

The U.S. has long been a leader in international reproductive health and family planning (IRH/FP) efforts and is the largest global donor to IRH/FP on a bipartisan basis. Congress has provided bilateral IRH/FP funding, as well as funding for UNFPA, which was originally formed over 50 years ago under the leadership of President George H.W. Bush, then the U.S. Ambassador to the UN. On the ground, our bilateral programs and multilateral contributions have empowered women, saved lives, and strengthened families.

USAID's Family Planning Program ensures 24.3 million women and couples have access to contraceptive services and supplies which prevents 14,700 maternal deaths and 7.2 million unintended pregnancies. For every dollar the U.S. invests in IRH/FP, \$6 is saved. UNFPA provides more than 38 million people around the world access to sexual and reproductive health services and gender-based violence counseling, among other programs.

UNFPA takes a human rights-based approach to ensure that we live in a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled. In 150 countries around the world, UNFPA works to provide contraceptive access, end gender-based violence, and end female genital mutilation. UNFPA also works to ensure that reproductive health is integrated into the response to humanitarian emergencies. For example, the organization provided maternal care, including equipment and medicines for safe deliveries, emergency obstetric care, and support to address post-partum complications that arise in mothers and newborns, to the people of Mosul, Iraq, and "dignity kits," which include hygiene products and other important supplies for women, to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

While the world has made important progress on women's health over the years, significant challenges remain. In addition to historic levels of humanitarian need, there are currently 214 million women who lack access to modern contraception. If we were to reach this unmet need worldwide, we would see 67 million fewer unintended pregnancies, 36 million fewer induced abortions, and 76,000 fewer maternal deaths each year.

The U.S. currently does not fund UNFPA and limits who can receive funding through bilateral family planning programs.



ENDING EXTREME POVERTY

» THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2015, all 193 UN Member States came together to build a successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight ambitious targets to eradicate extreme poverty and improve health, well-being, and equality worldwide. With input from governments, the private sector, NGOs, and citizens, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (also known as the SDGs or Global Goals) were adopted unanimously to tackle the structural hurdles to ending extreme poverty. The goals target a full set of development challenges, including promoting good governance, ending preventable diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria and maternal deaths, improving access to education, food, and sanitation, and ensuring gender equality.



The goals are meant to guide global development policy through 2030. Over the last five years, we have witnessed important progress on a number of these targets, including:

- The mortality rate of children under the age of 5 fell to 39 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2017, a 6.7 per cent reduction from 42 deaths in 2015;
- In 2000, 28 percent of people had access to sanitation services, rising to 43 percent in 2015 and to 45 percent in 2017;
- In 2018, 81 percent of births took place with the assistance of a skilled birth attendant, a significant improvement from 69 percent in 2012; and
- Between 2010 and 2017, participation rates in early childhood education have increased to 69 percent.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has termed the next ten years the Decade of Action, asking all countries and partners to accelerate action to achieve the SDGs.

» **U.S. LEADERSHIP; NOT U.S. LAW**

While the Global Goals reflect a consensus among all Member States, they carry a strong U.S. imprint. During negotiations, the U.S. government engaged robustly in member state consultations, and U.S. grassroots and civil society organizations worked to feed their own ideas into the process. The resulting Global Goals broadly reflect many U.S. foreign policy and development priorities that have been championed by both Democrats and Republicans over the years. These include alleviating extreme poverty and hunger, ensuring access to safe drinking water and education, combating infectious disease, empowering women and girls, and promoting employment and economic growth. Moreover, by seeking to promote the rule of law, fight human trafficking, increase government transparency, address corruption, and support universal human rights, the Global Goals also focus much-needed attention on governance-related issues, another longstanding priority of U.S. foreign assistance programs.

» **PARTNERING WITH BUSINESSES, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO END POVERTY**

The business community was deeply immersed in the negotiations around the goals and has come out strongly in support of them. Through the UN Global Compact, more than 10,000 businesses worldwide have made pledges to help achieve the SDGs. In the U.S. alone, almost 600 companies have joined this initiative, including General Electric, Nike, Cisco Systems, and General Motors. In addition, more than 4,000 non-governmental organizations, cities, and other organizations have made pledges, including the city of Milwaukee, Catholic Relief Services and the International Rescue Committee.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The evolution from the MDGs to the SDGs can be most clearly seen in the goals and targets themselves. While the MDGs were a watershed set of time-bound and specific goals for development, the universal framework of the SDGs are built on system-wide approaches. Rather than look at achievement of any single goal, the SDGs look at issues that cross goals.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



▪ Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-Being for All at All Ages

One of the biggest successes of the MDGs was driving down the incidences of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and deaths from childhood preventable diseases. While the SDGs do have targets for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, as well as other non-communicable diseases, there was a recognition that people must have access to health coverage to prevent the next pandemic, strengthen economies, and ensure a world without extreme poverty. The World Health Organization is taking the lead in working with countries to strengthen their health systems to provide universal health coverage and access to quality health services without the risk of financial hardships. Debates are ongoing in countries about how to provide care and what services should be included, but there is no disputing that strong health systems are integral to a healthier world.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



▪ Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls

While a stand-alone goal on gender empowerment existed in the MDGs, Member States, the UN and civil society wanted to more closely link it to other goals. Looking at gender equality, UN Women is measuring how gender equality affects each goal. For instance, women are over-represented in slums in 70 percent of countries where data is available. Reaching Goal 11, Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient, and Sustainable, means we must address the underlying issues causing women to be disproportionately represented in slums. Reaching Goal 4, Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All, means we must address the issues that are keeping 15 million girls of primary school age out of the classroom versus 10 million boys.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



▪ Promote Just, Peaceful, and Inclusive Societies

For many, access to the justice system and other services have been hurdles to ending extreme poverty. Corruption and unstable societies may keep ruling figures in power but undermine the ability of all citizens to prosper. The U.S. was critical in negotiating Goal 16 because without equal access to all government services and systems, growth will never be achievable or sustainable.



» HURDLES TO ENDING EXTREME POVERTY AND THE WAY FORWARD

Humanitarian crises, both manmade and natural, have halted some of the momentum from the MDGs. For example, with regards to Goal 2, which calls for ending hunger, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture, a 2018 UN progress report found that following a prolonged decline, the number of undernourished people worldwide had actually increased from 777 million in 2015 to more than 815 million the following year, due largely to armed conflicts in Yemen, South Sudan, Nigeria, and other countries, as well as droughts and natural disasters connected to climate change. In addition, nearly 2.3 billion people continue to lack access to basic sanitation services, more than 90 percent of people in the world's cities breathe polluted air, the youth unemployment rate is three times higher than for adults, and the gender pay gap remains pervasive, with men earning on average 12.5 percent more than women according to data from 45 countries.

Given the voluntary nature of the SDGs, perhaps gaps in implementation are to be expected. Indeed, neither the MDGs nor the Global Goals imposed any legally-binding obligations on Member States. Instead, they provide the international community with a detailed roadmap for achieving progress on a full range of measures related to the well-being of humanity and the planet. The fact that 193 Member States were even able to agree on such a common set of objectives—many of which carry more than a hint of U.S. influence—at all, is itself an achievement. Moving forward, it will be incumbent upon the U.S. to remain engaged and use its position of global leadership to help ensure that these lofty, but achievable, standards become more than mere words.



CHAPTER 3:

PEACE & SECURITY ISSUES

UN PEACEKEEPING: A FORCE FOR GLOBAL PEACE & STABILITY

Since the end of the Cold War, UN peacekeeping operations have expanded in size and scope, with complex responsibilities mandated by the Security Council, including protecting civilians threatened by violence, facilitating delivery of humanitarian aid, carrying out disarmament and demobilization processes, supporting democratic elections, and helping fragile states build more effective and resilient rule of law institutions.

The U.S., under both Republican and Democratic administrations, has long used its permanent seat on the Security Council to support the deployment of peacekeeping operations, because they are:

» EFFECTIVE AT SAVING LIVES AND CONTAINING CONFLICT

Armed conflict often features horrific abuses against civilian populations, fuels forced displacement, and provides potentially fertile ground for the growth of extremist groups and organized crime. As a result, the U.S. has a strong interest in ending conflicts and mitigating their effects. Multiple academic studies have attested to the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions in doing just that. A paper by Swedish and American researchers, for example, found that deploying large numbers of UN troops “significantly decreases violence against civilians” in the context of civil wars.¹ A 2019 book, *Power in Peacekeeping*, which analyzed more than two decades of research on the topic, found peacekeeping to be an “effective tool for saving lives and ending wars.” The book goes on to argue that if “we want less terrorism, more burden-sharing, and lower U.S. costs for counter-terrorism, it makes sense to invest in peacekeeping.”²



¹Hultman, Lisa, Jacob Kathman, and Megan Shannon. “United Nations Peacekeeping and Civilian Protection in Civil War.” *American Journal of Political Science* 57(4). 8 May 2013. pp. 875-91.

²Morjé Howard, Lise. “Give Peacekeeping a Chance.” Oxford Research Group. <https://www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk/blog/give-peacekeeping-a-chance>. 29 May 2019.

» **COST-EFFICIENT**

UN peacekeeping operations are significantly less costly than other forms of military intervention. In 2018, using the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) as an example, the U.S. Government Accountability Office found that a U.S. operation of roughly the same size and duration would cost at least \$5.7 billion, which is nearly eight times more than the \$700 million the U.S. contributed to MINUSCA over the same time period. Overall, at \$6.5 billion, the UN's peacekeeping budget is equivalent to less than 1 percent of total annual U.S. defense spending.

» **AN EXAMPLE OF MULTILATERAL BURDEN-SHARING**

UN peacekeeping harnesses the collective resources of the international community, ensuring that neither American taxpayers, nor the U.S. military, will have to take on the responsibility of safeguarding international peace and security alone. While the U.S.'s Security Council veto puts it in the driver's seat on the decision to deploy peacekeeping missions in the first place, other UN Member States pay nearly three-quarters of the budget and contribute more than 99.9 percent of the troops and police who serve on them. In fact, the UN's top five contributors of uniformed personnel—Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Rwanda, India, and Nepal—each provide thousands of troops, military observers, and police to UN missions, while the U.S. currently provides just several dozen.



KEY UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS CURRENTLY IN THE FIELD

There are 85,000 peacekeepers serving on 13 missions across sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, southeastern Europe, and South Asia, constituting the second-largest military force deployed abroad. Several of these missions are profiled in greater detail below.



MALI

Since 2012, Mali has been convulsed by insecurity, including the rise of extremist groups linked to Al-Qaeda and ISIS. First deployed to the country in 2013, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) has played a critical role in efforts to stabilize the region. They have facilitated free and fair presidential and parliamentary elections, helping the country return to democracy after a military coup; overseen a shaky peace agreement between the government and Tuareg separatists in the north; and perhaps most importantly, kept the extremists at bay, preventing them from reasserting control over northern population centers like Timbuktu, Gao, and Kidal. While the security situation in Mali and the wider Sahel region remains very difficult, the situation it would be much worse if peacekeepers were not present.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Originally deployed in July 2010, since August 2018, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) has expanded its focus to include countering the threat from Ebola. The North Kivu province is currently in the throes of the second most deadly Ebola outbreak on record, and instability, including attacks on health workers, has seriously undermined the response. As a result, in addition to its normal stabilization activities, MONUSCO has stepped in to provide static guard deployments at Ebola transit, treatment, and coordinating centers; increased patrols to prevent security incidents and deployed quick reaction forces in response to attacks on health workers and facilities; and provided armed escorts to health partners. MONUSCO is also providing logistical and operational support to Ebola response efforts, including vehicles, generators, fuel, and communications support.



SOUTH SUDAN

The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) was first deployed in 2011 to help promote stability and support state-building efforts in the world's newest country. However, after civil war broke out in December 2013, leaving tens of thousands of people dead, driving millions from their homes, and sparking large-scale food insecurity, UNMISS was immediately forced to shift its focus to civilian protection. In an unprecedented move, UNMISS opened the gates of its bases in the capital, Juba, to assist those fleeing from violence. As fighting spread to other parts of the country, several other UNMISS bases did the same. Currently, UNMISS is providing physical protection to more than 200,000 civilians at six sites around the country, helping to protect and save the lives of many people who would have otherwise likely been directly targeted by the violence.



LEBANON

Since 2006, following a devastating month-long war between Hezbollah and Israel, the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has been instrumental in helping to maintain calm between Israel and Lebanon. Following a 2019 visit to Lebanon, Representatives Tom Graves (R-GA), Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), and Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX) stated that, "The United Nations and its peacekeeping force play a vital and stabilizing role for the country." UNIFIL does this by monitoring the border through regular patrols to detect ceasefire violations; deploying troops to locations when incidents occur to avoid a direct clash between the parties and ensure that the situation is contained; and through regular coordination and liaison activities, to help build confidence between the two sides and resolve disagreements. A key mechanism in this effort is the mission's Tripartite Forum, which features monthly meetings between the UNIFIL Force Commander and senior officials of the Israeli and Lebanese militaries. This UNIFIL mechanism—the only forum where Israeli and Lebanese representatives meet at any level—is an important tool for facilitating communication and information-sharing and formulating peaceful solutions to disagreements, reducing the risk of flare-ups and providing an off-ramp when tensions escalate.

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW

In addition to working to mitigate and prevent conflict, numerous parts of the UN system are also leading multilateral efforts to combat terrorism, illicit drugs, human trafficking, and address other law enforcement issues that cross national borders. The organization's work in these areas is described in greater detail below.

» INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Terrorism and violent extremism pose a grave and persistent threat to international peace and security. As we have learned over the last two decades, terror networks operate in countries frequently beyond the reach of American access and influence, making a comprehensive, multilateral approach to this global problem necessary.

The UN is a critical partner in this challenge. For more than 15 years, the UN Security Council has enforced robust, legally-binding sanctions, including asset freezes, travel bans, and arms embargoes, targeting individuals, groups, and entities associated with Al-Qaeda. These measures were later expanded to include ISIS as well. UN sanctions imposed by the Security Council are considered the "gold standard" for coordinated international action. While the U.S. can impose unilateral sanctions, many countries will not adopt their own sanctions absent the important global legal imprimatur of a UN decision.

Besides imposing sanctions, the Security Council works to advance international legal norms against terrorism in other ways as well. In March 2019, for example, the Council adopted a resolution requiring countries to ensure that their domestic laws establish serious criminal offenses for the willful provision or collection of funds for the benefit of terrorist organizations.



In addition to denying terrorist groups the funds and weapons necessary to operate, the Council has also prioritized ensuring that terrorist leaders are brought to justice. To this end, in late 2017, the Council unanimously adopted a resolution establishing an investigative team, composed of both Iraqi and international experts, to help collect, preserve, and store evidence of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide committed by ISIS in Iraq. At the time, international human rights lawyer and activist Amal Clooney stated that, "It's been a long time coming; in the meantime, evidence has been lost and we've lost some opportunities along the way, but the fact that we have this resolution now means that justice is finally possible." Since then, the team, known by its acronym UNITAD, has begun its work in Iraq, aiding efforts to, among other things, exhume mass graves of Yazidi civilians executed by ISIS in the Sinjar region.

» OPIOIDS

A recent United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report found that global use of deadly opioid drugs has reached a new high, and here in the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and estimate that 130 people die from opioid overdoses every day. This makes the need for global collaboration on the opioid crisis more important than ever, which is why the United Nations and its agencies, like UNODC, the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, World Health Organization (WHO), and other entities work in close coordination with the U.S.

In early 2017, at the request of the U.S., the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs voted to put international controls on two primary ingredients that are used to produce Fentanyl, a drug 50 times more potent than heroin and responsible for at least half the people who died of opioid overdoses in 2016. Later that year, WHO called for Carfentanil—a drug the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency has noted is showing up in more U.S. communities and is so powerful that it is flagged as a potential chemical weapon—to be subject to the strictest drug control classifications. Additional control under these classifications imposes the strongest possible regulations by prohibiting production and supply of substances except under license for specific purposes, such as medical treatment and research.

Other parts of the UN system are also playing a critical role in the fight against opioids. According to a January 2018 report by the U.S. Senate Homeland Security Committee, more than \$800 million of opioids were shipped from China to the U.S. through the U.S. Postal Service over a two-year period. The U.S. has used its membership in the Universal Postal Union (UPU), a UN specialized agency, to push for stronger action at the international level to combat the trafficking of illicit drugs through the mail. Early in 2018, UPU announced a new training program designed to improve the detection and seizure of illicit substances. Separately, the U.S. used its membership in UPU to push for the exchange of advance electronic data (AED), allowing U.S. customs authorities to better monitor and screen high-risk packages. Eighty countries agreed to exchange this data by 2020—an important achievement, given that a 2018 law, the STOP Act—requires the application of AED to 100 percent of incoming packages by 2021.

» HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A January 2019 UNODC report showed that the number of human trafficking cases detected during 2016 was at a 13-year high. The same report found that armed conflicts can increase vulnerability to trafficking as areas with weak rule of law and lack of resources to respond to crime provide traffickers with a fertile terrain to carry out their operations.

The UN system offers practical help to UN Member States to help fight these crimes. UNODC, for example, works to strengthen criminal justice responses to human trafficking and raise public awareness globally. In order to effectively combat trafficking, countries must adopt comprehensive legal frameworks criminalizing the practice. To achieve this objective, UNODC has provided legislative assistance to numerous countries that need help formulating anti-trafficking legislation of their own. UNODC also manages the UN's Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking, a funding mechanism that provides humanitarian and legal assistance, financial support, shelter, and vocational training to survivors around the world.

UN specialized agencies also play a role in efforts to counter trafficking for forced labor or sexual exploitation. For instance, the International Civil Aviation Organization offers training and guidelines for airlines to spot trafficking in air travel. The International Labor Organization's legally-binding Protocol on Forced Labor, meanwhile, aims to strengthen global efforts towards combating forced labor, trafficking, and slavery-like practices.

ADVANCING NON-PROLIFERATION

The UN serves as a key international platform for countries to work together to stem the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. The UN General Assembly, Security Council, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and other bodies provide venues for countries to share resources and information, address breaches of international agreements, and build unified fronts against rogue states. The work of the UN in several specific areas is described below.

» **SANCTIONING NORTH KOREA**

Beginning in late 2016, the UN Security Council significantly ratcheted up sanctions against North Korea over its expanding nuclear program. The Security Council unanimously adopted a series of U.S.-backed resolutions which:

- Targeted the central pillars of North Korea's economy and banned Pyongyang from exporting coal, iron, textiles, seafood, lead, and agricultural products;
- Cut imports of refined petroleum by 89 percent;
- Required countries to expel North Korean guest workers, a critical source of hard currency for the regime; and
- Compelled countries to seize and impound ships caught smuggling prohibited items to and from North Korea.

At the time, then-U.S. Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley stated that these actions represented “an unprecedented response” to North Korea's nuclear program. They also helped set the stage for direct negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea, including two summit meetings between President Trump and Kim Jong-un in 2018 and 2019.

The UN Panel of Experts (POE) on North Korea, a body of independent experts that assesses the effectiveness and impact of the sanctions, plays a key role in monitoring international compliance with the Security Council's directives, and providing the Council with critical information it needs when considering strengthening them. POE reports also serve as an important tool for pressuring sanctions violators, including governments and businesses alike, and can inform efforts by individual Member States, such as the U.S., to strengthen their own bilateral sanctions measures. In its most recent report, the POE detailed a number of North Korea's sanctions evasion tactics, including deliveries of coal and oil through illicit ship-to-ship transfers, as well as its extensive use of cyber attacks to steal funds from financial institutions and cryptocurrency exchanges.

» **MONITORING IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM**

In 2018, the U.S. decided to withdraw from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, and reimpose unilateral sanctions on Iran. Despite this, the IAEA—a UN-affiliated agency that seeks to ensure the peaceful use of nuclear technologies—continues to monitor and verify Iran's nuclear activities and report on its compliance with the terms of the deal. In the wake of the U.S. withdrawal, IAEA raised the alarm about Iran's increasing violations of the pact, including a report in the fall of 2019 noting that agency inspectors had found uranium particles at an undeclared site in Tehran and verified that Iran had resumed uranium enrichment at its underground Fordow nuclear facility.

In January 2020, in response to the killing of Quds Force Commander Major General Qassem Soleimani in a U.S. drone strike in Baghdad, Iran announced that it no longer considered itself bound by any of the deal's restrictions on the number or types of centrifuges it can employ or the level of uranium enrichment it can pursue. At the same time, it left open the possibility of reversing course if the U.S. withdraws sanctions and stated that it would continue to cooperate with IAEA inspectors. While it remains to be seen whether Iran and the U.S. will eventually return to the terms of the JCPOA, IAEA will continue to play an essential role in providing the international community with a window into Iran's nuclear activities.

» CONFRONTING THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

In 1997, the Chemical Weapons Convention—a treaty that prohibits the development, production, and stockpiling of chemical weapons—came into force, and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), an agency charged with ensuring their elimination, was born. Under the terms of the treaty, OPCW inspectors have verified the destruction of more than 96 percent of the world's declared chemical weapons stockpiles.

The OPCW is also empowered to investigate alleged instances of chemical weapons use. In this regard, the organization's Syria fact-finding mission has been illustrative, confirming on multiple occasions the use of sarin, chlorine, and mustard gas during the Syrian civil war since 2014. While this investigative mechanism was previously only allowed to determine the facts regarding the use of chemical weapons, and not call out guilty parties, in June 2018 OPCW Member States voted overwhelmingly to allow the organization to begin attributing responsibility for chemical attacks in Syria. While Russia continues to use its veto on the Security Council to shield the Syrian government from punishment for its use of chemical weapons, such investigations nevertheless play an important role in isolating the regime and its backers and potentially laying the groundwork for future accountability.



UN POLITICAL MISSIONS

In addition to peacekeeping operations, the UN operates special political missions (SPMs) engaged in conflict prevention, mediation, and post-conflict peacebuilding around the world. Authorized by the Security Council, SPMs are tasked with an array of responsibilities, including: supporting political dialogue and reconciliation processes; facilitating free and fair elections; monitoring human rights violations; and encouraging the development of effective rule of law institutions. Funded by Member State dues, SPMs account for nearly one-fifth of the UN regular budget. The work of several SPMs is highlighted below.

» YEMEN

The UN's work in Yemen is not merely confined to addressing the humanitarian consequences of the conflict. The UN is also deeply involved, through the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths, in efforts to navigate a negotiated, political solution to what has become a complex and multi-faceted conflict involving an array of local interests and factions, with the increasingly intense rivalry between Gulf Arab monarchies in the region and Iran layered on top. Special Envoy Griffiths was instrumental in brokering talks that took place in Sweden in December 2018 between the Houthis and the Yemeni government, the first time the two sides had met face-to-face in nearly 2 ½ years. While relatively modest in scope, the agreements they reached on a ceasefire and military redeployment from Hodeidah and several other key ports helped avert a devastating Saudi-led military assault on the city, and could set the stage for further diplomatic efforts to peacefully end the conflict.

Endorsed by the Security Council, these agreements also provided for the creation of a SPM, the UN Mission to Support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA), consisting of 75 monitors charged with verifying the ceasefire and helping to calm tensions. While implementation of the Stockholm Agreements has been slow and all parties have alleged violations by their rivals, UNMHA has played an active role in helping to prevent an escalation of hostilities and served as a liaison between humanitarian organizations and military forces on the ground.

» IRAQ

The UN Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) works to promote political dialogue, human rights, and the creation of stable and democratic governing institutions. UNAMI also helps coordinate humanitarian and development assistance to the Iraqi people. Since the defeat of ISIS in 2018, humanitarian conditions in Iraq have remained dire. As a result, UN agencies such as the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) provided assistance to more than 1.4 million people across the country in 2019, including food, shelter for internally displaced civilians, and medical care. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) has financed more than 2,100 projects across five provinces to restore infrastructure and basic services destroyed during the fight against ISIS. These projects include:

- Rebuilding hospitals in Ramadi and Fallujah that will serve more than one million people in Anbar Province;
- Repairing a hospital in Hamdaniya which serves a community of 350,000, many of whom are religious minorities;
- Rebuilding and removing explosive hazards from a bridge in Fallujah, improving transport links for 350,000 people; and
- Rehabilitating electricity substations in eastern Mosul, improving access to electricity for 450,000 people.



» AFGHANISTAN

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) carries out a number of activities critical to the country's stability and development, a key U.S. priority. For instance:

- UNDP administers a trust fund that funds salaries to more than 150,000 police personnel and finances efforts to improve the force's infrastructure and administrative systems, provide training to officers, and improve gender parity within the force;
- The UN Office on Drugs and Crime works to strengthen police capacity to enforce the rule of law, enhance border control management to prevent smuggling, increase institutional integrity of the justice system to combat impunity, and help Afghan government oversight bodies fight corruption; and
- UNAMA coordinates the activities of UN humanitarian agencies that helped to provide food to more than five million people affected by a severe drought, facilitate the reintegration of Afghan refugees returning from abroad, and assist in vaccinating millions of children against polio.

» SOMALIA

For more than two decades, Somalia has been in a protracted state of political and humanitarian crisis, a situation further complicated by the presence of Al-Shabaab, a terrorist group linked to Al-Qaeda. In order to help stabilize the country and facilitate the formation of an effective central government, the U.S. has supported the work of the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) since 2013. UNSOM provides policy advice and technical assistance to Somali authorities on a number of critical state-building issues, including:

- Aiding efforts to create a new federal constitution;
- Building the government's capacity to carry out security sector reform and strengthen the criminal justice system;
- Helping Somali authorities institute a nationwide disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration program for ex-combatants; and
- Assisting the country's nascent electoral commission prepare for national elections slated for 2020.

UNSOM also coordinates its efforts closely with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), a regional peacekeeping operation that, working alongside local Somali forces, has scored major territorial gains against al-Shabaab in recent years. The UN Support Office for Somalia, which works with UNSOM, provides crucial equipment and logistical support to AMISOM as it seeks to weaken Al-Shabaab and extend the Somali government's authority throughout areas formerly controlled by the group.

A tall, modern glass skyscraper with a grid-like facade, reflecting the sky and surrounding city. The building is the United Nations Secretariat Building in New York City. In the foreground, there is a circular plaza with a fountain, a large abstract sculpture, and several flagpoles with various national flags. A street with crosswalks and traffic lights is visible at the bottom.

CHAPTER 4:

UN BUDGET & REFORM

U.S. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UN

Since its inception in 1945, the U.S. has been the UN's largest financial contributor. As a permanent member of the Security Council and host of UN headquarters in New York City, the U.S. holds significant clout at the UN, and its leadership in providing financial support to the organization is a reflection of that influential role.

Funding from Member States for the UN system comes from two main sources: assessed and voluntary contributions.

- **Assessed contributions** are payments that all UN Member States are required to make, per Article 17 of the UN Charter. These assessments provide a reliable source of funding to core functions of the UN Secretariat via the UN regular and peacekeeping budgets. In addition, the UN's specialized agencies have their own assessed budgets.
- **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 (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), and UN Population Fund (UNFPA)—which do not have assessed budgets.

» ASSESSMENTS FOR THE UN REGULAR BUDGET AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

The UN regular budget covers the UN's core bodies and activities, including special political missions. The current assessment structure sets maximum (22 percent) and minimum (.001 percent) rates for Member States, with a country's rate based on its ability to pay. That is determined by a formula which takes into account a member state's gross national income (GNI), GNI per capita, and several other economic indicators. Assessment rates are renegotiated and approved by the General Assembly every three years.

Given the U.S.'s high level of economic development and per capita income relative to other countries, it pays the maximum rate. Over time, the U.S. has negotiated several reductions in its share, most notably an agreement in 2000 to establish the current maximum and minimum assessment structure, essentially capping U.S. contributions at 22 percent. Prior to this agreement, the U.S. was assessed 25 percent of the regular budget.

The U.S. regular budget contribution is included under the State Department's "Contributions to International Organizations" (CIO) account. In addition to the regular budget, CIO covers U.S. assessments for more than 40 other international organizations, including NATO, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

PUTTING THE UN'S BUDGET IN PERSPECTIVE:

\$3.1b

TOTAL UN REGULAR BUDGET IN 2020

Less than what Americans spend on greeting cards (**\$7.5b**)

\$1.8b

THE U.S. SHARE OF THE UN PEACEKEEPING BUDGET

Less than what Americans spent on Halloween candy in 2019 (**\$2.5b**)

\$676m

THE U.S. SHARE OF THE UN REGULAR BUDGET

Less than the city of Tulsa, Oklahoma's FY '20 budget (**\$854m**)

\$6.5b

TOTAL UN PEACEKEEPING BUDGET

Less than the state of Rhode Island's FY '20 budget (**\$9.9b**)

» ASSESSMENTS FOR THE UN PEACEKEEPING BUDGET

Like the regular budget, peacekeeping assessments are based on a member state's ability to pay, with one major difference: the five permanent members (P5) of the Security Council—the U.S., U.K., China, France, and Russia—shoulder a higher proportion of peacekeeping costs relative to what they pay for the regular budget. Since the P5 hold veto power over Security Council decisions, effectively no UN peacekeeping mission can be deployed without their support. The P5's higher financial responsibility is therefore meant to reflect its unique role in authorizing missions and crafting peacekeeping mandates.

Similar to the regular budget, peacekeeping rates are revised every three years, and new assessment rates for 2019-2021 were approved by the United States and others in December 2018. A document released by the State Department explaining why the U.S. endorsed the new rates cited the fact that U.S. regular budget contributions are capped at 22 percent. Because a country's regular budget assessment plays a major role in determining its peacekeeping assessment, the regular budget cap keeps the U.S. peacekeeping rate at a significantly lower level than it would be otherwise. According to the document, without the ceiling, "The U.S. would be obliged to pay 27 percent of the regular budget and 33 percent for peacekeeping.

Over the last two decades, the U.S. rate has declined from a high of 31.7 percent in 1994 to the 27.89 percent rate in effect today. At the same time, other countries have seen their assessment rates increase. For example, over the last decade, China's has risen dramatically, from just 3.1 percent in 2008 to more than 15 percent in 2020, a testament to its growing economic clout.

U.S. contributions to the UN peacekeeping budget are included under the State Department's "Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities" (CIPA) account. In addition, Congress includes U.S. assessments for the UN Support Office in Somalia—an entity that provides logistical support and equipment to the African Union-led peacekeeping force in Somalia—under the Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) account.

» U.S. ARREARS

Over the years, U.S. funding for the UN's assessed budgets has ebbed and flowed, and the U.S. has periodically accrued debt on its financial obligations to the UN system. Recently, however, U.S. peacekeeping arrears have grown dramatically. Since the mid-1990s, federal law has capped U.S. contributions at 25 percent of the UN's total peacekeeping budget, regardless of the assessment rate negotiated and agreed to by the U.S. at the UN. While Congress has repeatedly waived this requirement in annual appropriations bills since 2000, beginning in Fiscal Year 2017 and for every year since, the cap has been put back in place, causing the U.S. to accrue nearly \$1 billion in debt. In addition, since Fiscal Year 2018, the administration has withheld \$28 million in regular budget contributions for the UN Human Rights Office and UN Human Rights Council.

Withholding assessed contributions and accruing arrears, whether enacted through legislation or done unilaterally by the administration, damages the UN and undermines U.S. national interests. With regards to peacekeeping specifically, the U.S.'s growing debt:

- **Negatively affects troop-contributing countries.** In part because of U.S. underpayments, the UN faces a significant and growing cash crunch, with the most immediate result being that countries who participate in peacekeeping missions are not being fully reimbursed for their contributions of personnel and equipment, to the tune of tens of millions of dollars. This creates significant challenges for troop-contributors, most of which are lower-income countries that rely on reimbursements to help sustain complex longer-term peacekeeping deployments. For example, in 2018, Rwanda reportedly had to withdraw a planned rotation of one of its troop contingents to the Central African Republic because it had not received reimbursements sufficient to make necessary updates to military equipment. If the U.S. keeps accruing arrears, these cash flow challenges will only grow, potentially denying peacekeepers the resources necessary to project force and conduct patrols, discouraging countries from providing troops and equipment in the first place, and threatening the long-term sustainability of UN peacekeeping as a whole.
- **Threatens to erode U.S. influence at the UN and cede the floor to countries that have a different vision of what UN peacekeeping should be.** China has significantly increased its participation in UN peacekeeping in recent years. Currently, it is the largest troop contributor among the P5 (providing 2,500 uniformed personnel to UN missions around the world, more than the U.S., UK, France, and Russia combined), and the second largest financial contributor among all Member States. China is actively seeking to use its expanded profile on these issues to more aggressively articulate its agenda at the UN. During negotiations at the UN on the 2018-19 peacekeeping budget, China pushed for the elimination of a number of critical human rights monitoring and civilian protection posts in UN peacekeeping missions. This is a clear indication that Beijing is more than willing to put its money where its mouth is, using its financial and personnel contributions as leverage to undermine some of the bedrock principles that have long undergirded peacekeeping and the UN system more generally. Continuing to accrue arrears could exacerbate this situation, potentially giving China even more influence over the decision-making process, and sidelining our ability to shape UN peacekeeping activities based on U.S. national interests and values.
- **Undermines our ability to push for critical reforms at the UN, sapping the good will and cross-regional support necessary to make progress on our priorities.** During the previous administration, the U.S. and the UN worked together to push a number of critical reforms and efficiencies, initiating efforts that reduced the cost per peacekeeper by 18 percent and cut the number of support staff on peacekeeping missions to save on administrative costs. The UN also undertook important efforts to combat sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel, including an unprecedented policy calling for the repatriation of entire units whose members engaged in widespread instances of abuse. This was all done at a time when the U.S. was not enforcing the 25 percent cap, so the argument that the cap is necessary to achieve progress on reform simply does not comport with reality.

» **RECENT FUNDING HISTORY FOR SELECT UN-RELATED ACCOUNTS**

The following table summarizes the recent funding history of the CIPA, CIO, and PKO accounts, and provides BWC recommendations for Fiscal Year 2021. BWC's FY'21 CIPA total takes into account payment of current U.S. dues at the full assessed rate of 27.89 percent, plus an additional \$1 billion to pay back cap-related arrears accrued from FY'17-FY'20.

ACCOUNT	FY'17 Omnibus	FY'18 Omnibus	FY'19 Omnibus	FY'20 House SFOPS	FY'20 Senate SFOPS	FY'20 Omnibus	FY'21 President's Request	FY'21 BWC Rec.
CIPA	\$1.907 billion	\$1.382 billion	\$1.551 billion	\$2.128 billion	\$1.576 billion	\$1.526 billion	\$1.079 billion	\$2.616 billion
CIO	\$1.359 billion	\$1.467 billion	\$1.360 billion	\$1.520 billion	\$1.473 billion	\$1.474 billion	\$996.2 million	\$1.527 billion
PKO	\$659 million	\$537 million	\$488.7 million	\$516.3 million	\$471.4 million	\$457 million	\$290 million	\$525.3 million

THE IMPORTANCE OF ASSESSED FUNDING FOR THE UN

U.S. financial contributions to the UN system makes up just over 0.2 percent of the federal budget. In any given year, the majority of these contributions are voluntary. For example, during Calendar Year 2018, the U.S. made approximately \$3 billion in dues payments to the UN regular budget, peacekeeping operations, and specialized agencies. This represents less than one-third of all U.S. contributions to the UN that year, which totaled \$9.9 billion. By contrast, five UN humanitarian and development agencies—World Food Programme (WFP), UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), International Organizations for Migration (IOM), and UN Development Programme (UNDP)—all of which are voluntarily funded, collectively received nearly \$5.4 billion from the U.S. in 2018, 54 percent of the total.



Despite their relatively small slice of an already modest pie, however, assessed contributions have been an object of scorn for some, and proposals to have the U.S. adopt an effectively a la carte approach to funding core UN programs have been repeatedly bandied about in Washington over the years. An entirely voluntary funding structure for the UN is unlikely to save the U.S. money in the long-run and could lead to significant budgetary shortfalls for UN activities that are squarely in our national interest. More detail is provided below.

- **Assessed funding structures require other countries to share the financial burden.** A major advantage of assessed funding is that it ensures the financial burden for core UN activities is spread across the entire international community, rather than being the primary responsibility of a single country. Because the U.S. is both an economic powerhouse and permanent member of the UN Security Council, we are assessed a sizable chunk of the UN’s regular and peacekeeping budgets. Nevertheless, the UN’s 192 other Member States shoulder the vast majority of these costs—78 percent of the regular budget and 72 percent of the peacekeeping budget. The fact that all Member States, even the least developed, are required to contribute to the organization at specified levels prevents the U.S. from being saddled with the burden of financing these activities alone. By contrast, the U.S. often pays more under voluntary funding arrangements, one reason why past U.S. administrations and Congress have rejected this idea.

- **U.S. leaders and experts agree that voluntary funding is problematic.** Successive administrations and outside experts have recognized the limitations inherent in voluntary funding structures. The 2005 Congressionally-mandated Newt Gingrich-George Mitchell report on UN reform noted that such schemes are often slow and lead to U.S. priorities being underfunded. Later that year, 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 had “serious concerns” about the legislation because it “could detract from and undermine our efforts,” requesting “that Congress reconsider this legislation.”
- **Voluntary financing could lead to shortfalls for u.s. priorities.** The UN's assessed budgets fund a number of the organization's most consequential and politically sensitive activities that support U.S. national security and foreign policy objectives, including special political missions in strategically significant countries like Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Somalia, as well as peacekeeping operations that seek to protect civilians and bring stability to hotspots on four continents. The reality is that any government or large organization needs stability and predictability in its budget. In particular, planning for massive logistical operations like peacekeeping efforts require significant lead time and preparation that can only happen with assured funding streams.

Adoption of voluntary funding arrangements for the UN's regular, peacekeeping, and specialized agencies budgets would almost certainly lead to underfunding. For example, the UN's voluntarily-financed humanitarian and global health activities, far less politically sensitive than the UN's peacekeeping and human rights work, have long been short of need. For example, in 2018, UN humanitarian agencies and partner organizations needed a total of \$25 billion to provide aid to 98 million people in 41 countries. At the end of the year, however, they had only received \$15.2 billion, or 60.4 percent, of the total. A similar situation played out several years ago with funding for the World Health Organization, which has a relatively small assessed budget and relies on voluntary contributions for the majority of its work. In 2009, due in part to donor countries turning their interests elsewhere, WHO's epidemic and pandemic response department was dissolved. As a result, when several West African countries experienced an unprecedented Ebola outbreak in 2014, the problem was magnified because sufficient resources and infrastructure did not exist.

By creating a more level playing field and requiring all Member States to contribute, assessed funding structures help to prevent these types of gaping shortfalls, which would likely be even deeper for more politically fraught activities that are crucial to U.S. interests.

UN STRENGTHENING AND REFORM

In early 2019, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for significant structural changes to be enacted.

UN reform centers around three pillars: (1) repositioning the UN development system so that it is best able to make progress on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals; (2) pursuing management reform that simplifies processes, works toward gender parity, streamlines human resources procedures, and generally creates a more efficient organization; and (3) restructuring peace and security operations to better meet modern day challenges. Provided below are a selection of initiatives underway that are part of the broader reform agenda.

» IMPROVING EFFICIENCY, EFFECTIVENESS, AND COORDINATION

Over the years, the UN has worked to rein-in costs and ensure that member state resources are being spent in an efficient and effective manner. The 2019-2020 budget for UN peacekeeping operations approved by the General Assembly in June 2019 is \$6.5 billion, a steep reduction from prior years (during the 2014-2015 budget year, for example, the peacekeeping budget was \$8.5 billion). This is due in large part to the closure of long-running missions in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Haiti, as well as reductions in force levels for the UN operation in Darfur, all of which occurred at the behest of the Security Council. Despite its wide geographic scope (13 missions on 3 continents) and size (nearly 85,000 total uniformed personnel), the annual budget of UN peacekeeping is less than 0.5 percent of global military expenditures.

In December 2019, the General Assembly approved a new regular budget for Calendar Year 2020. This is the first time since 1973 that the UN will be operating on an annual rather than biennial budget, a reform sought by Secretary-General Guterres to ensure that spending and resource decisions are made closer to the point of implementation and based on more up-to-date information. At \$3.07 billion, the 2020 budget was slightly higher than spending levels in 2019 (\$2.9 billion). However, this reflects new UN activities not included under previous regular budgets, including efforts to monitor the Hodeidah Agreement in Yemen and investigate war crimes and genocide in Syria and Myanmar.



THE AIMS OF REFORM ARE CLEAR: TO FOCUS MORE ON PEOPLE AND LESS ON PROCESS. TO BECOME **MORE NIMBLE AND EFFECTIVE.** AND TO BUILD A WORKPLACE OF EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INTEGRITY."



ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

*UN Secretary-General
January 1, 2019*

Over the past few years, the UN has also taken measures to improve its efficiency and coordination, particularly with regards to the delivery of development assistance. An important part of this new approach is transforming the role of the Resident Coordinator—often times the most senior UN official in field missions. Resident Coordinators are responsible for heading up the UN's development work on the ground in individual countries, often also encompassing humanitarian and security responsibilities. Underpinning these reforms is a stronger team in New York, with Resident Coordinators reporting directly to leadership at the top of the UN. This is meant to create an accountability link between headquarters and leadership on the ground, where most UN staff working on development issues are located, and allow for better coordination across UN agencies to ensure that the UN as a whole is delivering assistance in a non-duplicative and effective manner.

» **WORKING TOWARDS GENDER PARITY IN UN STAFFING**

A key priority of Guterres's management reform agenda is the creation of a more diverse, inclusive, and gender-balanced UN workforce. To date, gender parity has been reached in the senior management group of the Secretary General, and among Resident Coordinators. The organization has achieved the highest number of women as of heads of missions and deputy heads in peace operations in its history.

» **ADDRESSING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE BY PEACEKEEPERS**

In recent years, the UN—like other large organizations and governments—has implemented a number of measures and policy changes to address the scourge of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), including:

- Appointing victims' rights advocates, both at UN headquarters and in the field, who work across the UN system to make sure victims have access to urgent assistance, can file complaints safely and reliably, and get timely information on the progress of their case;
- Repatriating entire military or police units to their home countries when there is evidence of widespread or systematic violations by members of specific units;
- Expanding vetting mechanisms currently in place for civilian personnel to cover all troops and police serving on UN peacekeeping missions;
- Publishing country-specific data on credible allegations of SEA online, a critical element of holding countries that contribute troops and police to peacekeeping missions accountable for the actions of their personnel;
- Requiring UN investigative entities to conclude their investigations into SEA cases within a six-month timeframe, shortened to three months in cases suggesting "the need for greater urgency;"
- Developing a mandatory online training program for all UN personnel on SEA prevention;
- Creating a trust fund to support critical services to victims of SEA, including psychological assistance, medical care, access to legal help, and assistance in establishing paternity claims; and
- Withholding payments from Member States in cases of substantiated sexual exploitation and abuse implicating uniformed personnel, which are transferred to the victims' Trust Fund.

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IMPACT OF THE UNITED NATIONS OVER THE PAST 75 YEARS

Throughout the past seven decades, the UN has:



Delivered more than 70 million metric tons of food to people in humanitarian emergencies



Helped more than 50 million refugees successfully restart their lives



Operated 71 peacekeeping and observer missions



Provided over 100 countries with electoral assistance



Supported efforts to lift more than 1 billion people out of poverty



Procured vaccines for 860 million children



Cleared landmines in some 30 countries or territories



Promoted human rights through 80 treaties and declarations

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%
of the total FY'20 federal budget

\$10 BILLION

U.S. companies have been awarded more than
ten billion dollars in contracts with the UN since 2010

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