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THE BETTER WORLD CAMPAIGN (BWC)

works to foster a strong, effective relationship between the United States and the United Nations to promote core American interests and build a more secure, prosperous, and healthy world. BWC engages policymakers, the media, and the American public alike to increase awareness of the critical role played by the UN in world affairs and the importance of constructive U.S.-UN relations.

THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (UNA-USA)

is a 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.

2021 BRIEFING BOOK

PHOTO: © UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING

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. In 2021, we are working with the Biden Administration and 117th Congress to accomplish the following, so that the UN can better address the transnational challenges of the 21st century:



ENSURE

payment of outstanding arrears and full funding of our nation's UN regular budget and peacekeeping assessments on time 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, including the World Health Organization 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.



THE VALUE OF THE UN

The United States and the United Nations: A Critical Partnership in Need of Renewal

Nearly 76 years ago, in the wake of the deadliest and most destructive conflict the world has ever witnessed, the United States, its allies, and a number of other countries came together to establish a new intergovernmental body, the United Nations. Tasked with preventing and suppressing threats to international peace and security, encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and facilitating cooperation on a broad suite of international economic, social, and humanitarian issues, the UN became a core component of the international order that the U.S. helped build and maintain after World War II. And while the world has changed significantly since 1945, the UN's role as a force-multiplier for the U.S.—a key mechanism for multilateral diplomacy to mitigate conflict, as well as for marshalling the necessary resources and political will to address challenges that no country is capable of resolving alone—remains as vital as ever.

The work of the UN and its large family of affiliated agencies, programs, and initiatives covers a comprehensive set of issues and advances core American national interests in myriad ways. These include:



Peacekeeping operations tasked with protecting civilians from violence, facilitating humanitarian assistance, supporting democratic elections, and helping to lay the foundation for sustainable peace in countries undergoing conflict. More than 120 countries contribute troops and police to these missions, which are authorized by the UN Security Council. As one of five permanent, veto-wielding members of the Council, the U.S. effectively has final say over the decision to deploy UN peacekeepers, and U.S. diplomats play a central role in crafting the mandates they are expected to carry out.

- Efforts to address threats to international peace and security through the imposition of legally-binding multilateral sanctions measures by the Security Council. 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).
- The World Health Organization (WHO), a UN specialized agency, which works to coordinate the international response to public health threats, including the COVID-19 pandemic. From the outset of the crisis, WHO has distributed diagnostic kits and personal protective equipment to dozens of countries with weak health systems; formulated technical guidance for communities, hospitals, private sector partners, and public health authorities; carried out public awareness campaigns in dozens of languages in 149 countries; and, through its "Solidarity Trial," worked to enable rapid and accurate research on the effectiveness of potential therapeutics. WHO is also at the center of a cooperative effort to distribute COVID-19 vaccines worldwide, launching a facility known as COVAX, to invest in vaccine development and distribution.
- UN humanitarian agencies, which provide lifesaving assistance to tens of millions of people around the world every year impacted by armed conflict, political instability, natural disasters, and other calamities. The World Food Programme, awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize for its work, is seeking to scale up its operations to help nearly 270 million people left food insecure by the economic shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic. Other UN agencies, including the UN Refugee Agency, UN Children's Fund, and UN Population Fund (UNFPA) are also responding to crises around the world-including in Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, Iraq, and the Sahel region of West Africa-providing shelter, clean water, protection, vaccines, and reproductive health care to vulnerable communities.
- UN human rights mechanisms, which investigate and expose systematic abuses in Syria, Iran, North Korea, Venezuela, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Iraq, Belarus, Myanmar, Eritrea, and other countries. The work of the UN Human Rights Council, High Commissioner for Human Rights, and other entities 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.





Despite the tremendous amount of influence the U.S. wields over these activities (as a permanent member of the Security Council, host of UN headquarters, and the organization's largest financial donor), and their relevance for advancing key U.S. foreign policy interests and values, the last four years witnessed a sustained American retreat from key components of its traditional leadership role at the UN. The U.S. has accrued more than \$1 billion in peacekeeping arrears, withdrew from the Human Rights Council, moved to pull out of the WHO, defunded key agencies like the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and abrogated its participation in the Paris Climate Agreement, which was negotiated under UN auspices. At the same time, some authoritarian governments—particularly China moved to fill the vacuum, using increased financial contributions and other forms of engagement to try to move the organization's agenda in a direction that reinforces their own interests. For anyone who cares about longstanding U.S. economic and security objectives, as well as the continued protection of international human rights norms, these are alarming and unwelcome developments.

It does not need to be this way, however. Moving forward, 2021 provides us with an opportunity to reinvigorate a tradition of strong, consistent, and constructive multilateral diplomacy as a cornerstone of U.S. leadership abroad. The new Administration has already begun to take these steps, restoring U.S. membership and funding in UN bodies that we shunned. This work will not always be easy, but it is essential if the U.S. and the UN are to continue as reliable partners in efforts to make the world safer, healthier, more prosperous, and more democratic.

To further underscore the importance of U.S. reengagement with the UN, this briefing book provides information on various aspects of the UN's work and how it advances U.S. interests—from peacekeeping and nonproliferation, to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and countering climate change. It is our hope that this book can serve as a helpful resource—both for policymakers and members of the public alike—as the U.S.-UN relationship enters this new phase of development.

How the UN Advances U.S. Economic Interests

While often primarily thought of as an organization focused on international peace and security, global economic cooperation is a crucial component of the UN's work, and has been since the very beginning.

In fact, Article 55 of the UN Charter mandates the organization to promote "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development," and "solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems." This reflected the conviction of the UN's founders that global economic interdependence and prosperity were essential to help prevent the outbreak of another devastating world war.

UN technical and specialized agencies are a critical part of the organization's efforts to promote multilateral economic cooperation. By establishing international rules and guidelines for everything from intellectual property, to telecommunications, to air travel and postal delivery, UN specialized agencies provide a "soft infrastructure" of universal standards that help American businesses access foreign markets and compete globally. The work of several of these agencies is reflected below.

- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO):
 - ICAO enables safe air travel everywhere by setting global standards for navigation, communication, and airline safety. These standards map out airspace jurisdiction and establish "free range" airspace over oceans and seas. The agency also sets international standards for limiting environmental degradation and works to strengthen aviation security by conducting regular audits of aviation security oversight in ICAO Member States.
- International Maritime Organization (IMO):

IMO sets international safety standards for ships, ports, and maritime facilities, develops ship design and operating requirements, and leads global efforts to prevent maritime pollution. Standards promulgated by IMO are central to the health of the U.S. economy, as more than 90 percent of all international trade is carried out on ships. IMO also works with Member States to address security threats to the international shipping industry, including piracy and terrorism.

- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO):
- According to the U.S. Patent and Trade Office, intellectual property-intensive industries directly and indirectly support more than 45.5 million jobs in this country, constituting 30 percent of all employment. WIPO encourages innovation and economic growth through the registration and protection of patents, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property, as well as through adjudication of cross-border disputes on intellectual property.
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU):

ITU facilitates the connectivity and interoperability of the world's telecommunications networks, which is of critical importance to the U.S. telecommunications industry and American defense and intelligence communications capabilities. By allocating radio spectrum and satellite orbits, as well as developing technical standards to ensure that networks interconnect seamlessly, ITU's work helps make communicating possible even in some of the world's most remote locations.

Universal Postal Union (UPU): UPU facilitates postal service across the globe, helping Americans conduct business everywhere, from Beijing to London to São Paulo. By setting standards for the worldwide postal system and promoting affordable basic postal services globally, UPU enables U.S. businesses to utilize the postal system to conduct business at low costs. UPU always plays an important role in mail security and is currently taking steps to combat the trafficking of illicit drugs, particularly opioids, in the mail.

CONTRACTING WITH U.S. BUSINESSES

The UN Secretariat has 40,000 staff and a large global presence, with 13 peacekeeping missions and dozens of other field missions around the world. In order to carry out its global operations, the UN purchases an array of goods

and services from private vendors, including telecommunications equipment, financial services, construction, food production, medical care, office equipment, and armored vehicles. According to the United Nations Global Marketplace, American companies were awarded more than \$1.7 billion in procurement contracts with the UN in 2019 (the most recent year for which data was available), by far the most of any country.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR NEW YORK

In addition to contracting with American companies, the UN also generates billions of dollars in revenue each year for New York City, which hosts UN Headquarters. 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 each year, the equivalent of hosting more than seven Super Bowls annually.

American Attitudes Toward the UN

68 percent of voters say the U.S. should pay our dues to the UN on time and in full.

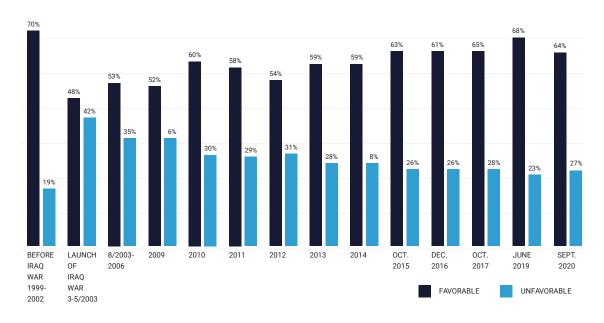
For over fifteen years, the bipartisan research team of Public Opinion Strategies and Hart Research Associates have conducted research on American attitudes toward the United Nations. The latest poll, conducted in September 2020,¹ found that voters' views about the United Nations remain positive. As the UN celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2020, American voters reaffirmed their confidence in the international body, with 73 percent expressing that it is an organization that is still needed today. In addition, 64 percent of voters had a favorable view of the United Nations.

Americans also remained overwhelmingly united in their belief that the U.S. needs to maintain an active role in the UN, with 85 percent of voters saying this is "very important" or "somewhat important." Moreover, six in ten voters believe the UN supports America's objectives around the world.

Even as Americans grappled with the economic impacts of COVID-19, 68 percent of voters say the U.S. should pay our dues to the UN on time and in full and 69 percent of voters say the U.S. should pay our dues to UN Peacekeeping on time in full.

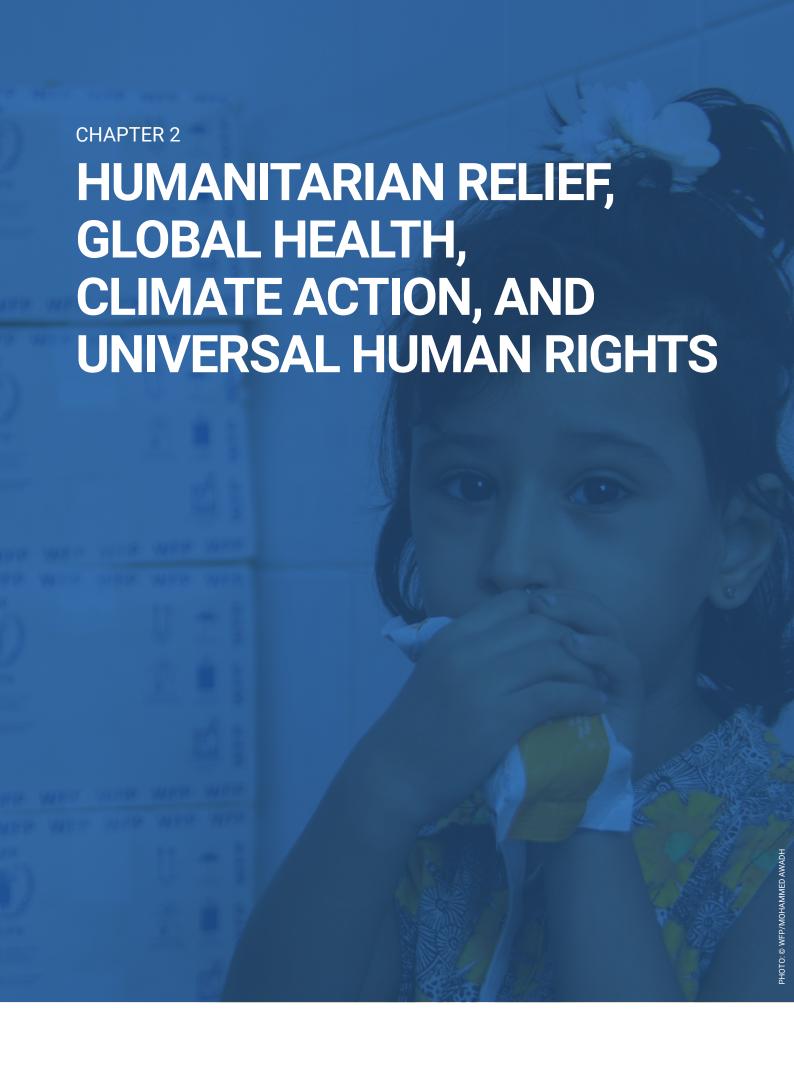
In addition, a 2020 poll conducted² by Morning Consult found that when it comes to managing the response to international health crises like COVID-19, 77 percent of Americans trust the World Health Organization, above all other entities tested. In addition, four in five Americans across party lines say it is important that the U.S. work to limit the spread of coronavirus in other countries.

HOW AMERICANS VIEW U.S. GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OVER TIME



 $^{^{1}\,}https://betterworldcampaign.org/us-un-partnership/public-opinion-polling/us-un-polling/us-un-polling/us-un-po$

 $^{^2\,}https://betterworldcampaign.org/us-un-partnership/public-opinion-polling/nationwide-poll-global-issues/public-opinion-polling/nationwide-poll-global-issues/public-opinion-polling/nationwide-poll-global-issues/public-opinion-polling/nationwide-poll-global-issues/public-opinion-polling/nationwide-poll-global-issues/public-opinion-polling/nationwide-poll-global-issues/public-opinion-polling/nationwide-poll-global-issues/public-opinion-polling/nationwide-poll-global-issues/public-opinion-polling/nationwide-poll-global-issues/public-opinion-polling/nationwide-poll-global-issues/public-opinion-polling/nationwide-poll-global-issues/public-opinion-polling/nationwide-poll-global-issues/public-opinion-polling/nationwide-poll-global-issues/public-opinion-polling/nation-public-poll-global-issues/public-opinion-polling/nation-public-publi$



CHAPTER 2

HUMANITARIAN RELIEF, GLOBAL HEALTH, CLIMATE ACTION, AND UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

On December 31, 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) received information through a disease reporting database about unexplained pneumonia cases in China. The next day, WHO began working with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to formulate an international response. By January 10th, WHO issued a comprehensive package of guidance to countries on how to detect, test, and manage potential COVID-19 cases, and how to best protect health workers.

Throughout the rest of the winter and into the spring and summer, the UN mobilized a diverse set of resources to understand and combat the pandemic. The effort, led by UN Secretary-General António Guterres and WHO, emphasized the need for countries to act in concert and outlined ways to suppress transmission of the virus, safeguard people's lives and their livelihoods, and learn from the crisis to build back. As Guterres said, COVID-19 "is more than a health crisis. It is a human crisis."

The scientific advances and mobilization of all of society in response to this pandemic have come about because of solidarity. The solidarity exemplified when the Secretary-General worked in tandem with the U.S. Mission to the UN to donate 250,000 face masks to New York City frontline health workers facing the brunt of the crisis in late March. That same solidarity brought together 100 American companies and hundreds of thousands of Americans to donate to the COVID-19 Solidarity Fund that helped to produce life-saving therapeutics and diagnostics and paved the way for the rapid vaccine discoveries.

One year later, the full extent of the impact of COVID-19 is still not clear. Infectious disease can travel around the world in as little as 36 hours, so until a vaccine is readily available, the world must keep its guard up. An important mechanism to address the availability of vaccines and other essential health products was launched in April 2020—the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A).

This innovative partnership is not a new organization, but rather a coordinating mechanism bringing together governments, health organizations, scientists, businesses, civil society, and philanthropists to develop health products and ensure they are distributed equitably. For example, ACT-A's vaccine pillar, known as COVAX, aims to distribute 2 billion vaccines by the end of 2021 to countries on the basis of need, rather than GDP. The UN will be central to ACT-A's success, along with the Global Fund, Gavi, and Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, in developing, testing, and distributing new diagnostics, drugs and technologies, and strengthening health systems.

U.S. participation in this initiative is critical to the ability of lower-income countries to access quality vaccines, thereby ending the pandemic. According to a report from the Gates Foundation, U.S. involvement in ACT-A would "expand the ability of poorer countries to secure doses from the pool of promising vaccine candidates currently being developed by U.S. companies." U.S. funding and engagement also makes sense from an economic perspective. It is

estimated that the global trade and tourism sector will lose \$12 trillion over 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic. If COVAX is fully funded and its goals are met, however, the costs incurred by governments will be made up within 36 hours of a return to full economic activity. The Gates analysis notes that the U.S. stands to gain more under this scenario "than any other country with \$78.8 billion in economic benefits at risk in 2020-21 and \$207.1 billion at risk from 2020-25" if we do not act.

HOW UN AGENCIES ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO COMBAT COVID-19

With COVID-19 impacting 193 countries around the world, the United Nations developed a large-scale response across its various agencies to combat the crisis. At the forefront of the response is WHO, which is integrated within 150 health ministries around the world. In addition to providing scientific guidance, WHO has helped procure millions of pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other vital health commodities such as tests and testing supplies.

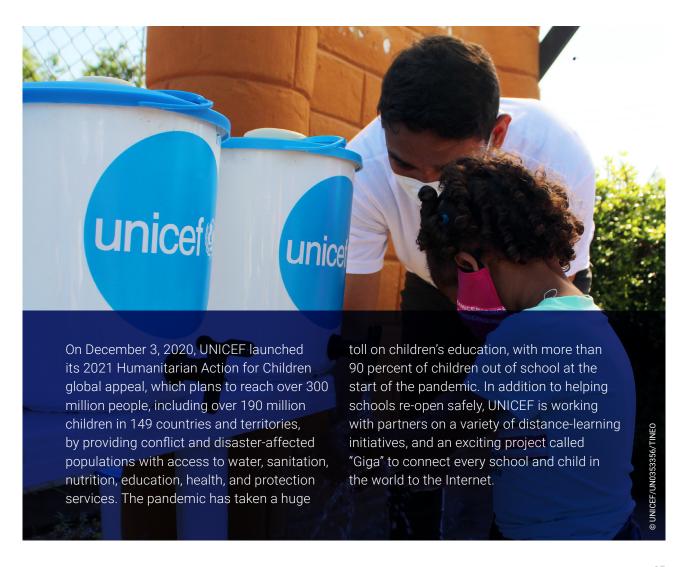


As the lead agency in the UN Global Supply Chain Task Force, WHO is working with the private sector, financing institutions like the European Investment Bank, and UN logistics partners like the World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to establish an emergency supply chain for all low-resource countries around the world. WHO and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) organized a humanitarian appeal for the most vulnerable countries, bringing together existing appeals from UN partners, as well as identifying new needs.

Prior outbreaks have shown that this crisis will likely have a disparate impact on women and girls. Women are disproportionally represented in the health and social services sectors, increasing their risk of exposure to the disease. Stress, limited mobility and livelihood disruptions also increase women's and girls' vulnerability to gender-based violence and exploitation. In response, UN Women launched a public awareness campaign called the Shadow

Pandemic to raise awareness of the global increase in domestic violence amid the crisis. Moreover, if health systems redirect resources away from sexual and reproductive health services, women's access to family planning, antenatal care and other critical services could suffer. The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) is working to address these needs and is on the ground distributing PPE for health workers and supporting health systems where needed. UNFPA is also supporting efforts to learn more about the virus and its impact to better serve the most vulnerable.

In India, UNICEF reaches more than 35 million people every month with messages around COVID-19 on prevention and access to services. Furthermore, 3.6 million people have been reached with critical water, sanitation, and hygiene supplies, and around 600,000 community service providers have been reached with infection, prevention and control messages related to COVID-19.



The economic disruptions caused by the pandemic have witnessed food insecurity levels grow dramatically throughout the world. As a result, in 2020, WFP scaled up its operations to meet the food needs of up to 138 million people by the end of 2020—the biggest response in its history. Over the course of 2020, while commercial transport options were not available, WFP dispatched 118,835 cubic meters of COVID-19 related items and PPE to 160 countries on behalf of 48 organizations, transported over 26,100 humanitarian personnel to 68 destinations, and performed over 100 medevacs through its global network of logistics hubs.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has continued to provide basic health services in Afghanistan through the deployment of seven health teams at 73 selected locations in four border provinces. In 2020, IOM reached over 500,000 beneficiaries with basic health care services, including outpatient consultations for general illnesses, maternal, child and neo-natal health care, reproductive health, family planning services and COVID-19 response. A total of 130,648 patients received screening with outpatient consultations with free medicines, and 14,839 persons benefitted from psychosocial counselling services.



In Indonesia, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) helped procure and distribute 75 ventilators and 500,000 masks. Through its Global Marine Communities project, UNDP is helping fishermen cope with the impact of COVID-19 on the small-scale fisheries sector and adopt good hygiene practices. UNDP has also initiated a mass information campaign aimed at informing commuters about best practices regarding COVID-19 prevention, preparedness, and response. UNDP is expanding access to telehealth services by deploying 194 women and 84 men trained to handle cases related to gender-based violence. With multiple national and international partners, UNDP is conducting a survey of 20,000 households to analyze COVID-19's socio-economic impact. UNDP, with UN Women, UNICEF, and WFP, are also supporting the Indonesian Government in rolling out social protection targeting an estimated 33 million households through aid programs such as conditional cash transfers, food vouchers, and village cash transfers.

Peace operations are also supporting government-led efforts to both prevent and prepare for COVID-19 outbreaks at the country level.

For instance, in the Central African Republic (CAR), peacekeepers partnered with a local radio station to dedicate over 80 percent of its programming to disseminate pertinent information on COVID-19. The mission also distributed 50,000 radios to keep citizens informed, a critically important step due to the high rate of illiteracy on the war-torn country. Similar efforts are underway in Mali, with peacekeepers working in tandem with the UN radio station to translate COVID-19 preparedness and prevention information into local languages in order to reach marginalized communities.

In Kosovo, peacekeepers brought together youth from different communities to produce 15,000 face shields for health care workers, an activity that helped address COVID-19 and build bridges across cultures.

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 such as the World Food Programme (WFP), UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and others answered the call of millions of vulnerable and persecuted people all over the globe and stepped up to assist millions more that faced famine, economic hardship, and displacement as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These efforts have been mounted at a time when the UN humanitarian system is facing ever-increasing resource demands and confronting new, multidimensional challenges. More than 80 million people around the world have now been uprooted and displaced from their homes as a result of war, violence, and human rights abuses—an all-time high.

2021 looks to be another record-setting year.

The UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has warned that **235 million people** will require humanitarian assistance over the next 12 months—a **40 percent increase over 2020** that is almost entirely related to the health and economic fallout from COVID-19.

THE CENTRAL SAHEL

Having barely recovered from the acute food crisis that hit Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso in 2018, a serious rise in armed conflict, poor governance, and the compounding impacts of climate change have created a perfect storm for a vast humanitarian emergency in the Central Sahel. Today, more than 13 million people across the three countries require urgent humanitarian assistance-including 5 million children—and the number facing acute hunger has tripled in just a single year, reaching 7.4 million. Violence has played a serious role in aggravating an already fragile situation. 2020 was the Sahel's deadliest year since 2012, when Islamist militants overran northern Mali and sparked a regional crisis that is still being felt today. Some 1.5 million people are now forcibly displaced across the Central Sahel—a staggering twentyfold increase over 2018.



The UN is operating across the region, and despite its Central Sahel humanitarian response plan being only 39 percent funded, continues to work to meet the needs of the most vulnerable.

UNHCR has scaled up efforts to meet the urgent needs of refugees and internally displaced people and is delivering lifesaving shelter, clean water, healthcare assistance, and psychological support to victims of gender-based violence. In Mali, over 4,000 people received direct shelter from UNHCR in 2020 and in Niger, UNHCR provided over 3,000 emergency shelters to 14,286 internally displaced persons (IDP) and allocated land to over 15,000 IDPs for permanent shelter construction. Across the Central Sahel, UNICEF has supported the treatment of more than 500,000 children with severe acute malnutrition and vaccinated more than a million children for measles. WFP and its partners, in addition, delivered emergency food assistance to 1.2 million people in the Central Sahel in 2020 and over the last two years, nearly 1 million people across Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso have benefitted from WFP's integrated resilience building activities, which have rehabilitated more than 40,000 hectares of degraded land and created 500 hectares of new gardens that produce fresh vegetables and fruits.

YEMEN

With over 24 million people, approximately 80 percent of the population, in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, the civil war in Yemen has become the largest humanitarian crisis in the world. At the end of 2020, the conflict had left 233,000 people dead, with131,000 deaths the result of indirect causes such as lack of food and health services. Beyond the mortal threats facing the country's population, the collapse of public institutions responsible for providing necessitates such as water and education has further deepened the impact of this unfolding tragedy. All indications suggest that the severity of needs for large sections of the population will continue increasing in 2021.

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

PHOTO: © WFP/MICHAEL DAKWA

Moreover, COVID-19 has compounded food insecurity, due to limited work opportunities, lower incomes, and reduced remittances. As a result, the threat of a catastrophic-level famine is a real and imminent possibility.

Despite a dangerous and highly restricted operating environment, the UN humanitarian system has mounted a robust response in Yemen. In 2020, WFP scaled up its operations to provide over 10 million people with monthly food assistance through direct food distributions or vouchers, provided nutritional support to over 1 million pregnant or nursing women and children under 5, and, through the WFPmanaged UN Humanitarian Air Service, ensured aid workers were able to reach the country's most troubled hotspots. With one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the Arab States region, UNFPA is also working to improve the availability and quality of reproductive health services in Yemen. During 2020, UNFPA was able to reach nearly 3 million people in need and trained more than 300 midwives to provide safe deliveries and care for pregnant women displaced by the conflict. UNHCR additionally helped 25,000 Yemeni families through its rental subsidy program, ensuring that vulnerable people forced to flee their longtime homes still had a roof over their heads.

VENEZUELA

Almost 5.5 million people have left Venezuela since 2015 amid extreme food and medicine shortages, hyperinflation, rampant crime, and political repression.



Throughout the region, UNHCR has stepped up its response and is working closely with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to support a coordinated and comprehensive approach to the needs of refugees and migrants. UNHCR and IOM are providing emergency shelter, distributing clean water and hygiene supplies, facilitating access to legal assistance, providing integration services, and supporting government efforts to register displaced Venezuelans in order to better address their needs across a number of host countries. In Colombia and Ecuador, WFP is assisting nearly 500,000 displaced Venezuelans with monthly cash-based transfers or food rations, and in Peru, WFP is providing logistical support to the government to deliver nearly 240,000 food kits to vulnerable households in Lima and Callao, as well as food baskets to 20,000 families quarantining at home in 23 regions of the country.

ETHIOPIA

Fighting between the Tigray People's Liberation Front and central government forces broke out in November 2020, displacing 1 million people within Ethiopia's northernmost region and pushing some 50,000 more to seek shelter in neighboring Sudan. The conflict quickly affected the 100,000 Eritrean refugees that reside in the region and are already vulnerable and reliant on assistance from UNHCR and partners. While devastating on its own, the humanitarian situation in Tigray has been further exacerbated by additional challenges that Ethiopia has faced recently, including locust swarms, drought, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UN has ramped up assistance, delivering food rations, hot meals and clean water, as well as setting up latrines and temporary shelters in Sudan, which is experiencing the largest influx of refugees in that part of the country in 20 years. WFP is also supporting other humanitarian workers in its response, providing fuel for vehicles and generators in remote locations. The UN Central Emergency Response Fund, in addition, released \$35.6 million in December 2020 to continue meeting the humanitarian needs in both Ethiopia and Sudan, but much more will be needed in 2021.

PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

Established by the UN General Assembly in the aftermath of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) provides vital services to millions of Palestinian refugees in the Middle East. One of the organization's most important functions—and indeed, what takes up more than half of its budget—is providing primary and junior secondary education to more than 500,000 Palestinian children through a network of schools across Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. UNRWA schools have maintained gender parity since the 1960s and reached generations of Palestinian children with a curriculum centered on UN values of tolerance, gender equality, human rights, and non-violence. This is essential to peace and stability in the region: were it not for UNRWA providing these services, it is possible extremist groups like Hamas would be filling the gap, particularly in Gaza. UNRWA provides a number of other vital services as well, including medical care, microfinance, and emergency food assistance. These are all systems and activities that host governments, including U.S. allies like Israel and Jordan, would find difficult and costly to replicate.

For these reasons, the U.S.-for decades, under both Republican and Democratic Presidentsstrongly supported UNRWA's work and contributed just under one-third of its annual budget. In 2018, however, the Trump Administration cut off U.S. contributions to the agency. This has left core UNRWA programs on a perpetual knife's edge, at a time when Palestinians in Gaza, Syria, and Lebanon are facing sharply deteriorating humanitarian conditions due to ongoing conflict, severe economic challenges, and the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to prevent these conditions from worsening further and potentially sparking new conflicts, it is critical that the U.S. reverse the Trump Administration's funding decision and restore U.S. assistance to this critical agency.

The UN and Human Rights

The fight for human rights—long a central pillar of U.S. foreign policy—has also been a core tenet of the UN's mission since its inception. The UN Charter commits Member States to promoting "universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion."

What constitutes these fundamental rights and freedoms was elaborated by the UN General Assembly when it adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. This seminal document—drafted by representatives from around the world, including former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt—articulates a series of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights to which all human beings are entitled.

While not legally-binding, the UDHR has nevertheless proved to be quite influential. In the years since its adoption, the UDHR's principles, many of which echo the U.S. Bill of Rights, have been incorporated into the constitutions of numerous countries that have become independent or transitioned to democracy. Its principles have also served as the foundation of several binding UN treaties that have significantly expanded the scope of international human rights law.

The UN's human rights work is multi-faceted and carried out by an array of entities. A more detailed account of their efforts, how their work fits together, and why U.S. reengagement is critical is provided below.

KEY UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

- is the institutional focal point of the UN's human rights activities. Led by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office acts as the secretariat for the Human Rights Council and UN treaty bodies, providing them with research, policy expertise, and administrative support. OHCHR also carries out critical monitoring and public reporting functions on human rights issues, including by supporting country-specific human rights investigations authorized by the UN Human Rights Council.
- UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC): The UNHRC is an intergovernmental body created with the sole purpose of upholding universal human rights. The Council is composed of 47 Member States elected to three-year terms by the General Assembly based on equitable geographic distribution. The Council passes resolutions on country-specific human rights situations, orders inquiries, holds special sessions to respond to human rights emergencies, and appoints independent experts.

- One of the most innovative aspects of the UNHRC's work is the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), whereby the Council evaluates the human rights records of all UN Member States on a rotating basis every four years.
- **Special Procedures**: There are more than 50 special procedures (individual experts or groups of experts) authorized by the UNHRC to investigate and report on specific human rights issues. Considered independent from the UN, special procedures do not receive a salary and are expected to serve in their personal capacity, though they do receive substantive and administrative support from OHCHR. Special procedure mandates can focus on cross-cutting thematic issues or human rights violations in a given country. These include Special Rapporteurs on extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detention, freedom of religion, human trafficking, and LGBTI rights, for example, as well as independent experts or commissions of inquiry on human rights abuses in Iran, North Korea, Syria, and Belarus.

reaty Bodies: Most of the UN's core human rights treaties have oversight bodies that regularly review the compliance of countries with their legal obligations under the treaty. Composed of a committee of independent experts, treaty bodies can hear individual complaints from people whose rights have been violated and carry out on-site visits and interviews. For example, the treaty body that oversees the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has scrutinized China in recent years for its persecution and mass internment of Uighurs and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019 AND 2020

- In 2019, the UNHRC voted to establish a fact-finding mission to investigate human rights abuses in Venezuela. In September 2020, the mission released a lengthy report implicating the Maduro regime in a range of gross and systematic violations, including extrajudicial killings, politically-motivated detention and torture, and violent repression of protests. The mission determined that these abuses constituted crimes against humanity under international law, and that the highest levels of the Venezuelan government, including Nicolás Maduro and the Ministers of Interior and Defense, were aware of them.
- In 2019, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief released a major report on combatting anti-Semitism—the first-ever stand-alone human rights report dedicated solely to the topic. The report called upon governments "to acknowledge that antisemitism poses a threat to stability and security..." The American Jewish Committee's Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights deemed the report "historic."
- In 2018, the Council established the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) to lay the groundwork for accountability for the genocide committed against Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine state in 2017. Led 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" and prepare files for potential criminal prosecutions. In August 2020, the IIMM worked with Facebook—whose platform was used to spread hate speech against the Rohingya—to obtain data from pages and accounts associated with Myanmar's military.
- The October 2020 report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Iran found that Iranian security forces used excessive and lethal force against protesters in December 2019, resulting in hundreds of deaths.
- At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, OHCHR issued comprehensive guidance to Member States to respect "human rights across the spectrum" in their responses to the crisis. For instance, OHCHR urged governments to: refrain from using emergency powers to quash dissent or silence the press; ensure that containment and relief measures take the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups, including people with disabilities, migrants and asylum seekers, racial, ethnic, and religious minorities, and LGBTI people, into account; pay particular attention to the needs of people living in care homes, prisons, and psychiatric facilities; provide emergency housing to people without adequate housing and place a moratorium on evictions; and ensure the broadest possible access to Internet services.

A CASE FOR U.S. REENGAGEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

U.S. engagement with the UNHRC and the broader UN human rights system has ebbed and flowed over the years. The Council was established by the UN General Assembly in 2006 to replace an earlier entity long criticized for being ineffective, biased against Israel, and counting countries with poor human rights records among its members. At the time, the Bush Administration declined to run for a seat on the new body, arguing that it suffered the same deficiencies as its predecessor. The Obama Administration reversed course, winning three three-year terms during its time in office (the U.S. took a mandatory year off between its second and third terms in 2016).

In 2018, however, the Trump Administration decided to withdraw the U.S. entirely from its seat on the Geneva-based body. Beyond merely pulling out of the UNHRC, however, the Trump Administration went a step further, withholding assessed contributions to both the Council and OHCHR that are channeled through the UN regular budget, totaling \$90 million from FY'17-FY'20.

To be clear, the UNHRC is imperfect. Nevertheless, the last 14 years have clearly demonstrated that the Council is at its best when the U.S. is at the table and fully engaged. During the Council's first three years, the U.S. absence resulted in highly problematic actions: in 2007, the Council voted to place "the human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories" on its permanent agenda (known as "Item 7"), making Israel the only country subject to scrutiny under a stand-alone agenda item. The Council also held six special sessions and devoted more than half of its country-specific resolutions to Israel during that period.

By contrast, when the U.S. held a seat on the Council, the U.S.'s policy of principled engagement paid dividends, improving UNHRC's record and allowing the U.S. to advance its core foreign policy priorities and values. With regards to the treatment of Israel, while Item 7 remained in place, there were noteworthy improvements in several areas:

- According to the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, there was a 30 percent decrease in the proportion of country-specific resolutions focused on Israel during the U.S.'s first two terms on the Council (2010-2015) versus the period when we were off (2007-2009).
- The number of special sessions focused on Israel dropped dramatically, from the aforementioned six in the Council's first three years to just one between 2010 and 2015.
- In March 2018, just three months before the Trump Administration withdrew, the U.S. Department of State itself reported that the Council saw "the largest shift in votes towards more abstentions and no votes on Israel related resolutions since" its creation.

U.S. diplomacy delivered results in other areas of the UNHRC's work as well. During the years when the U.S. was engaged, the Council deepened and broadened its repertoire, adopting a number of resolutions strongly supported by the U.S. on a range of pressing human rights issues:

- The Council established a Commission of Inquiry (COI) on North Korea. In 2014, the COI released a groundbreaking report implicating the North Korean regime in a wide range of crimes against humanity. In response, OHCHR established a field office in Seoul, South Korea to continue to track rights violations in North Korea.
- The Council created a COI on Syria, which has assiduously documented human rights violations carried out by all parties during the Syrian civil war, including the Assad regime and its Russian and Iranian allies. The COI has helped gather evidence against specific individuals for their involvement in crimes against humanity a "perpetrators list" that can be shared with international judicial bodies.
- With U.S. engagement and support, the Council passed a historic resolution in 2016 establishing an independent expert focused on combating violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Through country visits, reports to the UN, and public statements, the mandate has catalyzed unprecedented global reporting on human rights challenges facing LGBTI individuals, including the criminalization of same-sex relationships, extrajudicial killings, and discrimination.
- The aforementioned Special Rapporteur on Iran was first authorized by the Council in 2011, when the U.S. was a member. Through the Special Rapporteur's monitoring and reporting activities, the UN has amassed a significant catalogue of human rights violations by the Iranian government, helping to raise public awareness of these abuses around the world and bolster efforts to pressure the regime.



The Trump Administration's decision to withdraw from the UNHRC and withhold financial support for the Council and OHCHR have threatened these achievements and downgraded our position in the UN human rights system more broadly, opening the door for countries that have a different human rights agenda to fill the vacuum. For example, China has long sought to promote a state-centric vision of human rights that is at odds with the UN's founding principles: one that devalues minority rights, elevates "state sovereignty" over the rights of the individual, gives primacy to economic and social rights over crucial civil and political rights, and mutes criticism of individual countries' human rights records, particularly its own. In recent years, China has become much more aggressive in pushing these narratives at the UNHRC, and the U.S., because of its lack of membership and engagement, has been unable to fully counter them.

China's efforts to promote an alternative vision of human rights have extended beyond the UNHRC as well. In 2018, Chinese and Russian diplomats teamed up to cut funding for a hub within the Secretary-General's office which sought to ensure that human rights figures more prominently across the UN system, both at Headquarters and in field missions. China has also repeatedly sought the elimination of human rights monitoring and civilian protection posts in UN peacekeeping missions, and tried to cut funding for OHCHR, premising these actions on budgetary limitations stemming from the U.S.'s own funding cuts.

The foundational role human rights have played at the UN since the organization's establishment seven decades ago is a clear reflection of the importance successive U.S. Presidents and Congresses have placed on these issues. Addressing the challenge posed by China and ensuring that the UN human rights system continues to promote American policy objectives and values will take careful and sustained diplomacy moving forward. It will require broad reengagement, including renewed participation in the UNHRC and an end to arbitrary and unilateral funding limitations on the Council and OHCHR.

Stopping the Climate Emergency: Creating a Sustainable and Just Future

The climate crisis is the defining issue of our time. From shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding, the impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale.

THE HUMAN IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Over the last 200 years, modern energy, agriculture, and industrial practices have greatly increased the level of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (especially carbon dioxide and methane), and there is broad scientific agreement that the world is warming as a result, with damaging and unpredictable impacts on weather. The world is already experiencing the impacts of unchecked climate change, including increasingly frequent hurricanes and damaging wildfires, which stand to threaten people, ecosystems, and economies.

THE ROLE OF THE UN

The UN is at the forefront of the effort to save our planet. In 1992, its "Earth Summit" produced the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as a first step in addressing the climate crisis. The 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.



In 1998, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Program founded the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to establish a strong scientific basis for climate change policy. In 2013, the IPCC

provided more clarity about the role of human activities in climate change when it released its Fifth Assessment Report. Its conclusion: climate change is real and human activities are the main cause.

In October 2018, the IPCC released its Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, which found that if the world could keep global warming to only 1.5°C, we can expect to see 50 percent fewer people exposed to extreme heat, a 33 percent lower risk of heavy precipitation, and 50 percent fewer people suffering from water scarcity, among other positive impacts. To do so, however, the world must cut greenhouse gas emissions in half over the next 12 years—an enormous challenge requiring "rapid and far-reaching transitions" that would be "unprecedented in terms of scale, but not necessarily in terms of speed."

CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

After years of negotiations on the UNFCCC, including the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 and the Copenhagen Accord in 2009, a breakthrough was achieved with the Paris Agreement in 2015.

The agreement charted a new course in global climate efforts by bringing all nations together for the first time under a common framework to combat climate change. The agreement's central aim is to keep the global temperature rise this century well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C.

The agreement is based on national action plans, called national 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.

CHALLENGES TO THE AGREEMENT

While the adoption of the Paris Agreement was historic, progress since then has stalled. Each of the past five years were the hottest on record and recent reports have found that global emissions continue to rise, even in light of the slowdown of the global economy due to COVID-19. Despite ambitious commitments, there has been a lack of resolve from major emitters and negotiators failed to finalize key rules for the Paris Agreement.

Further compounding these challenges, on June 1, 2017, the Trump Administration announced its intention to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement, a historic forfeiture of global leadership that undermines efforts to stave off the worst effects of climate change.



STEPS FORWARD

Nevertheless, 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. Perhaps most notably, a bipartisan group of 25 U.S. governors created the U.S. Climate Alliance and committed their states to work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the goals of the agreement. Together, these states represent the majority of the U.S. population, more than \$9 trillion of U.S. GDP, and 40 percent of the U.S. population.

On his first day in office, President Biden returned the U.S. to the fold, and rejoined the Paris Agreement.

Global Health

The olive branches and globe of the UN emblem have become a universal signal that help is on the way.

In refugee camps and the hallways of ministries of health, 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), are working on the ground and committed to building a healthier world. Their work, often in partnership with local NGOs and faith-based organizations, is critical to the success of many development priorities of the United States and other multilateral organizations.

The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to erode decades of progress against infectious diseases. For instance, the pandemic disrupted routine immunization and forced a four month suspension of vaccine campaigns, delaying 60 planned polio campaigns in 28 countries, cumulatively leaving as many as 80 million children unvaccinated against polio and other lifesaving vaccinations.

Many of the systems put in place by global health interventions supported by the UN will be key to the distribution of vaccines and diagnostics.

Moving forward, there will need to be significant investments in these interventions to get health systems back on track.

Discussed in additional detail below are several areas where the U.S. and UN work together on global health issues.

CHILD IMMUNIZATION

For more than 75 years, the U.S. has been a key contributor to UNICEF, which partners with country governments, NGOs, and the private sector to reach and save the world's most vulnerable children from devastating diseases, primarily through vaccines. Childhood vaccination is one of the most successful medical interventions in the last 50 years, responsible for saving the lives of 2.5 million children each year. In 2019, UNICEF delivered more than 200 million doses of vaccines to 25 countries against polio, measles, mumps, rubella, and cholera. UNICEF also helped governments vaccinate 65.7 million children in 64 priority countries against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis. In total, UNICEF procured 2.43 billion doses of vaccines for 99 countries and supplied vaccines to reach 45 percent of the world's children under five.

UNICEF is also responsible for procuring vaccines for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and purchases vaccines for other global campaigns not covered by Gavi.

Due to UNICEF's large purchasing power, the agency cut in half the cost of the pentavalent vaccine that protects tens of millions of children from potentially deadly infectious diseases, including diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis.

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

PHOTO: © UNICEF/UNI308321/SANADIKI



UNICEF works in-country to provide vital services at the community level to ensure that vaccines that reach the country's borders are efficiently and effectively delivered to children in the most difficult to reach areas.

POLIO

Thanks to sustained funding by the U.S. government through leading UN partners like UNICEF and WHO and the coordinated efforts of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), the opportunity for a polio-free world is within reach. Because of GPEI donors like the U.S., cases have dropped 99.9 percent globally since 1988, and on August 25, 2020, the African continent was declared free of the wild poliovirus after no wild cases were detected over a four-year period. The polio program has successfully wiped-out wild polio from five of the six WHO regions, leaving only two endemic countries: Pakistan and Afghanistan. In the mid-1980s, there were 350,000 annual cases of wild polio, but during 2020 there were just 169. U.S. investments have driven remarkable results over the past thirty years by:

- Averting 18 million cases of wild polio and saving 1.5 million lives;
- Providing 9 billion doses of oral polio vaccine to children;
- Supporting the vaccination of 220 million children multiple times every year; and
- Training 2 million vaccinators to support polio campaigns.



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 donor to IRH/FP in the world. 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 program 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 every year. For every dollar the U.S. invests in IRH/FP, \$6 is saved.

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. UNFPA provides 38 million people around the world with access to sexual and reproductive health services, including contraception, and works to end gender-based violence and 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.

HIV/AIDS

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

MALARIA

In 2000, catalyzed by the UN Millennium Development Goals, the international community committed to ending malaria for good. Since then, the rate of malaria-related deaths has plummeted by over 60 percent worldwide. This progress was made possible by U.S. leadership through the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), as well as U.S. contributions and partnership with WHO, UNICEF, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership,

and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Hard-fought efforts to alleviate the burden of malaria through rapid scaling up of cost-effective interventions have saved more than 7.6 million lives, averted over 1.5 billion cases of the disease, and decreased the number of malaria endemic countries from 106 in 2000 to 87 in 2019. Investments made into defeating malaria have secondary impacts as well, as health systems, economies, and populations are stronger and more resilient in countries where programs like PMI and the Global Fund are present.

WHO released the 2020 World Malaria Report with a retrospective of the progress made over the last two decades and a warning for the future. Although more countries than ever are nearing elimination and deaths continue to decrease annually, the rate of that progress has slowed in recent years; this is attributable to rapid population growth in high burden countries, insecticide and drug resistance, and internal instability in endemic regions. The emergence of COVID-19 similarly threatens the gains made over the last twenty years. Increased effort and attention are needed irrespective of the current pandemic to put malaria elimination back on track.



Ending Extreme Poverty

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 a
2030 deadline.

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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 and utilizing goals that would be reinforced throughout. 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.

While the Trump Administration did not embrace the goals as their own, the SDGs nonetheless align with many of our development priorities. Several mayors and governors in the U.S. have even seen the framework as a way to make their cities and states more livable. For instance, New York City launched a movement to encourage cities to report on their local SDG efforts, garnering support from 22 cities from around the world. Hawaii demonstrated how to ground the SDG framework in locally sensitive measures, Pittsburgh has coordinated their effort at achieving the goals with city officials, universities, and foundations, and Los Angeles developed a shareable data tool to track progress locally that is being used in other cities.

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 percent 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 per cent in 2012; and
- Between 2010 and 2017, participation rates in early childhood education increased to 69 percent.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has termed this 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 SDGs broadly reflect many U.S. foreign policy and development priorities that have been championed by both Democrats and Republicans. 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 goals also focus much-needed attention on governancerelated issues, another longstanding priority of U.S. foreign assistance programs.

PARTNERING WITH BUSINESS, 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 that have made pledges, including the city of Milwaukee, Catholic Relief Services and the International Rescue Committee.

HURDLES TO ENDING EXTREME POVERTY AND THE WAY FORWARD

Prior to 2020, humanitarian crises, both manmade and natural, had 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. COVID-19 is exacerbating this problem: the World Food Programme estimates that 271 million people in countries where it operates are acutely food insecure or directly at risk of becoming so due to the aggravating effect of the COVID-19 crisis.

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.





PEACE AND SECURITY ISSUES

UN Peacekeeping: A Force for Global Peace and Stability

For over seven decades, UN peacekeeping has been one of the most important tools the UN has at its disposal for conflict mitigation and stabilization.

Helping countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace, peacekeeping has unique strengths, including legitimacy, burden sharing, and an ability to deploy and sustain troops and police from around the globe, integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to advance multidimensional mandates. Today's peacekeeping operations are called upon not only to maintain peace and security, but also to facilitate the political process, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; support the organization of elections, protect and promote human rights and assist in restoring the rule of law.

The U.S. has long advocated for the broadening of the size and scope of UN peacekeeping missions, using its position as a permanent member of the Security Council to push for mandates that more closely reflect current challenges. Both Republican and Democratic presidents have recognized the value of UN peacekeeping, because it has been repeatedly shown to:

- Research shows that peacekeeping supports civilian protection and shortens conflicts. One study by Swedish and American researchers examining civilian death tolls from civil wars in sub-Saharan Africa found that in places where no peacekeeping troops were deployed, average monthly civilian deaths totaled 106. However, in instances where at least 8,000 UN troops were present, civilian deaths dropped by 98 percent. A subsequent book by the academics, Peacekeeping in the Midst of War, found that deploying UN peacekeepers reduces the length of conflict by nearly half.
- Cost less than other forms of military intervention: Two studies published by the U.S. Government Accountability Office more than a decade apart (in 2006² and 2018³) found

- that a UN operation is one-eighth the cost to American taxpayers of deploying a comparable U.S. force. Overall, at just over \$6 billion, the UN's peacekeeping budget is equivalent to less than 1 percent of total annual U.S. defense spending.
- Promote multilateral burden-sharing: The UN has no standing army, and therefore depends on Member States to voluntarily contribute troops and police to its peacekeeping operations. While the U.S., as a permanent member of the Security Council, plays a central role in the decision to deploy peacekeeping missions, it provides very few uniformed personnel: currently just several dozen out of a total force of more than 80,000. A range of U.S. partners and allies—including Ethiopia, Tanzania, Jordan, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Nepal—provide the bulk of the rest.

¹ Hultman, Lisa, Jacob Kathman, and Megan Shannon. 2013. "United Nations Peacekeeping and Civilian Protection in Civil War." American Journal of Political Science 57(4): 875-91.

²"Cost Comparison of Actual UN and Hypothetical U.S. Operations in Haiti," Government Accountability Office GAO-06-331.

³ "UN Peacekeeping Cost Estimate for Hypothetical U.S. Operation Exceeds Actual Costs for Comparable UN Operation," Government Accountability Office GAO-18-243

KEY UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS CURRENTLY IN THE FIELD

There are currently nearly 90,000 peacekeepers (soldiers, police, and civilians) serving on 12 missions across sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, southeastern Europe, and South Asia, constituting the second-largest military force deployed abroad, after the U.S. Several of these missions are profiled in greater detail below.



LEBANON

First deployed in 1978 and expanded by the Security Council in 2006 following a monthlong war between Israel and Hezbollah, the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has long played a key role in reducing tensions along the Blue Line separating Israel and Lebanon. UNIFIL's Tripartite Forum, which features monthly meetings between the UNIFIL Force Commander and senior officials of the Israeli and Lebanese militaries, is the only formal mechanism where Israeli and Lebanese representatives meet at any level. This is an important tool for facilitating communication and information-sharing between the parties and formulating peaceful solutions to disagreements, reducing the risk of flare-ups and providing an off-ramp when tensions escalate.

UNIFIL also monitors the border through regular patrols to detect ceasefire violations, deploys troops to locations when incidents occur to avoid a direct clash between the parties and ensure that the situation is contained, and undertakes demining activities in areas near the Blue Line, which is heavily contaminated by unexploded ordnance that pose a threat to civilians. In response to the August 2020 Beirut Port explosion, which killed 200 people and injured more than 6,500, the UN deployed a disaster assessment and coordination team to help Lebanese authorities with logistics, search and rescue efforts, rubble removal, and distribution of humanitarian assistance. All of these activities make UNIFIL a critical guarantor of stability in a volatile and strategically important region.



MALI

The UN Security Council voted to deploy UN peacekeepers to Mali in 2013, following a French military intervention targeting armed extremist groups linked to al-Qaeda that had taken over the country's vast northern regions. Since then, the UN mission in Mali (MINUSMA) has worked to prevent these organizations now including a regional affiliate of ISIS—from extending their reach in the area or reoccupying towns in northern Mali that they were pushed out of. MINUSMA is also mandated to help extend state authority to these areas by training judges and supporting security sector reform. In addition to these security and governance-related tasks, MINUSMA works to protect civilians in its area of operations, facilitate distribution of humanitarian aid, and assist in the reintegration of people who have been displaced by violence.

In August 2020 the Malian government was deposed in a military coup, and while a transitional government has been formed with the goal of holding elections in 18 months, the security situation both inside Mali and the wider Sahel region remains extremely unstable. Moving forward, MINUSMA will play a critical role in facilitating the electoral process and in preventing the security situation from deteriorating further.



SOUTH SUDAN

The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) was first deployed in 2011 when South Sudan gained independence, tasked with helping to stabilize the world's newest country and support state-building efforts. Two years later, however, when civil war erupted between military factions supporting the President and Vice President, UNMISS was forced to shift its mission virtually over-night to civilian protection and opened the gates of its bases to fleeing civilians. This action saved the lives of more than 200,000 people across the country who otherwise could have been targeted or killed for their ethnicity or perceived political affiliations.

In 2018, the main parties to the conflict concluded a peace agreement, and while implementation has been haltingly slow, threats facing civilians in the seven protection of civilians sites adjacent to UN bases have diminished considerably. As a result, UNMISS is working to hand control of these sites to the government, while facilitating efforts by UN humanitarian agencies to continue providing essential services within them. This will free up UNMISS's 16,000 peacekeepers to focus on protecting the more than 1.4 million displaced South Sudanese civilians outside of these sites, many of whom still face the threat of intercommunal violence, despite the peace agreement.



SUDAN

The situation in Sudan has shifted dramatically over the last two years: in April 2019, the country's longstanding dictator, Omar al-Bashir, was overthrown following popular protests and replaced by an interim government, and in October 2020, a peace agreement was concluded between the Sudanese government and two main rebel groups in the region of Darfur. The U.S. also removed Sudan from its State Sponsors of Terrorism list, allowing bilateral aid to flow to the country.

In light of these developments, in late December 2020, the Security Council voted unanimously to end the long-running joint UN-AU peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID)—which had worked since 2007 to protect civilians in the region—and deploy a special political mission to support the political transition in the country, United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan. The political mission will be tasked with, among other things, supporting efforts to write a new constitution and hold elections, as well as monitoring the implementation of peace agreements in Darfur and other conflictaffected areas of the country. While challenges remain, the withdrawal of UNAMID is a major indicator of the improved security and political situation in the country.

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.

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.



In addition to 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. Later that year, the Council adopted another resolution calling on countries to address the linkages between terrorism and organized crime, and for the UN Office on Drugs

and Crime (UNODC) to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to countries to gather data on the issue and formulate strategies to address it.

In terms of counterterrorism policy writ large, in 2004 the Security Council established the Counterterrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), a body made up of 40 experts in areas such as legislative drafting, terrorism financing, border and customs controls, arms trafficking, and transportation security.

The CTED, which is strongly supported by the U.S., continues to work with Member States to identify gaps in their counterterrorism capacities and connect them with capacity-building and technical support.

OPIOIDS

A report by UNODC 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 Prevention 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 (CND), the World Health Organization (WHO), and other entities work in close coordination with the U.S.

In 2017, at the request of the U.S., CND 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.

For its part, UNODC provides expert advice and technical assistance to help countries implement major international drug control treaties and develop policies consistent with them; implement drug use prevention strategies; provide drug dependence treatment, support, and rehabilitation programs; help illicit drug farmers develop alternative sustainable livelihoods; and ensure access to controlled substances for medical purposes. Between February and April 2020, UNODC provided support to authorities in Myanmar as they carried out a series of raids on four drug manufacturing facilities in the northern part of the country, netting more than 3,748 liters of methyl fentanyl, the largest confiscation of synthetic drugs "in the history of East and Southeast Asia," according to UNODC's regional office.

Other parts of the UN system are also playing a critical role in the fight against opioids. Due to an increase in opioids shipped from China to the U.S. through the U.S. Postal Service, the U.S. has used its membership in the Universal Postal Union (UPU) to push for stronger action at the international level to combat the trafficking of illicit drugs through the mail. Separately, the U.S. leveraged its relationship in UPU to push for the exchange of advance electronic data, allowing U.S. customs authorities to better monitor and screen high-risk packages. As of this writing, more than 100 countries have agreed to exchange this data, and the UPU is working to help less developed countries comply.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A UNODC report showed that the number of human trafficking cases detected during 2016 (the last year for which data is publicly available) had reached 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. For example, UNODC 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 Labour 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 multilateral platform for countries to work together to stem the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, providing 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 here.

KEY MULTILATERAL NON-PROLIFERATION MECHANISMS

- Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT):

 The NPT, which came into force in 1970, is a landmark agreement aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. The Treaty, joined by all but five UN Member States, includes three overarching commitments: (1) states without nuclear weapons shall not acquire them; (2) states with nuclear weapons (currently recognized as the U.S., Russia, France, United Kingdom, and China) pledge to work towards eventual disarmament; and (3) all countries can access nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. To prevent the diversion of nuclear materials and technologies for weapons use, Article III of the NPT tasks the International Atomic Energy Agency with concluding safeguards agreements with non-nuclear-weapon states and carrying out inspections of their nuclear facilities.
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):

The IAEA is a UN-affiliated specialized agency that verifies compliance with the NPT and other nonproliferation agreements, having concluded safeguards agreements with 182 countries. These activities can provide the international community with advanced warning of and trigger a global response to the existence of an illicit nuclear weapons program, including providing a basis for action by the UN Security Council. The IAEA also carries out a variety of nuclear safety and research activities. For example, the agency continues to provide technical support to help Japanese officials monitor radioactivity levels in the coastal waters and fish populations near the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. which suffered a major meltdown following a devastating earthquake and tsunami in 2011.

- Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT): The CTBT, ratified by 164 UN Member States, obliges parties not to detonate nuclear weapons or support those who do. The U.S. has signed but not ratified the CTBT.
- Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC): The CWC seeks to eliminate chemical weapons, prohibiting states parties from developing, producing, stockpiling, acquiring, transferring, or using chemical weapons. By joining the

Convention, states parties also agree to destroy any stockpiles of chemical weapons they possess as well as any facilities which produced them. The U.S. Senate ratified the CWC in 1997.

■ Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW): The OPCW was created to oversee implementation of the CWC. Under the terms of the treaty, OPCW inspectors have verified the destruction of more than 98 percent of the world's declared chemical weapons stockpiles.

SANCTIONING NORTH KOREA

Beginning in 2016, the UN Security Council significantly ratcheted up sanctions against North Korea over its expanding nuclear program. The Council unanimously adopted a series of U.S.-backed resolutions targeting the central pillars of North Korea's economy, banning Pyongyang from exporting coal, iron, textiles, seafood, lead, and agricultural products; cutting imports of refined petroleum by 89 percent; requiring countries to expel North Korean guest workers, a critical source of hard currency for the regime; and compelling countries to seize and impound ships caught smuggling prohibited items to and from North Korea.

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. POE reports can also be used as a tool to pressure sanctions violators and inform efforts by individual member states, such as the U.S., to strengthen their own bilateral sanctions measures. The POE's most recent report, released in August 2020, contained data from 43 Member States describing how North Korea circumvents limits on refined petroleum imports through illicit ship-to-ship transfers. The report also detailed the regime's use of cyber attacks to steal money to fund its weapons program.

MONITORING IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM

After several years of diplomatic pressure, and robust sanctions adopted with strong U.S. support by the UN Security Council, the P5+1 (the five permanent Security Council members plus Germany) and Iran struck an agreement on July 14, 2015 to constrain Iran's nuclear program in exchange for phased-in sanctions relief. The agreement (known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA) imposed restrictions on Iran's nuclear activities, including requiring Iran to ship 97 percent of its stockpile of enriched uranium out of the country, limit the purity of its enriched uranium to 3.67 percent (down from the 20 percent level it achieved prior to the deal), dismantle and remove two-thirds of its centrifuges, and remove the core of its Arak heavy water reactor and fill it with cement. The JCPOA also empowers the IAEA to monitor, inspect, and verify every aspect of Iran's nuclear program in order to ensure that the country is abiding by limits on its nuclear activities included in the agreement and not diverting materials to a secret weapons program.

During the period when the U.S. was a party to the agreement, IAEA inspectors repeatedly verified Iran's compliance with its obligations. In 2018, however, the Trump Administration withdrew from the JCPOA and re-imposed bilateral sanctions. Iran, for its part, began to gradually exceed the deal's limits on uranium enrichment, though still well below the levels it reached prior to the deal. The IAEA has continued its monitoring activities throughout this time, repeatedly raising alarm about Iran's violations. In addition to reporting on Iran's escalating enrichment activities, inspectors also found uranium

particles at an undeclared site in Tehran in 2019, which the agency has repeatedly called on Iranian authorities to explain. Moving forward, as long as the deal remains in place, the IAEA will continue to fulfill this critical role, essentially serving as the eyes and ears of the international community on Iran's nuclear program.

CONFRONTING THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

In addition to overseeing and verifying the destruction of the world's chemical weapons stockpiles, the OPCW is empowered by the CWC to investigate alleged instances of chemical weapons use. In this regard, the agency'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. In this vein, the organization released a report in April 2020 blaming the Syrian air force for a series of sarin and chlorine attacks in the rebel-held town of Latamneh in 2017. While Russia continues to use its veto on the Security Council to shield the Syrian government from punishment, such investigations nevertheless play an important role in isolating the regime and its backers and potentially laying the groundwork for future accountability.

Outside of Syria, the OPCW also played an important role in investigating the poisoning of Alexei Navalny, an opposition activist and staunch critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin who fell seriously ill in Russia in August 2020 and was evacuated to Germany for treatment. The German government formally requested technical assistance from the OPCW to determine whether Navalny was poisoned with a chemical agent. OPCW investigators found that blood samples taken from Navalny tested positive for Novichok, a nerve agent that was added to the CWC's list of banned chemical agents earlier in the year. This strongly suggested that Navalny was likely poisoned by agents of the Russian state.

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-quarter of the UN regular budget. The work of several SPMs is highlighted below.

AFGHANISTAN

First deployed in the aftermath of the U.S. invasion in 2001, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) coordinates a number of activities critical to the country's stability and development, a key U.S. national security objective. Among other things, the UN administers a trust fund that provides salaries to more than 150,000 Afghan police personnel and finances training and capacity-building efforts for the force; provides expert advice and technical support to help the Afghan government strengthen rule of law institutions and combat corruption; monitors and reports out on the human rights situation in the country; and distributes lifesaving humanitarian assistance—including food, shelter, and vaccines—to millions of Afghan civilians.

UNAMA is not currently playing a direct role in the peace negotiations taking place between the Afghan government and the Taliban in Doha. However, it supports a peaceful and negotiated solution to the conflict and has called for an inclusive dialogue that represents the voices and respects the rights of women, youth, and other key stakeholders.

YEMEN

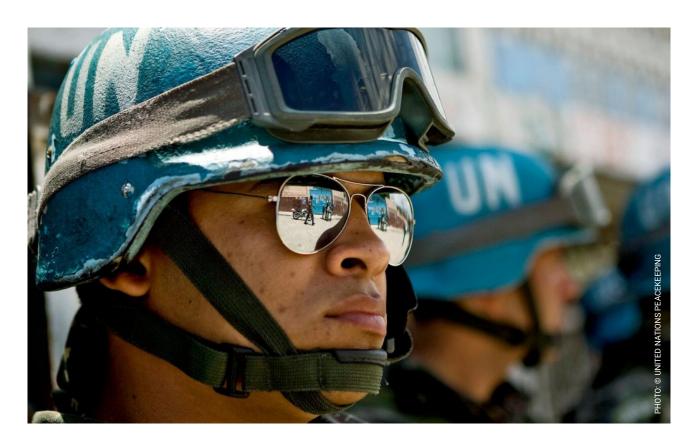
For more than six years, Yemen has been gripped by a complex and multi-faceted civil war with involvement from several regional powers, devastating the country's infrastructure and economy and leaving 80 percent of its population in need of aid. The UN is deeply involved in efforts to negotiate a political solution to the conflict through the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Yemen, British diplomat Martin Griffiths. Mr. Griffiths was instrumental in brokering the December 2018 Stockholm Agreements, whereby the warring parties agreed to a ceasefire and military redeployment from Hodeidah and several other key ports as well as a prisoner exchange. While relatively modest in scope, the agreement helped avert a potentially devastating Saudi-led military assault on Hodeidah, an important city on the Red Sea and major entry point for humanitarian aid into the country. Endorsed by the

Security Council, these agreements also provided for the deployment of a SPM, composed of 75 observers and charged with verifying the ceasefire, helping to calm tensions, and liaising between humanitarian organizations and military forces on the ground.

In October 2020, in keeping with the Stockholm Agreements, the Houthis and Yemeni government forces released more than 1,000 prisoners, the largest prisoner exchange between the two sides to date. Currently, Griffiths is working with both sides to try to broker a nationwide ceasefire and set the stage for a more comprehensive peace agreement. These efforts have not yet borne fruit, and the humanitarian and security situation in Yemen remains dire.

IRAQ

The UN Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) works to promote political dialogue, human rights, and the creation of stable and democratic governing institutions. Since 2003, UNAMI has helped facilitate a series of democratic national and provincial elections in Iraq, providing Iraqi election officials with expert advice and technical support.



UNAMI also coordinates humanitarian and development assistance: over the last five years, UN agencies have helped millions of displaced return home and initiated an infrastructure program to stabilize areas liberated from ISIS control. In particular, the UN Refugee Agency and UN Development Programme have helped foster the return of 4.6 million Iraqis; completed 2,373 infrastructure projects, which have provided water and electrical service to millions; employed 35,000 people, including many women, with cash-generating jobs; enabled 39,000 children to go back to school; and rehabilitated tens of thousands of houses, benefitting over 130,000 Iraqis.

UNAMI also supports the work of UNITAD, a UN investigative team established by the Security Council in late 2017 to help collect, preserve, and store evidence of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide committed by ISIS during its reign of terror in Iraq. UNITAD has, among other things, been aiding efforts by Iraqi authorities to exhume mass graves of Yazidi civilians executed by ISIS in the Sinjar region and identify the victims through DNA tests.

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. supports the work of the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). UNSOM provides policy advice and technical assistance to Somali authorities on a range 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, and helping Somali authorities institute a nationwide disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration program for ex-combatants.

UNSOM coordinates its efforts closely with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), a regional peacekeeping operation that by working alongside 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.



UN BUDGET AND REFORM

The UN Budget

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

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 under 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 funds the UN's core bodies and activities outside of peacekeeping. These include:

- Special political missions operating in Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Libya, Colombia, Yemen, and other countries that are either undergoing or emerging from conflict, where they work to facilitate democratic elections, advance peace negotiations and reconciliation processes, and support the development of strong, effective, and accountable governing institutions;
- Efforts to ensure international implementation and compliance with sanctions adopted by the Security Council against terrorist organizations like ISIS and Al-Qaeda and rogue states like North Korea; and
- Much of the organization's core international human rights monitoring and advocacy work, as more than 40 percent of funding for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights comes from the regular budget.

The UN's regular and peacekeeping budgets are approved by the UN General Assembly. For 2021, the regular budget totals \$3 billion, nearly one-quarter of which is for special political missions alone. This covers nearly 40,000 employees in duty stations around the world at \$1.5 billion less than the annual budget of the state of Delaware.

Member State assessment rates are also determined by the General Assembly, with renegotiations taking place every three years. The current assessment structure sets maximum (22 percent) and minimum (.001 percent) rates, with a country's rate based on its ability to pay. That is determined by a formula which factors in a Member State's gross national income, per capita income, and several other economic indicators.

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. Without

this ceiling, the U.S. would today be assessed 27 percent of the regular budget and nearly one-third of the peacekeeping budget.

ASSESSMENTS FOR UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

The UN peacekeeping budget funds a massive global military deployment: 13 missions with 94,000 personnel spread across three continents. Nevertheless, at just over \$6.5 billion annually, the UN peacekeeping budget comprises just over 0.3 percent of annual global military spending.

Member State assessments for peacekeeping are largely based on the same criteria as the regular budget, with one additional factor: the five permanent members (P5) of the Security Council—the U.S., U.K., China, France, and Russia—pay a premium, and are therefore assessed at a slightly higher rate for peacekeeping than for the regular budget. Since the P5 hold veto power over Security Council decisions, no UN peacekeeping mission can be deployed without their support. As a result, the P5's higher financial responsibility is therefore meant to reflect this unique role in authorizing peacekeeping missions and crafting their mandates.

Similar to the regular budget, peacekeeping rates are revised every three years by the General Assembly, and new assessment rates for 2019-2021 were approved by the U.S. in December 2018. 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, China's has risen dramatically, from just 3.1 percent in 2008 to more than 15 percent in 2021, a testament to its growing economic clout.

WHY ARE ASSESSED BUDGETS BENEFICIAL?

Each year, the vast majority of the funding the U.S. contributes to the UN is voluntary. For example, in FY'19, Congress greenlit approximately \$2.7 billion to pay U.S. assessments for UN peacekeeping missions, the regular budget, and 10 UN specialized agencies. That same year, the U.S. paid out more than twice as much (over \$5.8 billion) in voluntary contributions to three UN humanitarian agencies—WFP, UNHCR, and UNICEF. In total, just over one-quarter of all U.S. contributions to the UN in any given year are assessments.

Despite their small size relative to voluntary contributions, the UN's assessed budgets have frequently been subject to disproportionate scrutiny in Washington. In the past, legislation was introduced in Congress calling for the UN to do away with assessed budgets entirely and rely solely on voluntary contributions. Such proposals are impractical: instead of saving American taxpayers money, an entirely voluntary funding system could lead to significant budgetary shortfalls for critical UN programs and activities that advance our national interests, necessitating additional contributions above what we pay now.

- 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 being than the primary responsibility of a single country. While the U.S. is the largest single contributor to the UN's regular and peacekeeping budgets, the UN's other Member States still shoulder the vast majority of the costs-78 percent and 72 percent, respectively. 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.
- 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. A 2005 Congressionallymandated bipartisan report on UN reform led by Newt Gingrich and George Mitchell 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. withhold dues from the UN unless certain reforms were met, including switching to a system of voluntary financing. The Bush Administration issued a Statement of Policy which said that it had "serious concerns" about the legislation because it "could detract from and undermine our efforts," and requested "that Congress reconsider this legislation."

■ Voluntary financing could lead to shortfalls for U.S. priorities. The UN's assessed budgets fund many of the organization's most consequential activities, including special political missions in strategically significant countries like Afghanistan, Irag, Libya, and Somalia; sanctions monitoring efforts; human rights monitoring and reporting on North Korea, Syria, and Venezuela; and peacekeeping operations mandated to protect civilians and bring stability to hotspots around the world. The reality is that any 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 financing arrangements for the UN's regular, peacekeeping, and specialized agencies budgets would almost certainly lead to underfunding from other countries, particularly given the often politically sensitivity nature of the activities they support and how closely they align with U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives. For example, the UN's voluntarily-financed humanitarian and global health activities, far less controversial than the organization's peacekeeping and human rights work, are perennially short of need. In 2020, UN humanitarian agencies and partner organizations initially needed a total of \$28 billion to provide aid to 108 million people in 55 countries, a figure that increased by more than \$10 billion due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the end of the year, however, they had only received \$17 billion, or 45 percent, of the total they requested. A similar situation played out with funding for the World Health Organization (WHO), 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 requiring all Member States to contribute, assessed funding structures help avoid these types of gaping shortfalls.

U.S. Financial Contributions to the UN

In recent years, U.S. assessments for the UN regular budget, peacekeeping operations, and specialized agencies have amounted to less than \$3 billion annually, equivalent to around 0.06 percent of the federal budget.

Funding to pay our UN assessments is provided by Congress through three accounts in the annual State Department, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPS) appropriations bill: Contributions to International Organizations (CIO); Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities (CIPA); and Peacekeeping Operations (PKO). Each year, we formulate recommendations based on anticipated funding needs for these accounts. A summary of our FY'22 recommendations is provided below.

ACCOUNT	FY'19 Omnibus	FY'20 Omnibus	FY'21 President's Request	FY'21 House SFOPS	FY'21 Senate SFOPS	FY'21 Omnibus	FY'22 BWC Recs.
CIPA	\$1,551,000	\$1,526,383	\$1,079,200	\$1,456,314	\$1,441,094	\$1,456,314	\$2,701,032
cio	\$1,360,270	\$1,473,606	\$966,244	\$1,505,928	\$1,479,343	\$1,505,928	\$1,595,928
РКО	\$488,670	\$457,368	\$290,000	\$457,348	\$406,508	\$440,759	\$548,065

^{*}Dollar amounts in this chart are listed in thousands.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: \$1,799 BILLION

The CIO account finances U.S. assessments for the UN regular budget, UN specialized agencies, and several dozen non-UN international organizations, including NATO and the Organization of American States. Overall, the UN and UN-affiliated entities receive approximately 75 percent of the funds appropriated for this account.

Funding for CIO has ebbed and flowed over the years, but during its time in office, the Trump Administration made several significant changes (some relying on legal authorities granted by Congress, others unilaterally) to the level and pace of disbursements from this account.

- To start, the administration withheld assessed contributions to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Human Rights Council that are channeled through the UN regular budget, totaling \$90 million from FY'17-FY'20.
- Even more problematically, the administration repeatedly slow-walked the disbursement of funds for those portions of the regular budget that it was willing to pay. By the end of September 2020, for example, Member States owed the UN \$1.5 billion in unpaid regular budget assessments. This U.S. was responsible for \$1.1 billion—or 73 percent—of the total, despite the fact that it is only assessed 22 percent of the regular budget.

These budgetary actions have eroded the financial health of the UN system. In terms of the UN itself, the late or outright non-payment of regular budget dues has touched off repeated liquidity crises that threaten the ability of the organization to pay staff and vendors, as well as carry out key programs. In order to prevent insolvency, the Secretary-General has been forced to institute a hiring freeze and other undesirable austerity measures. With regards to WHO, the Trump Administration's financial withholdings have undermined the organization at what is perhaps the worst possible time: in the midst of a global pandemic that the world's premier international public health body is playing a central role in addressing.

These actions complicate the delivery of multilateral initiatives that advance fundamental U.S. national interests. They also erode U.S. influence in favor of China, which is expanding its own role within international organizations, and abrogate the will of Congress, which has appropriated funds under CIO expressly for the purpose of meeting U.S. financial obligations to the UN and its specialized agencies.

Our recommendation of \$1.799 billion for CIO would help repair the damage caused by these decisions by fully meeting our current commitments under the account—\$1.505 billion—and paying back the \$203 million in arrears we owe to WHO and \$90 million we owe to UN human rights mechanisms. In addition to appropriating these funds in final FY'22 SFOPS legislation, we also urge Congress to include language in the bill specifying that CIO funds "shall be made available" to pay the full amount of the U.S. assessment for the UN regular budget and other international organizations financed by the account. This will prevent future administrations from ignoring Congress and unilaterally withholding funds to particular agencies.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES: \$2.701 BILLION

The CIPA account funds U.S. assessments for 11 UN peacekeeping missions, including critical operations in Mali, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, Lebanon, and the Golan Heights. All of these missions were approved by the UN Security Council—of which the U.S. is a permanent member with veto power—and play a central role in promoting stability, protecting

civilians, and mitigating conflict in key regions. UN peacekeeping operations are extremely cost-effective and do not require the U.S. to put boots on the ground.

Assessment rates for UN peacekeeping are determined by each country's ability to pay, with permanent members of the Security Council paying slightly more than they do for the regular budget in recognition of their unique responsibility for greenlighting peacekeeping missions. Under this formula, the U.S. is currently assessed at a rate of 27.89 percent. Unfortunately, since the mid-1990s, U.S. law has arbitrarily capped U.S. contributions to UN peacekeeping at 25 percent. While Congress has frequently waived this requirement on an ad hoc basis, since FY'17 it has not done so, causing the U.S. to accrue approximately \$1.019 billion in caprelated arrears.

In part because of these underpayments, UN peacekeeping faces a growing cash crunch, and the UN is unable to sufficiently reimburse countries who participate in peacekeeping for their contributions of personnel and equipment. To date, the UN has amassed hundreds of millions of dollars in outstanding reimbursement payments to Ethiopia, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Tanzania, Senegal, and other Member States. This creates significant challenges for troop-contributors, most of whom are lower-income countries that rely on reimbursements to help sustain complex longer-term peacekeeping deployments. Continued U.S. underpayments also threaten to:

Terode U.S. influence at the UN and cede the floor to countries that do not share our values. China, which like the U.S. is also a permanent member of the Security Council, has significantly increased its participation in UN peacekeeping in recent years. Currently, it is the tenth largest troopcontributor (providing more than the U.S., UK, France, and Russia combined), and the second largest financial contributor. China is seeking to use this expanded profile to more aggressively articulate its agenda at the UN, including by challenging the human rights and civilian protection related aspects of UN peacekeeping mandates; and

Undermine 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 Obama Administration, the U.S. and UN worked together to adopt several critical reforms and efficiencies. cutting the cost per peacekeeper by 18 percent and reducing the number of support staff on missions to lower 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. Failing to pay our dues in full alienates like-minded countries. sends the message that we are more interested in punishing the organization than improving it, and makes it less likely that future U.S. entreaties around cost, efficiency, and accountability will be taken seriously.

Our FY'22 recommendation for CIPA includes sufficient funds to pay our estimated FY'22 peacekeeping assessments at the full assessed rate—\$1.682 billion—plus an additional \$1.019 billion to pay back arrears. In order to make these payments, language will need to be included in the FY'22 legislation waiving the statutory cap.

PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS (PKO): \$548 MILLION

The PKO account supports several non-UN regional peacekeeping operations and bilateral security initiatives, including an international observer force in the Sinai Peninsula that monitors security provisions of the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty. PKO also finances U.S. assessments for the UN Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), which provides critical equipment and logistical support to the African Union Mission in Somalia. By working to help local forces defeat Al-Shabaab, an Al-Qaeda linked terrorist group that has carried out numerous attacks in Somalia and the wider region, both entities play an essential role in advancing U.S. counterterrorism objectives in East Africa.

Our FY'22 recommendation would allow the U.S. to fulfill its current financial obligations to UNSOS, as well as pay back an estimated \$92.7 million in arrears accrued due to application of the aforementioned peacekeeping cap.

UN Strengthening and Reform

In January 2019, the UN Secretariat began implementing a set of systemic and interlinked changes. These reforms center 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.

The reforms aim to make the UN nimbler, less bureaucratic, more transparent and accountable, and more decentralized and effective. Provided below are a selection of initiatives underway that are part of this broader reform agenda.

DEVELOPMENT

A core element of the reform agenda is about placing sustainable development "at the heart" of the UN because development is the UN's "best tool for preventing conflict and building a future of peace." An important part of this new approach is transforming the role of the Resident Coordinator—the senior-most UN official in the field, which was moved from the UN Development Programme to the UN Secretariat.

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 the Resident Coordinators reporting directly to leadership at the top of the UN – creating a direct accountability link between the UN in New York and leadership on the ground, where most UN staff working on development issues are located, and allowing for better coordination across UN agencies to ensure that the UN as a whole is delivering assistance in a non-duplicative and effective manner.

MANAGEMENT

The aim of the management reform pillar is to enable the Secretariat to more effectively and accountably deliver on its mandates, and therefore better positions the United Nations to confront global challenges.

A central component of this plan was to achieve gender parity, particularly in the senior management group of the Secretary-General, and among resident coordinators. This goal was achieved in 2019.

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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.



The UN has also achieved the

highest number of women,

as of heads of missions and deputy heads in peace operations in its history.

An additional part of management reform was to implement an annual budget rather than a biennial budget starting in 2020, 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 upto-date information. The \$3.21 billion UN regular budget approved by the General Assembly for 2021 represented an increase of \$140 million (4.5 percent) over the previous year. Approximately half of this increase was due to larger costs associated with UN special political missions in countries like Yemen, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Somalia. The 2020 regular budget, by contrast, was relatively flat, representing a mere 0.6 percent increase over the year before.

PEACE AND SECURITY

The Secretary-General has also implemented a restructuring of the peace and security architecture of the UN Secretariat in order to prioritize conflict prevention and enhance the effectiveness and coherence of UN peacekeeping and special political missions. A key step in this process is the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping Initiative, launched in 2018, which brought together all of the key stakeholders in UN peacekeeping (members of the Security Council, troopcontributing countries, top financial contributors, and countries that host peacekeeping missions) around a set of reform priorities.

Among these reforms, one of the most innovative is the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System (CPAS), which better enables leadership within a mission to make informed and evidence-based decisions to improve the implementation of its mandate. The CPAS was first piloted in the Central African Republic to help the UN peacekeeping mission there (MINUSCA) coordinate and track its support for implementation of a peace agreement signed in December 2019. By tracking indicators such as the number of conflict-related civilian deaths, the number of children released from

armed groups (a commitment under the agreement), and the number of public buildings being occupied by armed groups, MINUSCA has been able to more readily see where its support to the peace agreement is bearing fruit and where it is not. Having worked successfully in the Central African Republic, CPAS is now being used in seven peacekeeping missions.

ADDRESSING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE BY UN PERSONNEL

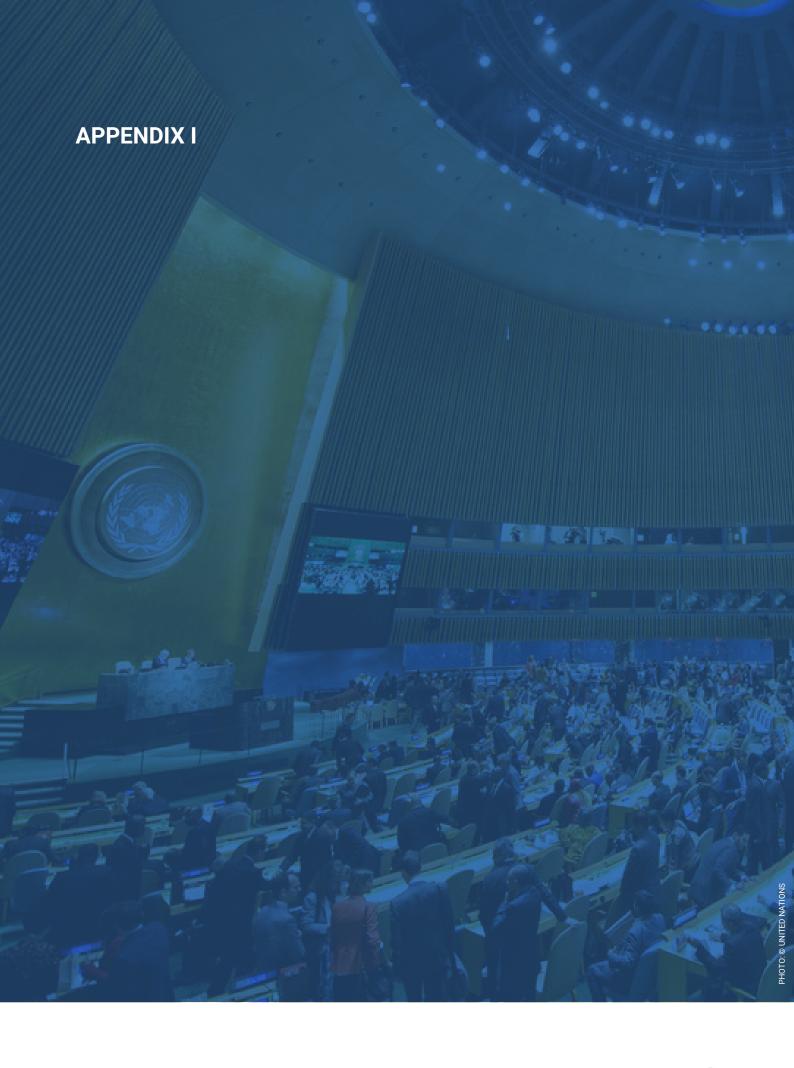
In addition to the three broad categories of reform discussed above, the UN has implemented several policies in recent years to address instances of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by UN personnel, including peacekeepers. These measures have been wide-ranging and are summarized below.

- The UN has appointed 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.
- Since the passage of UN Security Council Resolution 2272 in 2016, the Secretary-General has enjoyed expanded authority to repatriate entire military or police units that engage in widespread or systematic violations. To date, the Secretary-General has utilized these powers in the Central African Republic with troops from the Republic of Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo.
- The UN has expanded a vetting database currently in place for civilian personnel to cover all troops and police serving on UN peacekeeping missions.
- In order to ensure transparency, the UN maintains a publicly available online database of credible allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse made against personnel in field missions.

 The database provides information on the nationality of uniformed personnel accused of misconduct—a critical element in holding troop and police-contributing countries accountable for the conduct of their citizens—as well as information on interim actions taken, the duration of investigations, and details around steps taken by Member States, including criminal prosecutions and administrative sanctions.

UN Budget and Reform

- UN investigative entities are now required to conclude their investigations into sexual exploitation and abuse cases within a six-month timeframe, shortened to three months in cases suggesting "the need for greater urgency". The Secretary-General has taken other steps too, urging troop-contributing countries to deploy national investigation officers (NIOs) with sufficient experience and expertise to investigate allegations of SEA by their personnel. In partnership with Member States, the UN is working to support the capacity-building and training of these NIOs.
- The Secretariat has developed a mandatory online training program for all UN personnel on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse.
- The UN administers a trust fund to provide critical services to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, including psychosocial assistance, medical care, access to legal help, and assistance in establishing paternity claims. The trust fund is financed in part through reimbursement payments that are withheld from troopcontributing countries when allegations against their troops are substantiated.



KEY UN INSTITUTIONS

The UN Charter, the treaty signed in June 1945 that formed the United Nations, established six principle organs of the new international organization. While the Trusteeship Council, created to help colonies transition to self-governance or independence, is currently inactive, the other five bodies remain key pillars of the UN system today. A description of the structure and functions of these entities is provided below.

UN SECURITY COUNCIL

The Security Council is the UN's premier decision-making body, empowered to impose legally-binding obligations on Member States. Conferred by the UN Charter with "primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security," the Council has several tools at its disposal for conflict prevention and management. Chapter VI of the Charter authorizes the Council to make recommendations to resolve threats to international peace and security by various peaceful means. If unsuccessful, the Security Council may authorize enforcement measures under Chapter VII, including sanctions and military force.

The Security Council is composed of 15 Member States: five permanent members (also known as the P5), made up of the "Big Four" Allied powers from World War II or their continuator states (the U.S., the U.K., Russia, and China) plus France; and ten rotating non-permanent members, elected to two-year terms by the UN General Assembly on the basis of equitable geographic distribution among regional groups. Votes on non-procedural matters require the concurrence of the P5, effectively giving them a veto over such decisions.

Since its establishment, the Council has served as a key forum for addressing security challenges. The Council has: authorized more than 70 peacekeeping missions in some of the world's most dangerous places; put in place international sanctions targeting the finances and access to weapons of rogue regimes like North Korea and terrorist groups

like Al-Qaeda and ISIS; and sought to deepen international cooperation on everything from terrorist financing to nuclear nonproliferation.

Nevertheless, the P5's veto power has, at times, prevented the Council from fully asserting its role as a guarantor of global order. This was especially true when U.S.-Soviet tensions were at their height during the Cold War. While the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 brought on a period of increased cooperation, recent disputes over crises in Syria, Ukraine, Israel/Palestine, and Yemen, have exposed ongoing divisions among the P5 and limited the Council's effectiveness in some contexts.

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Unlike the Security Council, the UN General Assembly has universal membership: all 193 Member States have a seat, and no country possesses veto power. While its decisions are generally non-binding, they still carry important political and moral clout, serving as a marker of the views of the international community. Over the years, the General Assembly has approved numerous noteworthy decisions, including:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): The UDHR, a landmark document outlining basic global standards for human rights, was adopted by the General Assembly in 1948. Eleanor Roosevelt, former first lady and chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights, played a central role in drafting and shepherding the UDHR to its passage.
- Setting the global development agenda:
 In 2000, the General Assembly adopted the
 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of
 eight time-bound targets aimed at eradicating
 extreme poverty and hunger, promoting gender
 equality and improving access to education, and
 combating the spread of diseases like HIV/AIDS

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and malaria.

In 2015, the Assembly adopted the successor to the MDGs, the Sustainable Development Goals, a new set of development objectives to build on the important progress achieved by the MDGs with a 2030 due date.

The General Assembly has a number of other important functions as well, including developing and approving the UN's regular and peacekeeping budgets and assessment rates for Member States; electing the non-permanent members of the Security Council and other UN bodies; and appointing the Secretary-General.

UN SECRETARIAT

The UN Secretariat is staffed by 40,000 personnel worldwide and carries out the day-to-day operations of the UN, implementing mandates adopted by the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, and other relevant UN bodies. Some of its main functions include:

- Planning and managing peacekeeping and political missions;
- Mediating international disputes;
- Assisting implementation of Security Council sanctions;
- Coordinating disaster relief across dozens of humanitarian agencies;
- Promoting social and economic development and publishing related statistics and research; and
- Facilitating discussion and meetings among the UN's Member States.

All of this is done with an annual budget of approximately **\$3 billion**, equal to one-third the budget of the state of Rhode Island.

The Secretariat is led by the Secretary-General, who is selected every five years by the Security Council and approved by the General Assembly. Although there is no formal limit to the number of five-year terms a Secretary-General may serve, they typically serve no more than two. The current Secretary-General is former Portuguese Prime Minister António Guterres, who assumed office on January 1, 2017.

UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

ECOSOC is the central UN forum for discussing and formulating policy recommendations on international economic, social, cultural, educational, and health issues. According to the Charter, ECOSOC is tasked with:

- Promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress;
- Identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems;
- Facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation; and
- Encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

As part of this work, ECOSOC helps to coordinate the work of the UN's numerous specialized agencies, funds, and programs, and—by granting consultative status to non-governmental organizations—serves as a key venue through which civil society can participate in the work of the UN. ECOSOC is made up of 54 Member States who are elected to three-year terms by the General Assembly.

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ)

The ICJ is the UN's judicial organ, composed of 15 judges elected to nine-year terms by the General Assembly and Security Council. The purpose of the ICJ is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes between Member States. This is a key element of the international security order envisioned by the UN Charter, which commits countries to undertake several methods to peacefully resolve disputes, including judicial settlement. The ICJ also gives advisory opinions on legal questions submitted to it by other UN organs or agencies.

The ICJ does not have the authority to weigh in on any international legal dispute it wishes; instead, the Court's ability to hear a case is derived from the consent of the Member States concerned. States involved in a dispute can accept ICJ jurisdiction in three ways:

 Two or more states can enter into a special agreement to submit their case to the Court; or humanitarian agencies;

Key UN Institutions

- A jurisdictional clause in a treaty may require countries that have ratified the treaty to submit disagreements over interpretation or application of the document to the Court (more than 300 treaties, both bilateral and multilateral, contain such clauses); or
- A state may submit a unilateral declaration accepting the Court's jurisdiction as compulsory in the event of a dispute with another state that has made a similar commitment.

Member States are bound to comply with ICJ decisions in any case to which they are a party. According to the Charter, if a Member State fails to perform its obligations under an ICJ judgment, the case can be referred to the Security Council, which can then apply enforcement measures. Over the years, the U.S. has been involved in several cases before the Court. In 1980, for example, the ICJ ordered Iran to pay reparations to the U.S. over the 1979 hostage crisis.



APPENDIX II

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

UN FUNDS AND PROGRAMS

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

UN Children's Fund (UNICEF): UNICEF provides long-term humanitarian and development assistance to children and mothers, working to help increase the number of girls enrolled in school worldwide and providing clean water, sanitation, educational support, and nutritional assistance to children in disaster zones and wartorn regions around the world. UNICEF is also responsible for procuring vaccines that reach 45 percent of the world's children saving the lives of 2.5 million children each year.

World Food Programme (WFP): WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency dedicated to the goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. Each year, the agency provides food aid, cash assistance, and nutrition support to 100 million people in 88 countries. In 2020, in recognition of its lifesaving work, WFP was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

UN Development Programme (UNDP): UNDP is the UN's global development network, focusing on the challenges of democratic governance, poverty reduction, crisis prevention and recovery, energy and environment, and HIV/AIDS. UNDP is one of the implementing bodies for UN electoral assistance, helping to facilitate elections in around 60 countries every year, including nations undergoing sensitive post-conflict political transitions.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR): UNHCR protects refugees worldwide and facilitates their resettlement or return home. UNHCR is currently working on the ground in 120 countries to help the more than 79.5 million people displaced by famine, armed conflict or persecution in Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia, Somalia, and Yemen.

UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC): UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs, organized crime, corruption, human trafficking, and terrorism. The organization helps Member States address these challenges by providing field-based technical support to enhance the capacity of criminal justice systems and adherence to the rule of law, assisting in the implementation of relevant international treaties, and serving as a source of research and information to help guide policy decisions on countering drugs and crime.

UN Population Fund (UNFPA): UNFPA is the largest international source of funding for population and reproductive health programs in the world. UNFPA helps women, men, and young people plan their families, including the number, timing, and spacing of their children, go through pregnancy and childbirth safely, and avoid sexually transmitted infections. UNFPA also combats violence against women and child marriage. UNFPA does not provide, support, or advocate for abortion, nor does it support, promote, or condone coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization.

UN Environment Programme (UNEP): UNEP coordinates the UN's environmental activities, developing international environmental conventions, assessing global environmental trends, encouraging new civil sector partnerships, and strengthening institutions so they might better protect the planet. UNEP covers international environmental issues impacting the U.S. that no one nation working alone can adequately address, such as plastic pollution in our oceans, the transboundary movement of toxic chemicals, and combating illegal trade in wildlife.

UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA): UNRWA provides an array of vital services, including education, health care, economic opportunities, and emergency food assistance, to impoverished Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. The organization was founded by the UN General Assembly in 1949 to assist Palestinians who were forced from their homes by the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. More than half of UNRWA's annual budget goes to its schools alone, which provide a curriculum focused on tolerance, gender equality, human rights, and non-violence to nearly 525,000 children.

UN Women: UN Women coordinates the UN response to three issues globally, nationally, and locally: elimination of discrimination against women and girls; empowerment of women; and achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.

UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

In addition to the programs, offices, and funds described in the previous section, the UN system also includes affiliated specialized agencies that work with and through the UN to advance international cooperation and progress. Through this work, these agencies promote core U.S. foreign policy, national security, economic, public health, and humanitarian objectives. Provided below is a snapshot of these agencies:

World Health Organization (WHO): WHO serves as a coordinating authority on international public health. It is responsible for orchestrating international collaboration and developing solutions to confront global health emergencies, monitoring outbreaks of infectious diseases, spearheading global vaccination efforts, and leading campaigns to combat life threatening diseases like polio, malaria, and HIV/AIDS. WHO has helped lead the international response to the COVID-19 pandemic, providing PPE and tests, conducting critical awareness-raising activities, and supporting research into treatments and vaccines.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):

IAEA works to prevent, detect, and respond to the illicit or non-peaceful use of nuclear material, conducting monitoring and inspection activities in 140 countries to verify compliance with international nuclear safeguard agreements.

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

World Bank: The World Bank focuses on poverty reduction and the improvement of living standards worldwide by providing low-interest loans, interest-free credit, and grants to developing countries for education, health, infrastructure, and communications.

International Monetary Fund (IMF): The IMF is an organization of 188 countries that fosters global monetary cooperation, facilitates international trade, promotes high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduces poverty. It offers financial and technical assistance to its members, making it an international lender of last resort.

International Maritime Organization (IMO): IMO sets international safety standards for ships, ports, and maritime facilities, develops ship design and operating requirements, and leads global efforts to prevent maritime pollution. Standards promulgated by IMO are central to the health of the U.S. economy, as more than 90 percent of all international trade is carried out by ship. IMO also works with Member States to address security threats to the international shipping industry, including piracy and terrorism.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO):

ICAO enables safe air travel everywhere by setting global standards for navigation, communication, and airline safety. These standards map out airspace jurisdiction and establish "free range" airspace over oceans and seas. The agency also sets international standards for limiting environmental degradation and works to strengthen aviation security by conducting regular audits of aviation security oversight in ICAO Member States.

UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): UNESCO administers an array of programs in five broad areas: education; natural sciences; social and human sciences; culture; and communication and information. UNESCO's work includes promoting freedom of the press, access to primary education for all children, and international Holocaust education.

International Labor Organization (ILO): ILO is responsible for formulating and overseeing implementation of international labor standards. The agency works to promote workers' rights and improved working conditions around the world, seeks to abolish forced and child labor, and supports the creation of greater opportunities for employment.

International Organization for Migration (IOM):

IOM works to promote humane and orderly migration by promoting international cooperation on migration issues and providing humanitarian assistance to migrants. Among other initiatives, IOM is playing an important role in responding to the Mediterranean migration crisis, providing critical aid to vulnerable migrants making their way from West Africa to North Africa or Europe, including shelter assistance, hygiene kits, food assistance, and medical care. Because of its position as a transit country for migrants, IOM has also provided training to law enforcement authorities in Mali to help them recognize and counter cases of human trafficking.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO):

WIPO encourages innovation and economic growth through the registration and protection of patents, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property, as well as through adjudication of cross-border disputes on intellectual property.

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

World Meteorological Organization (WMO): WMO facilitates the unrestricted international exchange of meteorological data, forecasts and warnings, and works to further their use in the aviation, shipping, agriculture, energy, and defense sectors.

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

