



2015 BRIEFING BOOK

THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED NATIONS
IN THE 114TH CONGRESS



THE 114TH CONGRESS TAKES OFFICE AS THE U.S. FACES UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES ABROAD.

From the **Ebola outbreak**; to the **rise of ISIS**; to ongoing security threats and humanitarian crises in countries like Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Haiti, **the UN remains a critical partner for the U.S.** as Congress works to **protect our national security and foreign policy interests.**

The UN is not a perfect institution, but it serves a near-perfect purpose: to promote global cooperation and address some of the world's most **pressing challenges that no single country can resolve alone.** Among other things, the UN is a platform for multilateral efforts to **counter terrorism, stem the proliferation of nuclear weapons, increase economic development, provide humanitarian aid, promote democratic governance** and, **through peacekeeping missions, maintain order** in some of the world's most dangerous places so U.S. forces don't have to.

All of these activities help **buttress core American interests and values,** allowing our nation to **share the burden of promoting global peace, stability, and development with the rest of the international community.**

Recent research by a bipartisan polling team found that, **87% of Americans agree: it is important for the U.S. to maintain an active role in the UN.** Moreover, **72% of all Americans, including majorities of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, support paying our UN peacekeeping dues on-time and in-full.**

For these reasons, it is absolutely critical that the U.S. maintain its seat at the table by engaging constructively with the UN. **That means paying our peacekeeping and regular budget dues on-time, in-full, and without preconditions.**

“

“In a climate of fiscal restraint, there is agreement across the political spectrum: **The U.S. cannot bear all the burden or afford to go it alone around the world.** Rather, an overwhelming majority of Americans recognize the benefits that stem from continued U.S. engagement in the United Nations.”

– Peter Yeo, President of the Better World Campaign



Photo/Stuart Ramson for UNA-USA

“

“2015 is shaping up to be a year of bold action at the UN in conjunction with its 70th anniversary. As we continue to ask the UN to do more around the world to advance our interests here at home, **there has perhaps never been a more appropriate year to honor the working relationship between the U.S. and the UN.**”

– Chris Whatley, Executive Director of UNA-USA



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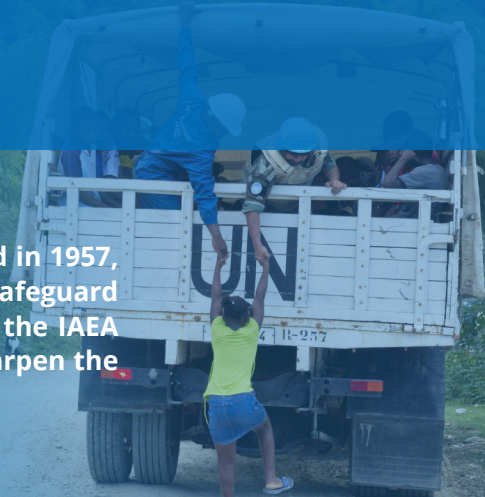
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Following two devastating world wars, **51 nations came together in San Francisco in 1945** to address the world's dire peace and human rights challenges, and the United Nations was officially founded. In the ensuing years, the UN has tackled some of the world's most complex, long-term challenges. Highlighted below are seven success stories spanning the UN's last 70 years.

1950s

PREVENTING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), first established in 1957, serves as the world's nuclear inspector. IAEA experts ensure safeguard agreements are in place with more than 140 countries. Today, the IAEA is playing a crucial role in U.S.-led efforts to isolate Iran and sharpen the country's choices over its controversial nuclear program.



1960s

HUMANITARIAN AND FOOD ASSISTANCE

Established in 1961, the World Food Program (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian agency, reaching 80 million hungry people in 75 countries every single year. Today - with more refugees than at any time since World War II - WFP, together with its sister organization UNHCR, is feeding, clothing, and sheltering millions from Syria to Iraq to Central African Republic and beyond.



1970s

PROMOTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) - commonly referred to as an international bill of rights for women - was formally adopted in 1979. In the years since, CEDAW has been ratified by 188 countries. Today, the UN's HeForShe campaign is continuing that work, bringing together men and women across the globe in an unrivaled international movement for gender equality.



1980s

GLOBAL HEALTH

Capping 13 years of work by the World Health Organization (WHO), smallpox was declared officially eradicated from the planet in 1980. Smallpox existed for thousands of years, claiming the lives of 300 million people during the 20th century alone. The eradication has saved an estimated \$1 billion a year in vaccination and monitoring — almost three times the cost of eliminating the scourge itself.

1990s

DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE

The UN has provided electoral assistance to more than 100 countries, often at decisive moments in their history. In the 1990s, the UN organized or observed landmark elections in Cambodia, El Salvador, South Africa, Mozambique and Timor-Leste. More recently, the UN has provided crucial electoral assistance in Afghanistan, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Nepal, Sierra Leone, and Sudan.

2000s

COMBATING TERRORISM

In 2006, member states adopted the first-ever global strategy to counter terrorism. Since then, fourteen global agreements have been negotiated under UN auspices, including treaties against hostage-taking, aircraft hijacking, terrorist bombings, terrorism financing, and nuclear terrorism.

2010s

MAINTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY

Over the past six decades, the UN has sent 69 peacekeeping and observer missions to some of the world's worst trouble spots, restoring peace and security. As of 2015, 16 peacekeeping missions are being carried out by some 120,000 brave men and women from 128 countries.

ABOUT THE BETTER WORLD CAMPAIGN & UNA-USA



OUR MISSION

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



The United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) is a grassroots organization with 120 chapters and 17,000 members nationwide devoted to strengthening the U.S.-UN relationship through public education and advocacy. For more than six decades, UNA-USA and its chapters and regions have stood at the forefront of building American support for the UN. Together, BWC and UNA-USA represent the single largest network of advocates and supporters of the UN in the world.



Ted Turner, former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and current UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon attend the 2014 Global Leadership Dinner. *Photo by Jemal Countess/Getty Images*



THE VALUE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

UN Photo/Nektarios Markogiannis



MINUSMA Transport Company Delivers Water to Airport Guards

Members of the Ivoirian Transport Company from the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) deliver drinkable water to UN peacekeepers guarding the Gao Airport. *UN Photo/Marco Dormino*

DELIVERING AROUND THE CLOCK

Every day, around the clock, the United Nations and its family of agencies work to create a more secure, prosperous, and healthy world. Often with little fanfare or media attention, the UN does everything from providing lifesaving aid to victims of war and natural disasters to stemming the spread of infectious diseases. The UN's work in these areas promotes fundamental American values and advances our nation's core foreign policy, national security, global health, and economic objectives. Furthermore, by working through the UN and sharing the financial burden with other members of the international community, U.S. interests are advanced at a much lower cost than if we attempted to carry out these activities alone.

The benefits of a strong and constructive U.S.-UN relationship are well-understood by the American people. In fact, recent bipartisan polling has shown that an overwhelming 87 percent of Americans believe it is important for the U.S. to maintain an active role within the UN. In addition, more than seven out of ten Americans, including strong majorities of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, support paying our UN peacekeeping dues on time and in full.

PROMOTING PEACE AND DEMOCRACY

- The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) oversees the second largest deployed military in the world, with more than 120,000 military, police, and civilian personnel deployed on 16 peacekeeping missions in places like Liberia, Lebanon and the Central African Republic. Each day, UN peacekeepers work to end violence and promote stability by supporting the implementation of peace agreements, demobilizing combatants, facilitating humanitarian aid, and creating conditions for political reconciliation and free and fair elections. These activities are a boon to U.S. interests, as they help promote our nation's foreign policy and national security goals and core values without requiring the commitment of U.S. troops. They are also extremely cost-effective, as other UN member states bear nearly three-quarters of their costs, and UN missions overall are eight times cheaper than U.S. forces acting alone.

- The UN Development Program (UNDP) and UN peacekeeping operations support, on average, one free and democratic election somewhere in the world every two weeks. In recent years, the UN has facilitated elections in South Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire, Afghanistan, Liberia, Iraq, Libya, Tunisia, Guinea-Bissau and Mali, helping millions of people around the world exercise their democratic rights.

PROVIDING VITAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- UN humanitarian agencies deliver lifesaving aid to millions of people affected by conflict and natural disasters every year. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) coordinates assistance to more than 36 million refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) worldwide and facilitates their eventual resettlement or return home. The World Food Program (WFP), the world's largest humanitarian organization devoted to fighting hunger, provided lifesaving food aid to more than 80 million people in 75 countries in 2013 alone. With a focus on immunization, early childhood development, education, and HIV/AIDS, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) provides long-term humanitarian and development assistance to children and mothers.

RESPONDING TO AND ELIMINATING OUTBREAKS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

- Infectious diseases have no respect for borders or boundaries—that's why the UN is at the forefront of combating the unprecedented Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa. The headquarters for the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) opened in September 2014 in Accra, Ghana. A first of its kind operation aimed at coordinating international Ebola relief efforts, UNMEER is a response to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's proposal that the UN create a corps of health workers as a long-term, systemic effort to fight this and future outbreaks. In addition to UNMEER's long-term efforts, the World Health Organization has deployed 838 staff members to the field since the beginning of the outbreak and, together with member states, has set up nearly 1,200 treatment beds and trained over 5,000 doctors and healthcare workers.

QUICK FACTS

- ➔ **UN peacekeeping missions are eight times cheaper than U.S. forces acting alone.**
- ➔ **In 2014, a joint mission of the UN and the OPCW oversaw the complete removal and destruction of Syria's declared stockpile of chemical weapons.**
- ➔ **In 2013, the UN Secretariat purchased nearly \$800 million worth of goods and services from more than 200 American companies.**

SUPPORTING GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS

- The UN Human Rights Council suffers a lot of criticism, but something everyone can agree on is the thoroughness of its recent investigation into human rights abuses in North Korea. The Commission of Inquiry (COI) on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a team of independent investigators authorized by the UN Human Rights Council, published an unprecedented report last year detailing a wide array of human rights violations committed by the Kim regime. The Commission's findings were the foundation for a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly in December 2014 calling for North Korea to be referred to the International Criminal Court. Regardless of the resolution's final outcome, the COI report has refocused attention on the Kim regime's extreme violations and will serve as a warning to other potential abusers that the UN takes human rights seriously.

SUPPORTING GLOBAL NONPROLIFERATION AND EFFORTS TO COMBAT TERRORISM

- The UN is an important platform for U.S.-led international efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is currently playing a key role in verifying Iran's compliance with last year's interim nuclear agreement with the P5+1, and is also leading efforts to investigate possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear program. In 2014, under a deal reached by the U.S. and Russia and backed by the UN Security Council, a joint mission of the UN and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) oversaw the complete removal and destruction of Syria's declared stockpile of chemical weapons.
- The Security Council's Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee plays a prominent role in advancing U.S. national security interests by overseeing the implementation of legally-binding, Security Council-backed financial, travel, and weapons sanctions against individuals and entities associated with the transnational terrorist network. In 2014, key members of ISIS, Boko Haram, and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb were added to the UN's blacklist. In addition, in September, the Security Council passed a groundbreaking resolution to crack down on foreign terrorist fighters who travel to conflict zones.

BENEFITING THE U.S. ECONOMY

- The U.S. derives noteworthy economic benefits from the work of the UN. In 2013, for example, the UN Secretariat, which includes DPKO and other core UN offices, purchased nearly \$800 million worth of goods and services from more than 200 American companies based in locations as diverse as San Jose, California, Plano, Texas, and Cleveland, Ohio. In addition to these contracts, one past estimate put the total annual economic benefit to New York City from the UN's presence at \$3.3 billion.
- This means that, for every \$1 the U.S. contributed to the UN Secretariat as part of its Regular Budget and peacekeeping dues in 2013, the U.S. economy received nearly \$1.60 back in contracts for U.S. businesses and returns to New York City's economy.



Our citizens will do better and be safer in a world where rules are observed, prosperity is increasing, human suffering is alleviated, and threats to our well-being are contained. **The United Nations is an indispensable partner in all of this.**

— Samantha Power, *U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations*



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES

UN Photo/Logan Abassi



UN Peacekeepers Distribute Water and Food in Haiti

Brazilian peacekeepers from the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) distribute water and food in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. *UN Photo/Marco Dormino*

PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE & DISASTER RELIEF

Democracy promotion has a prominent profile at the United Nations, and democratic values and principles are infused in many of the UN's peacebuilding and development efforts. The UN's international legitimacy and broad membership gives it a unique advantage in promoting the spread of democratic governance, providing all member states with a stake in ensuring the success of emerging democracies. As such, the UN is pursuing a number of initiatives that seek to foster democracy globally, including facilitating elections in countries emerging from conflict or transitioning to democracy, building democratic institutions and promoting the rule of law, and funding local projects that strengthen civil society and spread democratic ideals.

SYRIA

Nearly four years of civil war have devastated Syria: more than three million Syrians have fled the country, seeking refuge in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt, and Iraq, and nearly 6.5 million people are displaced inside Syria. UN humanitarian agencies face a number of significant challenges to their work in Syria, including obstacles to reaching affected populations imposed by the warring parties, funding shortfalls, and threats to the safety of staff. Nevertheless, the UN is playing a leading role in international efforts to ease the suffering of Syrian civilians.

WFP provides various forms of lifesaving food assistance to nearly 4 million people inside Syria every month, and is currently reaching 1.7 million Syrian refugees. In preparation for the cold winter months, UNHCR is insulating shelters and providing thermal blankets, winter clothing, heaters, and fuel to hundreds of thousands of displaced Syrians throughout the region. UNICEF, for its part, has been helping to ensure access to safe drinking water for more than 10 million Syrians, provide educational support and recreational activities for displaced children, and vaccinate millions of children in the wake of a polio outbreak. Finally, the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which provides a variety of relief and social services to Palestinian refugees, is currently providing shelter, food, sanitation, health care, and education to Palestinians living in Syria, more than half of whom have been displaced by the current conflict.

IRAQ

Since January 2014, the terrorist group ISIS has made significant territorial gains in western and northern Iraq, driving nearly 2 million Iraqis from their homes. In response to this rapidly deteriorating situation, in August UNHCR organized a massive airlift of emergency aid supplies (including tents,

mattresses, hygiene kits, water bottles, kitchen sets, and other critical items) to Iraqi Kurdistan to help more than 500,000 displaced people. WFP has provided food aid to more than 1.4 million people since January 2014, and in November began rolling out a voucher program to help 500,000 displaced Iraqis purchase their own food in local markets. Given the strain placed on Iraq's health system by the violence, the World Health Organization (WHO) has been working with local authorities to restore basic health services, and supplied essential drugs and medical equipment for more than 1 million people. In addition, as part of an ongoing effort to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, WHO and UNICEF helped vaccinate 5.6 million children under the age of 5 against polio in October.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

CAR has been wracked by political instability and vicious sectarian violence for more than a year, leaving nearly 2.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, and forcing more than 800,000 civilians to flee their homes. Since December 2013, WFP has expanded its operations in CAR, and is currently covering 930,000 people throughout the country. UNICEF delivered more than 500,000 mosquito bed nets to protect families in the capital, Bangui, from malaria, set up temporary learning spaces for thousands of displaced children in areas of the country affected by conflict, and helped negotiate the release of more than 1,000 child soldiers from armed groups in 2014. Owing to the severe damage done to the country's agricultural sector by insecurity and displacement, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has provided seeds and tools to more than 111,000 farming households to support crop production.

QUICK FACTS

- ➔ **WFP delivers lifesaving food aid to 4 million people inside Syria and 1.7 million Syrian refugees every month.**
- ➔ **UNICEF helped provide 500,000 people in South Sudan with access to clean water in 2014.**
- ➔ **In the wake of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, UNDP launched a "cash-for-work" initiative providing temporary employment to 200,000 people affected by the storm.**

SOUTH SUDAN

Since December 2013, the world's newest nation has been beset by political and interethnic violence. Thousands have been killed, nearly 2 million people have been driven from their homes, and South Sudan is now facing the possibility of a famine if insecurity and displacement intensify over the coming months. Continued fighting, the sheer remoteness of South Sudan, and threats to the safety of aid workers have made humanitarian access extremely difficult for the UN and its partners. Despite these challenges, however, WFP has reached 2.5 million people with food and nutritional assistance in South Sudan since the beginning of the year. UNICEF worked to expand its operations in the country in 2014, providing access to clean water for nearly 500,000 people, treating nearly 73,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, and helping to vaccinate 728,000 children against measles. Meanwhile, UNHCR providing shelter and other critical relief items, including blankets, plastic sheeting, kitchen equipment, mosquito nets, and soap, to displaced South Sudanese civilians, including tens of thousands who have fled to neighboring countries.

In addition to the critical work performed by UN humanitarian agencies, the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) has opened its bases to civilians fleeing the conflict. Currently, UNMISS is providing protection to more than 100,000 people at nine sites around the country.

PHILIPPINES

On November 8, 2013, Typhoon Haiyan tore through the central Philippines, causing more than 6,000 deaths and leaving 4 million people homeless. In the immediate aftermath of the typhoon, WFP dispatched 9,800 metric tons of food aid to the disaster zone, reaching more than three million people. For its part, UNHCR airlifted tents, blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, solar-powered lamps, and other emergency shelter supplies to displaced families. Given the damage done to the region's health infrastructure by the storm, the WHO distributed critical medicines and medical equipment to meet basic health needs, and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) assumed a leading role in efforts to ensure safe childbirth for tens of thousands of pregnant women in areas affected by the storm. Finally, the UN Development Program (UNDP) launched a "cash-for-work" program in typhoon-affected areas that provided temporary employment to nearly 200,000 people over six months. In addition to cleaning up the vast amount of rubble left by the storm, thereby helping to kick-start the rebuilding process, the program also provided income for families who had lost their livelihoods and a much-needed infusion of cash into the local economy. UNDP also provided cash grants to small businesses in the region, helping them recover in the wake of the devastation brought by the storm.



Head of UNMEER Visits Guinea

Anthony Banbury (centre), Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), speaks with representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) during his visit to Guinea to assess the work being done as part of the response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. *UN Photo/Ari Gaitanis*

GLOBAL HEALTH

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

Because a healthy population is a key driver of global development, the UN and U.S. partner on key interventions, such as malaria prevention, control, diagnosis and treatment, vaccine preventable diseases, and infectious diseases such as Ebola, working within a global framework to provide people living in even the most difficult to reach areas access to basic health interventions.

MALARIA

A bite from a single infected mosquito continues to be one of the primary causes of illness and death in children under the age of five, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Every 60 seconds, a child in Africa dies from a malaria infection and 90% of all malaria deaths occur in the region. With 10 new cases every second, there is an urgent need for innovation. New and improved tools and technologies including long lasting insecticide-treated bed nets, artemisinin-based combination therapies, and rapid diagnostic tests are key drivers of the dramatic decreases in malaria cases and deaths. Between 2000 and 2013, the malaria mortality rate decreased by 47 percent worldwide and by 54 percent in the WHO Africa Region - where about 90% of malaria deaths occur.

Global partnerships, such as Roll Back Malaria (RBM), leverage the collaborative efforts of the United States, United Nations, the private sector and others to make the fight against malaria one of the greatest global health successes in the last two decades. Key members of the over 500 strong partnership include the President's Malaria Initiative, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria as well as UNICEF and WHO. As the secretariat WHO is responsible for facilitating policy coordination at the global level.

VACCINES PREVENTABLE DISEASES

Despite significant progress made in recent years to ensure vaccines are accessible in developing countries, every year, 1.5 million children die from a disease that could have been prevented by a vaccine. Diseases such as polio, measles, diarrhea and pneumonia continue to be leading killers of children. The UN, U.S. and other partners are working together to prevent further spread of these vaccine-preventable diseases.

At the forefront of the battle to end polio is the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). GPEI is a public-private partnership led by national governments and spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Each of the GPEI partners play a critical role in efforts to eradicate polio. Key among these roles is the deep collaboration between UN agencies and US Government agencies. WHO, UNICEF and CDC are working hand in hand to ensure that polio eradication is achieved. For example, the CDC deploys epidemiologists, public health experts, and scientists to WHO and UNICEF to ensure the top experts at the UN and the U.S. government are operating efficiently and effectively. WHO is primarily responsible for monitoring and disease tracking, while UNICEF focuses on procuring and distributing polio vaccines.

Measles is one of the most contagious diseases ever known. In response to the threat of measles to children, the Measles and Rubella Initiative was formed. The Measles & Rubella Initiative (M&RI) is led by the American Red Cross, the United Nations Foundation, CDC, UNICEF and the World Health Organization, and these partners work closely to ensure that children are immunized against measles and rubella. The CDC provides technical assistance for epidemiological and laboratory surveillance as well as providing funds for bundled measles vaccines, safe immunization practices, and operational support, working closely with UNICEF to procure vaccines and with WHO to implement technical guidance.

EBOLA

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) first appeared in 1976 in two simultaneous outbreaks in Africa. The 2014 outbreak in West Africa is the largest and most complex Ebola outbreak since the virus was first discovered, and there have been more cases and deaths in this outbreak than all others combined. The most severely affected countries—Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia—have very weak health systems, lacking human and infrastructural resources, which was a major contributing factor to the outbreaks.

CDC and WHO, along with other international partners, are taking active steps to respond to this outbreak. In an effort to efficiently coordinate the multifaceted response that was required to contain the outbreak, in September 2014 the Security Council voted to establish the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER). Under the framework established by UNMEER, WHO and CDC enhanced their collaboration to outline key pillars of a response strategy and determine the roadmap to containment. CDC activated its Emergency Operations Center to coordinate technical assistance, deployed hundreds of CDC staff to Ebola stricken areas to provide logistical and technical support, and worked domestically to ensure that America's borders were protected. WHO is working to prevent future Ebola outbreaks by maintaining surveillance for the disease and supporting at-risk countries to developed preparedness plans. If an outbreak is detected, WHO responds by supporting surveillance, community engagement, case management, laboratory services, contact tracing, infection control, logistical support and training, and assistance with safe burial practices. Additionally, when the 2014 Ebola outbreak was detected, WHO developed and launched an Ebola Virus Disease Response Plan, working with countries and donors to mobilize necessary resources to fund this plan. On the ground, CDC and WHO work together to ensure that healthcare workers are educated, protected, and have adequate resources to respond to the outbreak.



UN Day Celebration at Kapuri School, South Sudan

To mark United Nations Day (24 October), the UN family came together with members of the Rwandan battalion of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the community of Kapuri to volunteer for a morning of work in the construction of a new Primary School facility being built by the Rwandan peacekeepers. *UN Photo/JC Mcllwaine*

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Global health and development interventions cannot work in silo. They must work in coordination against a framework that advances the overall health and productivity of humanity. In 2000, countries came together to develop this framework: the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs are eight goals that serve as a roadmap for the global community to work toward ending extreme poverty by 2015. Those goals focused on eradicating extreme hunger and poverty; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equality and women's empowerment; reducing the under-five child mortality rate; reducing the maternal mortality rate; combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability; and developing a global partnership for development.

Agreed to and largely supported by three U.S. Administrations and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, the goals served as a roadmap to help global partners lift 600 million people out of extreme poverty. The United States has been critical in contributing to achievements made toward reaching the goals through its foreign assistance programs and foreign policy programs, particularly through signature global health and development programs, but also through foreign policy initiatives, economic development, and trade.

Despite these successes, a number of challenges remain, in part due to the global economic and food crises in recent years. Nevertheless, countries are continuing to improve development globally to ensure results in ending poverty, disease, and advancing peace and security.

THE NEXT SET OF GOALS

As the MDGs are set to expire in 2015, governments from around the world began debating a new set of goals at the UN in 2015. The new set of goals, tentatively named the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), have expanded on the MDGs to include other development areas that governments believe are critical to ending extreme poverty for good and combat global health threats, while taking into account lessons learned and achievements made to date.

The SDGs will focus on 17 goals, inclusive of 169 targets focused on ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, and advancing environmental and economic development. These goals range from ending poverty in all forms, to ending hunger, to combating climate change and promoting peaceful societies.

GOALS:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of ecosystems
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

QUICK FACTS

- ➔ **From 1990 to 2010, the world contributed to a 22% decline in the number of people living in extreme poverty.**
- ➔ **Between 2000 and 2013, 4.3 million deaths were averted from malaria.**
- ➔ **By 2012, 2.3 billion had access to an improved drinking water source.**
- ➔ **By 2012, all developing regions were close to or had achieved gender parity in primary education.**
- ➔ **In 2014, 46 countries boasted having more than 30% female members of parliament in at least one chamber.**

FINANCING

Financing for the goals remains a mix of national public resources, national private resources, international public sources, and international private sources. More specifically, support for the goals will continue to be counted through resources provided in addressing the goals through domestic spending, grants, subsidies, loans, public-private partnerships, and other financial instruments such as guarantees, and direct investment instruments.

METRICS & DATA

Member states have renewed a focus on better data and stronger metrics to better capture results. While the MDGs focused on 8 goals, and 18 targets, the SDGs have expanded efforts to focus on 17 goals, and 169 targets. Additionally, the SDGs will move from a focus on GDP and more toward the pillars of effectively governed societies and advance best practices.



Scenes from Ifo 2 Refugee Camp in Dadaab, Kenya

A group of displaced Somali women residing at the Ifo 2 Refugee Camp in Dadaab, Kenya, which is supported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited the camp this afternoon as part of his travels in the region. *UN Photo/Evan Schneider*

UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

The United States has a long history of supporting United Nations human rights mechanisms, beginning with our deep involvement in founding the United Nations and our efforts to ensure that the organization would hold the promotion of human rights as one of its core pillars. Former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt led the effort to develop the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is the first document in human history to spell out the basic civil, political, economic, and social rights that all human beings should enjoy. The United Nations works to defend and promote human rights through three key mechanisms within the UN system:

- **Human Rights Treaties:** Over the past six decades a number of human rights treaties have been adopted to further develop international human rights standards, including the protection of women's rights, the rights of the child, and the rights of those with disabilities.
- **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR):** OHCHR works to promote and protect all human rights in the field by monitoring and reporting on human rights violations and strengthening the capacity of national institutions to provide adequate human rights protection. In addition, it provides administrative support to the Human Rights Council and advises the Secretary-General on human rights matters.
- **Human Rights Council (HRC):** The Human Rights Council is composed of 47 member states, elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly and based on equitable geographical distribution. The Council meets several times throughout the year, passing resolutions on individual human rights situations (such as Iran), ordering inquiries into allegations of human rights violations (such as Syria), and appointing special rapporteurs – independent experts – on a range of subjects to investigate particular countries or thematic human rights issues.

QUICK FACTS

- ➔ **The Human Rights Council is composed of 47 member states, elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly based on equitable geographic distribution. In 2012, the U.S. sought and was overwhelmingly elected to a second three-year term on the Council.**
- ➔ **Since the U.S. joined in 2009, the Council has passed resolutions and created human rights monitoring mandates for Iran, Syria, and North Korea.**
- ➔ **Only 3% of the UN regular budget is allocated for UN human rights mechanisms.**

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The UN Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body responsible for promoting and protecting human rights around the world. Established by the UN General Assembly in June 2006, the Human Rights Council replaced an earlier UN body which had been criticized as ineffective and politicized. Initially, the United States declined to run for a seat on the new body, and in its early years the Council struggled to fulfill its mandate.

In 2009, however, the U.S. changed course, successfully running for a seat on the Council with the goal of changing the body's dynamics. In 2012, following an exceptionally active first term, the U.S. ran for and was overwhelmingly elected to a second three-year term. U.S. membership on the Council has produced tangible, positive outcomes in support of core American foreign policy objectives and values. For example:

- The Council convened a special session focusing on Iraq in September 2014. By consensus Council members, including the United States, adopted a resolution both condemning ISIS and dispatching a team to investigate human rights violations committed by the terrorist group. The resulting joint report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN Assistance Mission for Iraq detailed a “staggering array” of human rights abuses committed by ISIS. Subsequently, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein suggested these acts could amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- The Council established a Commission of Inquiry (COI) to investigate human rights violations in North Korea. In February 2014, the Commission released a nearly 400-page report—unprecedented in scope—accusing the North Korean regime of a wide range of crimes against humanity. The report called for the referral of North Korea to the International Criminal Court (ICC) as well as for the adoption of targeted sanctions against North Korean officials. In December 2014, the UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to recommend that the UN Security Council refer North Korea to the ICC.
- The Council established a COI on the human rights situation in Syria, which has helped gather evidence against specific individuals for their involvement in crimes against humanity. The evidence gathered against these individuals could eventually be used in prosecutions, should they be brought to trial.
- The U.S. worked with other Council members to establish a special rapporteur to scrutinize the human rights situation in Iran. The special rapporteur’s October 2014 report documented an alarming rise in executions—counting 852 carried out by Iranian authorities between July 2013 and June 2014 alone—and described a number of other serious human rights abuses, including the harassment and detention of journalists, discrimination against women and religious minorities, and the use of torture and other forms of inhumane punishment against prisoners.
- A majority of Council members voted to pass a resolution in September 2014 that expressed “grave concern” on violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons. The resolution passed with the support of the U.S. and with a greater margin of votes than the Council’s first resolution on LGBT rights in 2011.
- **“The UN Human Rights Council resolution to combat violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is a critically important achievement for upholding the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” – Statement by 25 human rights organizations on September 26, 2014.**
- Council membership has aided U.S. efforts to normalize Israel’s treatment at the UN. While there is still an inordinate amount of focus on Israel in some parts of the UN system, the proportion of Israel-specific resolutions in the Council has declined. In 2014, Israel also officially joined a key UN regional group in Geneva, where the Council is based. This will provide a new platform for Israel to pursue its interests and collaborate with relevant partners in the Council.



UNAMID Inaugurates New Classrooms at Zam Zam Camp

The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) inaugurated two new classrooms for a secondary school for displaced girls at Zam Zam camp. *UN Photo/Albert González Farran*

BUILDING DEMOCRACY

Democracy promotion has a prominent profile at the United Nations, and democratic values and principles are infused in many of the UN's peacebuilding and development efforts. The UN's international legitimacy and broad membership gives it a unique advantage in promoting the spread of democratic governance, providing all member states with a stake in ensuring the success of emerging democracies. As such, the UN is pursuing a number of initiatives that seek to foster democracy globally, including facilitating elections in countries emerging from conflict or transitioning to democracy, building democratic institutions and promoting the rule of law, and funding local projects that strengthen civil society and spread democratic ideals.

UN INITIATIVES IN DEMOCRACY BUILDING

Facilitating Free and Fair Elections: Since 1991, the UN has helped people in more than 100 countries emerging from conflict or transitioning to democracy exercise their fundamental right to vote. While UN election assistance has historically taken on several forms, from monitoring electoral processes and validating results to even, in some rare cases, actually organizing or supervising elections, nowadays the UN largely plays a supporting role, assisting a country's own electoral authorities as they plan for and carry out elections. This assistance includes the provision of critical technical and logistical support to national authorities in a number of areas, including advice on electoral administration and the reform of election laws, procurement and distribution of election materials like ballots and registration kits, voter and civic education efforts, and election security.

Peacebuilding Commission: Created jointly by the UN Security Council and General Assembly in 2005, the UN Peacebuilding Commission is an advisory body that works to focus attention, marshal resources, and propose integrated strategies that support peace consolidation and recovery in post-conflict countries. The ultimate goal of the Commission—which focuses on everything from security sector reform, to disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration efforts, to supporting free and fair elections, to stimulating economic growth and addressing youth unemployment—is to support activities that will help prevent countries from relapsing into conflict over the long run. The work of the Commission is complemented by the Peacebuilding Fund, which seeks to establish a bridge between conflict and recovery when other funding mechanisms may not yet be available. The U.S. currently does not contribute to the Fund, which is financed entirely through voluntary contributions from UN member states.

Democracy Fund: Created at the urging of the Bush Administration in 2005, the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF) finances projects that strengthen democratic institutions and empower civil society organizations in emerging democracies around the globe. UNDEF operates entirely on voluntary contributions from governments, and it has enjoyed widespread financial support from member states, including the U.S.

QUICK FACTS

- ➔ **Since 1991, the UN has helped facilitate free and fair elections in more than 100 countries.**
- ➔ **The UN has provided support to Tunisian authorities over the past four years as they organized several democratic elections and approved a new constitution.**
- ➔ **UNDP helped train more than 15,000 poll workers and organize civic education and voter outreach activities ahead of recent historic elections in Guinea-Bissau.**

UN DEMOCRACY PROMOTION EFFORTS ON THE GROUND

Tunisia: Since the ouster of long-time dictator Zine el-Abidine ben-Ali in the wake of pro-democracy demonstrations in January 2011, the UN has worked to support Tunisia's transitional authorities as they drafted a new constitution and held national elections. While Tunisia's transition to democratic governance has hit obstacles along the way, the country has nevertheless made remarkable progress over the past four years. In January 2014, the National Constituent Assembly (NCA) adopted a new constitution guaranteeing religious freedom and gender equality, making it the most progressive document of its kind in the region. The UN Development Program (UNDP) provided technical support to the NCA throughout the constitutional drafting and approval process, supporting initiatives that allowed more than 30,000 citizens and hundreds of NGO and university representatives to register input on the document, and helping to strengthen the Assembly's institutional capacities. In late 2014, Tunisia successfully held its first parliamentary and presidential elections under the new constitution, which were widely praised by the U.S., EU, France, and the UN as transparent, fair, and credible. While significant challenges to the future stability of Tunisia remain—including economic stagnation and security threats from radical Islamist groups—the country has nevertheless taken a number of significant steps towards genuine democratic governance with the help of the UN and the broader international community.

Guinea-Bissau: Guinea-Bissau, one of the world's least developed countries, suffered a military coup in 2012. A UN political mission, administered by the Department of Political Affairs, is currently active in the country, working to help consolidate stable governing institutions, promote security sector reform, and encourage respect for human rights and the rule of law. As part of its work there, in the spring of 2014 the UN supported the country as it undertook its first presidential and legislative elections since the 2012 coup. Specifically, UNDP provided technical assistance to Guinea-Bissau's National Elections Commission (NEC), helping officials purchase and distribute more than 800,000 ballot papers, 6,000 ballot boxes, and 6,000 voting booths to polling stations around the country. UNDP also assisted NEC efforts to train more than 15,000 poll workers and organize civic education and voter outreach activities. The elections were largely successful and peaceful, with voter turnout reaching 88 percent during the first round of balloting in April. While not a panacea, the elections were a critical step in ongoing efforts to restore constitutional order, promote political stability, and lay a foundation for future economic growth and development in Guinea-Bissau.



El Sereif Camp for Internally Displaced Persons, South Darfur

Ghanaian police officer Mary Sebastian of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) interacts with children at the El Sereif camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs), located west of Nyala, South Darfur. *UN Photo/Albert González Farran*

CONFRONTING GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

BRIEF HISTORY

Over the last 200 years, the world has increased the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and disrupted the earth's climate by extracting and using fossil fuels (oil, gas, and coal) and changing how land is used (especially deforestation). In response, in 1992, the international community agreed to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This treaty committed signatories to avoiding dangerous human interference with the climate system and reducing emissions commensurate with their levels of development. President George H.W. Bush signed the treaty, and the Senate immediately ratified it. In 1997, 170 countries adopted an implementing agreement, the Kyoto Protocol, which called on developed countries to reduce their emissions by 5 to 7 percent from 1990 levels by 2012. The U.S. signed but never ratified the Protocol.



Ours is the first generation that can end poverty,
**and the last that can take steps to avoid the
worst impacts of climate change.**

— Ban Ki-moon, *UN Secretary-General*

SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS

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

In 2014, the IPCC concluded its current cycle of work and published its Fifth Assessment Report on Climate Change. The assessment, which was composed of three working group reports and a final synthesis report, as well as a summary for policymakers, made clear that scientists agree that climate change is real, that it is already having adverse impacts on people and the natural world, and that the situation will get much worse in the years to come without immediate and sustained action.

QUICK FACTS

- ➔ **In 2014, the IPCC published its Fifth Assessment Report on Climate Change, in which it found that the situation will get much worse in the year to come without immediate and sustained action.**
- ➔ **To date, more than \$50 billion in public-private commitments have been made to the “Sustainable Energy for All” initiative, originally launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2011.**

THE UNITED NATIONS’ ROLE

The United Nations is addressing global climate change by raising awareness of the issue, promoting research and forging scientific consensus to address it, mobilizing a global policy response through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and helping countries adapt to the impacts of a warming climate.

In 2011, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched a global initiative, called “Sustainable Energy for All,” to mobilize action from all sectors of society to address the two principal challenges posed by global energy use: that some people lack access to modern sources of energy, stunting their development; while others use too much dirty energy inefficiently, causing the Earth’s climate to warm. The initiative is responding to these challenges by promoting three objectives to be achieved by 2030: providing universal access to modern energy services; doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. To date, more than \$50 billion in public-private commitments have been made to the initiative’s three objectives.

UN CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

In 2011, UN climate negotiations in South Africa produced the “Durban platform,” an agreement to reach a legally-binding climate deal by 2015, which would become effective in 2020. The agreement is notable because for the first time all countries are included and will be responsible for acting, albeit at different speeds and with different goals. France will host the UN conference where this new global agreement is to be reached in December 2015 in Paris. A Climate Summit in Lima, Peru in December 2014 resulted in a framework for such an agreement.



PEACE AND **SECURITY ISSUES**

UN Photo / Marco Dormino



MINUSMA Police Officers Patrol Streets of Gao, Mali

Senegalese police officers serving with the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), patrol the streets of the city of Gao, in Mali. *UN Photo/Marco Dormino*

UN PEACEKEEPING: A FORCE FOR PEACE AND STABILITY AROUND THE WORLD

The UN oversees 16 peacekeeping missions with more than 120,000 personnel, constituting the largest deployed military force in the world, with an annual budget which is less than 0.5% of the world's total military expenditures. Every day, UN peacekeepers work to stabilize some of the world's most volatile conflict zones, protecting civilians from violence; monitoring the implementation of peace agreements; disarming, demobilizing, and reintegrating former combatants into society; facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance; training national police forces; and supporting free and fair elections and the creation of stable governing institutions.

Given its position as a permanent, veto-wielding member of the Security Council, no UN peacekeeping operation can be deployed, expanded, or withdrawn from the field without U.S. consent. Over the past two decades, both Republican and Democratic Administrations have used U.S. influence at the Council to champion new missions with more complex mandates. This bipartisan support stems from the fact that countries undergoing conflict threaten U.S. national security, risk becoming safe havens for terrorist and criminal organizations, and feature levels of deprivation and abuses of human rights that are an affront to American values. Some of the benefits of UN peacekeeping are described below.

- **Impactful:** A 2013 study by researchers from the U.S. and Sweden found that deploying large numbers of UN peacekeepers “dramatically reduces civilian killings.” To support their hypothesis, the authors examined monthly civilian death tolls from intrastate armed conflicts in sub-Saharan African between 1991 and 2008. Their findings were striking: in instances where no peacekeeping troops were deployed, the monthly average of civilian deaths was approximately 106. However, in instances where at least 8,000 UN troops were present, the average monthly civilian death toll fell to less than two. The study concluded that ensuring UN peacekeeping forces “are appropriately tasked and deployed in large numbers” is critical to their ability to protect civilians.

- **Cost-effective:** According to a study by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), UN peacekeeping is eight times less expensive than funding a U.S. force. This point was backed up by former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who said that UN peacekeeping “is much more cost-effective than using American forces. And of course, America doesn’t have the forces to do all of these peacekeeping missions, but somebody has to do them.”
- **Promotes Stabilization and Growth:** A Columbia University study found that, in the post-Cold War era, deploying UN peacekeepers reduces the risk that a country will slide back into all-out war by 50%. Peacekeeping has also been shown to bolster GDP growth in conflict-affected areas. Indeed, one study found that in the first three years after a conflict, annual growth rates are nearly 2.4% higher in post-conflict countries where peacekeeping missions are present.
- **Supports Burden-sharing:** The U.S. cannot ensure international security alone, nor should it have to. By drawing upon the financial and human capacities of all UN member states, UN peacekeeping helps the U.S. share the burden of promoting global stability and reduces the need for unilateral intervention, thereby keeping U.S. soldiers out of harm’s way and saving American financial resources in the long run. Indeed, while the U.S. plays a pivotal role on the Security Council in authorizing the deployment peacekeeping missions, we currently provide just over 100 military and police personnel to these operations, and other countries pay nearly three-quarters of their costs.

QUICK FACTS

➔ **Admiral Mike Mullen, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, wrote that “[United Nations] peacekeepers...help reduce the risks that major U.S. military interventions may be required to restore stability in a country or region. Therefore, the success of these operations is very much in our national interest.”**

PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS CURRENTLY IN THE FIELD

- **Central African Republic (CAR):** Over the past year, the Central African Republic has been wracked by political strife and vicious sectarian violence, leaving thousands of civilians dead and driving hundreds of thousands more from their homes. On April 10, 2014, the Security Council voted unanimously to deploy a UN peacekeeping operation to help stabilize CAR, in response to pleas from the country’s interim government, France, and numerous international NGOs. Known by its French acronym, MINUSCA, the mission is authorized to include 10,000 soldiers, 1,800 police, and a substantial civilian component which became operational on September 15, 2014. They are charged with carrying out a number of critical activities, including protecting civilians from violence; providing assistance to help the country carry out free and fair national elections; facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid; monitoring, investigating, and reporting on human rights violations; helping build the capacity of CAR’s police force and court system, which have effectively collapsed due to the ongoing chaos; and helping to disarm, demobilize, and reintegrate former combatants.

Due to the current lack of law and order in the country, MINUSCA’s mandate allows UN peacekeepers to arrest and detain people in order to crack down on impunity. This is a significant development, as it represents the first time UN peacekeepers have been given such authority outside of an “executive mandate”—whereby a mission is effectively given full administrative responsibilities over a given country—such as in Kosovo and Timor-Leste during the early 2000s. In addition, the UN and international community are also working to bring international judges to CAR in order to help reconstitute the country’s tattered judicial system. The UN will be helping to recruit these judges and will be responsi-

ble for providing security for both international and local judges. This aspect of MINUSCA's rule of law mandate is crucial given the present climate of insecurity in which judges are working.

- **South Sudan:** Since December 15, 2013, fighting between supporters of President Salva Kiir and his former Deputy Vice President, Riek Machar, has roiled South Sudan. Tens of thousands have been killed in the violence, 1.4 million people have been displaced within the country, and 500,000 have fled to neighboring countries, sparking a humanitarian crisis and seriously threatening future prospects for stability and development in the world's newest nation. On top of this, South Sudan is now at serious risk of a famine, with nearly 3 million people suffering from food insecurity.

Due to the conflict, the mandate of the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) has been retooled by the Security Council to focus on protection of civilians, monitoring and reporting human rights violations, and supporting the delivery of humanitarian assistance to South Sudanese affected by the conflict. With regards to protection of civilians, UNMISS has opened its bases to civilians fleeing the fighting, and UN peacekeepers are currently providing refuge and protection to nearly 102,000 South Sudanese civilians at ten sites throughout the country. UNMISS is also working to create conditions to help facilitate efforts by UN humanitarian agencies and partner organizations to provide food, shelter, clean water and sanitation, medical care, and educational support to individuals who have sought shelter in UNMISS bases, and hundreds of thousands of displaced and other vulnerable persons outside of the bases.

- **DR Congo:** The UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (known as MONUSCO) has long sought to restore stability within the country, with a particular focus on its volatile eastern provinces. Nevertheless, MONUSCO has faced significant challenges throughout its deployment, including the difficulty of the terrain on which it operates, its rules of engagement (as defined by the Security Council), and the frequent inability of the Congolese military to actively confront the multiple armed groups currently active in the region. However, in 2013, the UN Security Council revamped MONUSCO's mandate, providing the mission with innovative new tools to help it more effectively carry out its stabilization and civilian protection responsibilities.

This included the authorization of a "Force Intervention Brigade"—composed of 3,000 Special Forces from several African countries operating under the direct command of MONUSCO—to help neutralize rebel groups in eastern Congo, with the support of the Congolese military. The creation of this brigade was an unprecedented step, as it represented the first time the Security Council has authorized a special force to carry out offensive military actions within the context of a traditional peacekeeping operation. The force played a key role in successful efforts in late 2013 to neutralize the M23 rebel movement, whose 2012 rebellion in North Kivu province drove nearly 800,000 civilians from their homes.

The Security Council also authorized MONUSCO to use unarmed Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). Due to the difficult conditions in eastern DRC and lack of infrastructure, it can take peacekeepers 5-6 hours to patrol a 10-15 mile radius. The use of UAVs is meant to serve as a cost-effective way to enhance MONUSCO's situational awareness and, by extension, improve its ability to protect civilians.



MINUSTAH Participates in Joint Natural Disaster National Simulation Exercise

The Government of Haiti's Department of Civil Protection (DPC) -- supported by the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) -- conducted a Joint Natural Disaster National Simulation Exercise (SIMEX) in Port-au-Prince and Cabaret on 9 and 10 July in order to improve coordination and integration of response in the event of an actual crisis. *UN Photo/Victoria Hazou*

UN POLITICAL MISSIONS

In addition to peacekeeping missions, the UN also operates a host of special political missions engaged in conflict prevention, peacemaking, and post-conflict peacebuilding around the world. These civilian-led field missions, most of which fall under the purview of the UN Department of Political Affairs, have a diverse array of mandates, including supporting political dialogue and national reconciliation processes in countries emerging from conflict, facilitating free and fair elections, monitoring human rights violations, and encouraging the development of effective criminal justice institutions and respect for the rule of law. The work of three current UN political missions is detailed below.

IRAQ

Since its establishment in 2003, the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) has sought to promote political dialogue and human rights, coordinate the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance to the Iraqi people, and encourage the creation of stable and democratic institutions. As part of these efforts, UNAMI provided significant support during the drafting of Iraq's 2005 Constitution; provided technical assistance to the country's electoral authorities during eight major elections over the past decade; and worked to help improve the government's delivery of services and increase the transparency and accessibility of the Iraqi justice system.

Since January 2014, the military advance of ISIS in western and northern Iraq has seriously destabilized the country, threatening the existence of religious and ethnic minority communities, and forcing nearly 2 million people to flee their homes. As the crisis has developed, UN humanitarian agencies have worked to assist Iraqi civilians whose lives have been turned upside down by the violence. For example, the World Food Program has provided food aid to nearly 1.4 million people in Iraq since January 2014. In anticipation of the cold winter months, the UN Refugee Agency and UNICEF delivered warm clothes, thermal blankets, stoves, fuel, and insulation materials this fall to displaced families in northern Iraq.

In keeping with its human rights mandate, the UN has also sought to monitor and report on atrocities committed by ISIS over the past year. On October 2, 2014, UNAMI and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights released a joint report documenting a "staggering array" of gross human rights violations perpetrated by the terrorist group, including systematic targeting of minority groups, massacres of captured military personnel, and the use of abductions, rape, and other forms of sexual and physical violence against women and children.

SOMALIA

Established in June 2013, the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) is working to help the country's new Federal Government build on recent security gains against the al-Qaeda aligned terrorist group al-Shabaab and build inclusive, stable, and effective governing institutions. Among numerous other activities, UNSOM is working to provide policy advice and technical assistance to Somali authorities as they draft a new constitution, build up criminal justice institutions, and plan for national elections in 2016; investigate human rights abuses and conduct human rights training for members of the Somali National Army; and coordinate the payment of more than 5,700 Somali police officers and help to recruit and train 2,300 more. While the security situation in Somalia remains volatile and the Federal Government is extremely fragile, these types of activities are critical to building a more secure future for the people of Somalia, who have suffered under more than two decades of civil war and humanitarian crises.

QUICK FACTS

- ➔ **The UN coordinated international supervision of a full-scale audit of the results of Afghanistan's disputed 2014 presidential election.**
- ➔ **In Iraq, UN agencies are providing lifesaving humanitarian aid to hundreds of thousands of civilians displaced by ISIS.**
- ➔ **In Somalia, the UN is providing policy advice and technical support to the new federal government as it seeks to expand its authority over areas once controlled by the terrorist group al-Shabaab.**

AFGHANISTAN

Following the start of U.S.-led military operations in Afghanistan in 2001, the Security Council established the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) to assist reconstruction efforts, provide vital humanitarian and development assistance, and encourage stable governance and free elections. Given how closely these activities align with American policy objectives, the U.S. government strongly supports UNAMA's work.

While the U.S. has significantly reduced its military presence in Afghanistan, the UN continues to carry out a number of activities critical to the country's future stability and development. During the summer of 2014, for example, when the second round of Afghanistan's presidential election was marred by accusations of fraud, election experts from UNAMA and the UN Development Program (UNDP) coordinated international supervision of a full audit of all 22,828 ballot boxes from polling stations across the country. This process, and mediation efforts by the U.S., EU, and UN, helped bring about a power-sharing agreement between the two candidates, which came to fruition when Ashraf Ghani was sworn in as the country's new president on September 29, 2014.

The UN is also supporting efforts to build up and professionalize the Afghan National Police (ANP) and promote respect for the rule of law. Specifically, UNDP administers the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan, a mechanism that focuses on funding salaries for more than 147,000 police personnel, improving ANP infrastructure and administrative systems, and increasing gender parity within the police force. Given Afghanistan's status as a key player in the global opium trade, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime is working to strengthen the country's Counter Narcotics Police; enhance border control management to prevent smuggling; increase the institutional capacity of the Afghan justice system; and help oversight bodies within the Afghan government improve their ability to fight corruption.



IAEA Fact-Finding Mission Assesses Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant

Members of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Fact-Finding Mission in Japan, examine visit the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant to assess tsunami damage and study nuclear safety lessons that could be learned from the accident.

UN Photo/IAEA/Greg Webb

SUPPORTING GLOBAL NONPROLIFERATION EFFORTS

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

THE UN'S CORE NON-PROLIFERATION MECHANISMS

- **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT):** The NPT commits states to preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technologies while at the same time working towards nuclear disarmament. All but four countries are parties to this treaty.
- **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):** The IAEA verifies member state compliance with the NPT and other nonproliferation agreements by monitoring and inspecting nuclear facilities and material in more than 140 countries to ensure their peaceful use. These activities can help provide the international community with advanced warning of and trigger a global response to the existence of an illicit nuclear weapons program, including providing a basis for action by the Security Council.
- **Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT):** The CTBT, ratified by 157 UN member states, obliges parties not to detonate nuclear weapons or support those who do. The United States has signed but not ratified the CTBT.
- **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC):** The CWC seeks to eliminate chemical weapons, prohibiting states parties from developing, producing, acquiring, transferring, or using chemical weapons. By joining the Convention, states parties also agree to destroy any stockpiles of chemical weapons they may possess as well as any facilities which produced them. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was created to facilitate and oversee implementation of the treaty. The U.S. Senate ratified the CWC in 1997.

THE UN'S NON-PROLIFERATION FUNCTIONS IN PRACTICE

Over the last year, there have been significant developments with regards to Iran's nuclear program and Syria's chemical weapons stockpile. These are detailed below.

- **Iran:** The UN has played a crucial role in recent years in U.S.-led efforts to isolate Iran and sharpen the choices of its leadership over its controversial nuclear program. In 2010, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1929, creating the toughest multilateral sanctions ever faced by the Iranian government. This action set the stage for stronger bilateral sanctions by the U.S., European Union, Australia, Canada, South Korea, Japan and other countries, the combination of which are having a significant impact on the Iranian economy. Indeed, Iran's currency, the rial, is currently hovering at only one-third of the value that it had at the end of 2011, and Iranian oil exports, which account for nearly 80 percent of government revenues, have declined from 2.4 million barrels per day in 2011 to around 1 million today.



One of the many benefits of [Resolution 1929] is that it will provide a legal platform for **individual nations to then take additional actions that go well beyond the resolution itself.**

— Robert Gates, *Former Secretary of Defense*

The impact of these measures has helped push Iran to the negotiating table. In November 2013, the P5+1 (a group that includes the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany) and Iran reached an interim agreement to curb the country's most sensitive nuclear activities in return for modest sanction relief. Among other provisions, the agreement required Iran to halt production of 20-percent enriched uranium, neutralize existing stockpiles of higher-grade uranium, and freeze construction of a heavy-water reactor at the Arak nuclear site. The deal also provided for unprecedented new inspection activities by the IAEA, including daily inspections at the Natanz and Fordow enrichment facilities, access to centrifuge production facilities and uranium mines, and more frequent on-site inspections of the Arak facility. While P5+1 and Iranian negotiators have thus far failed to reach a final agreement, and recently extended the deadline for reaching a comprehensive accord by seven months, the IAEA has verified Iran's compliance with the terms of the interim agreement. With those restraints still in place for the duration of the negotiations, the IAEA will continue to play a pivotal role in ensuring that Iran upholds its end of the bargain and does not resume halted activities.

Separately from the P5+1 talks, the IAEA is also investigating concerns over the possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear activities, seeking to verify whether Iran conducted a secret nuclear weapons program. On November 7, 2014, the agency released its latest report on the issue, stating that Iran had failed to address these concerns. As a result, the IAEA has continued to call for more substantive engagement from Iranian authorities on these issues.

- **Syria:** In September 2013, following a horrific sarin gas attack on the Damascus suburbs, the U.S. and Russia reached a historic agreement to rid Syria of chemical weapons. The plan to destroy Syria's chemical stockpiles, equipment, and facilities received unanimous approval from the Security Council and was overseen by a joint mission of the UN and OPCW. During its year in operation, the OPCW-UN joint mission reached a number of significant milestones: by late October 2013, OPCW inspectors had verified the destruction of critical equipment at all of Syria's declared chemical weapons production sites and mixing/filling plants, effectively rendering these facilities inoperable. Just over one month later, the mission was able to verify that Syrian personnel had destroyed the country's entire stockpile of unfilled munitions designed for use with chemical agents. On June 23, 2014, the mission announced that 100 percent of Syria's declared stockpile of chemical agents—some 1,300 metric tons of mustard gas, precursors for sarin, and other materials—had either been neutralized in-country or removed from Syria for destruction abroad. In late August, the MV Cape Ray, a U.S. naval ship specially outfitted for the purpose, completed the destruction of the remainder of the most dangerous chemicals in Syria's stockpile while in international waters.

The complete removal and destruction of Syria's declared chemical weapons stockpile was a major achievement for the international community. However, significant questions remain over the completeness and accuracy of the Syrian government's original chemical weapons declaration, and more than a dozen chemical weapons production facilities have yet to be destroyed by Syrian authorities. In addition, the Syrian government's recent use of chlorine gas against civilians, confirmed by a separate OPCW fact-finding mission, has cast a shadow over this summer's achievements. As a result, the OPCW will continue to monitor Syria's destruction of chemical weapons production facilities over the coming months, and push for clarification on discrepancies related to the extent of the chemical arsenal declared by the Syrian government last year. Angela Kane, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, has called on the Syrian government to come clean regarding these discrepancies.

QUICK FACTS

- ➔ **The IAEA carries out nuclear inspection activities in more than 140 countries.**
- ➔ **In 2014, the UN and OPCW played a key role in the destruction of Syria's declared chemical weapons arsenal.**
- ➔ **The IAEA is currently working to verify Iran's compliance with the 2013 interim nuclear agreement with the P5+1, as well as investigate the possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear program.**



Council Reaffirms Arms Embargo on Somalia

The Security Council adopted resolution 2182 (2014), reaffirming its arms embargo on Somalia. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 13 for, 0 against and 2 abstentions (Russian Federation and Jordan). *UN Photo/Loey Felipe*

FIGHTING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Terrorism is a transnational threat that must be addressed through the combined efforts of the international community. As we have learned over the past two decades, terror networks operate in countries that are frequently beyond the reach of American access and influence. The UN is therefore an important partner in global efforts to fight terrorism, helping amplify and broaden the reach of our nation's own counterterrorism initiatives.

For several decades, the UN system has played a central role in efforts to build an international legal framework to combat terrorism, including the elaboration of multilateral treaties criminalizing specific terrorist acts and terrorism financing, as well as the creation of binding international sanctions regimes by the Security Council targeting Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. The UN has also served as a critical forum for information sharing, the provision of technical assistance, and other cooperative activities to support global counterterrorism efforts. Provided below is a synopsis of the involvement of some UN bodies and agencies in this issue.

- **Security Council Resolution on Foreign Fighters:** During the opening week of the UN General Assembly's September 2014 session, the UN Security Council unanimously passed a binding resolution seeking to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters to emerging conflict zones. The resolution compels all member states to put in place domestic laws to prosecute those who travel abroad to places such as Syria and Iraq with the intent to join terrorist organizations like ISIS. The resolution, proposed by the U.S., provides a strengthened legal and political framework to target not only the fighters themselves but the people who help finance such travel. Action by the Security Council was particularly important as in some countries it will be more politically palatable to follow a UN resolution than solely the demands of the United States.

- **Mali Peacekeeping Mission:** In 2012, several radical Islamist groups, including al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), seized control of wide swathes of northern Mali in the chaos following a Tuareg uprising and military coup. Early the following year, a French military intervention pushed these militants out of major towns in northern Mali, and a new UN peacekeeping mission (MINUSMA) was established by the Security Council to help stabilize the situation. Since then, UN peacekeepers have been working to secure northern Mali's population centers, help reestablish state authority over these areas, and support the restoration of democratic governance, while a residual French force has remained in the country to conduct counterterror operations. Their job has become increasingly complex and dangerous, however. In October 2014, terrorists attacked a convoy in northeastern Mali, killing nine UN peacekeepers. That was just one in series of attacks that have claimed the lives of more than 30 peacekeepers since the MINUSMA first deployed. In response to the incident, UN peacekeeping chief Hervé Ladsous said UN soldiers are "no longer in a peacekeeping environment but in a situation where we have to fight terrorists." Indeed, peacekeepers and UN staff throughout the region – from Mali to Somalia – have found themselves increasingly targeted by terrorist organizations seeking out "soft targets" in an attempt to thwart development and rule of law operations.

QUICK FACTS

- ➔ **Last year, the Security Council's al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee slapped sanctions, including asset freezes, travel bans, and arms embargoes, on key members of ISIS, Boko Haram, and AQIM.**
- ➔ **The Security Council unanimously adopted a legally-binding resolution in September 2014 to crack down on foreign terrorist fighters.**
- ➔ **The Security Council's Counterterrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) has facilitated technical assistance to help more than 60 countries address terrorism financing, border controls, arms trafficking, and other critical issues.**

- **Counterterrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED):** In the wake of the 9/11 attacks in 2001, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1373, requiring countries to criminalize terrorism financing, freeze funds related to persons involved in terrorist acts, and cooperate with other governments to arrest, prosecute, and extradite terrorism suspects. The resolution also established a Counterterrorism Committee, made up of all 15 members of the Security Council, to help UN member states implement the terms of the resolution. As part of these efforts, the Committee and its Executive Directorate (CTED) have facilitated technical assistance to more than 60 countries to help address terrorism financing, border and customs controls, arms trafficking, transportation security, and a number of other issues. Following up on the Security Council's resolution on foreign fighters, the CTED is helping member states, other UN agencies, and aligned organizations such as NATO confront the challenges posed by the influx of foreign fighters to places like Syria and Iraq.
- **Al-Qaeda and Taliban Sanctions Committees:** These Security Council committees oversee international compliance with legally binding Security Council-backed sanctions against al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Currently, these bodies impose asset freezes, travel bans, and arms embargoes on hundreds of individuals and entities associated with international terrorism. Throughout 2014, the al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee added key members of ISIS, Boko Haram, and AQIM to its sanctions list.



U.S.-UN PRIORITIES FOR 2015

UN Photo/Aaron J Buckley



Secretary-General Hosts Luncheon for World Leaders

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon hosted a luncheon in honour of world leaders attending the general debate of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly. *UN Photo/Evan Schneider*

U.S. DUES & CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UN

Funding for the UN system comes from two sources: assessed and voluntary contributions. Assessed contributions are payments made as part of the obligations that nations undertake when signing treaties. At the UN, assessments on member states provide a reliable source of funding to core UN functions through the UN regular and peacekeeping budgets. Voluntary contributions, on the other hand, are left to the discretion of individual member states. These contributions finance UN humanitarian and development agencies, including the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Program (WFP), UN Development Program (UNDP), and UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

QUICK FACTS

- **The State Department's CIO account funds the UN Regular Budget, and more than 40 other UN and non-UN international organizations, including the IAEA, NATO, and the WHO.**
- **As a permanent member of the Security Council, no UN peacekeeping mission can be deployed, expanded, or withdrawn from the field without U.S. consent. As a result, the U.S. plays a central role in ultimately determining the size of the UN peacekeeping budget.**
- **For every \$1 the U.S. contributes to the UN Secretariat as part of its Regular Budget and peacekeeping dues, we receive \$1.60 back in contracts for U.S.-based businesses and benefits to New York's economy.**

ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS: THE UN REGULAR BUDGET AND PAYMENTS TO SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

The UN Regular Budget finances the core bodies and activities of the UN, including political missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Burundi that are directly in our national interests and working to promote stability in key regions of the world. The current payment structure for UN Regular Budget dues sets maximum (22%) and minimum (.001%) rates for all nations based on their ability to pay. The U.S. pays the maximum rate and has negotiated several reductions in this rate over time, most notably from 25% to 22%. The assessment rate is primarily determined by gross national income, and since the U.S. has one of the highest in the world, its dues assessments are higher than those of other Member States.

The U.S. contribution to the UN regular budget is included in the State Department's Contributions to International Organizations (CIO) account. In addition to the regular budget, the CIO account covers dues payments to more than 40 other international organizations, including NATO, and UN specialized agencies like the International Atomic Energy Agency and World Health Organization.

ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS: THE PEACEKEEPING BUDGET

The UN funds its peacekeeping budget with assessments on member states similar to those made for the regular budget, but with greater discounts for poorer nations. The resulting funding deficit is compensated for by the five permanent members (P5) of the Security Council—the U.S., UK, France, Russia, and China. Under this formula, the U.S. is supposed to pay 28% of the peacekeeping budget – a level we agreed to pay and voted for in 2012. Currently, the U.S. only pays 27% of the cost for each mission which, left unchanged, will put us back into arrears at the UN and send a poor signal to countries that contribute troops to these missions. Funding for UN peacekeeping missions is provided under the State Department's Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities (CIPA) account.

Since the P5 each have a veto over Security Council decisions, no new or expanded peacekeeping missions can advance without U.S. consent. While this unique responsibility for establishing and renewing missions means the U.S. pays a greater portion of the bill, the vast majority of personnel deployed on these missions come from developing countries and our allies like Bangladesh, Jordan, and Ghana.

CURRENT FUNDING LEVELS FOR THE UN REGULAR AND PEACEKEEPING BUDGETS

Over the past several years, the U.S. has maintained a good financial standing at the UN by honoring our financial obligations to the UN. This is important, as U.S. support for the deployment of new UN peacekeeping missions in Mali and the Central African Republic, and the expansion of the UN Mission in South Sudan, have led to significant increases in the UN's peacekeeping budget over the last year. In light of the life-saving efforts of these and other missions in the field, as well as the critical work currently being carried out by other parts of the UN system around the world, it is critical that the U.S. pay its UN dues on time and in full in Fiscal Year 2016.



Our ability to exercise leadership in the UN – to protect our core national security interests – **is directly tied to meeting our financial obligations.**

— Samantha Power, *Ambassador to the United Nations*

Provided below is a table summarizing recent and requested future funding levels for UN peacekeeping missions and the UN Regular Budget.

Account	FY '14 Estimate	FY '15 President's Request	FY '15 House SFOPS	FY '15 Senate SFOPS	FY '15 Cromnibus	FY '16 President's Request
CIPA	\$1.765 billion	\$2.946 billion (3)	\$1.765 billion	\$2.797 billion	\$2.119 billion(1)	\$2.93 billion
CIO	\$1.34 billion	\$1.517 billion	\$1.34 billion	\$1.515 billion	\$1.473 billion	\$1.54 billion
CIO-UN Regular Budget	\$618 million	\$620 million	— —	— —	— —	\$630 million
PKO	\$435.6 million	\$336.15 million	\$482 million	\$225.395 million	\$473 million(2)	\$495.2 million
Peace Operations Response Mechanism	N/A	— —	— —	— —	— —	\$150 million

(1) The FY'15 "Cromnibus" included \$2.119 billion in base funding for CIPA funding plus, as noted in the FY'16 Congressional Budget Justification, "additional authorities that would permit the Department to utilize funding from certain other accounts to address FY 2015 costs in excess of the FY 2015 Enacted CIPA appropriation. The Department is currently reviewing FY 2015 allocations to determine available resources agency-wide."

(2) The bill includes \$145 million in base funding for PKO. In addition, the bill provides \$328.7 million in OCO funding to pay assessed expenses of peacekeeping activities in Somalia (UNSOA) and other peacekeeping requirements.

(3) The President's request initially included \$2.518 billion for CIPA, plus \$150 million for a Peacekeeping Response Mechanism (PKRM) to fund unanticipated peacekeeping costs. In late June, the Administration released a budget amendment requesting an additional \$278 million for the PKRM to help cover the UN mission in the Central African Republic (CAR).

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Voluntary contributions are payments left to the discretion of individual Member States. These contributions finance UN humanitarian relief and development agencies, which in turn help advance critical U.S. foreign policy priorities that would be difficult, if not impossible, for the U.S. to undertake alone. Voluntary contributions from UN member states help pay to:

- Provide lifesaving food aid to more than 80 million people in 75 countries;
- Strengthen democratic institutions and empower civil society in emerging democracies;
- Immunize children around the world against deadly diseases like polio and measles;
- Assist refugees from countries like Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, Syria, and Mali;
- Tackle the AIDS pandemic.



United States President Addresses General Assembly

Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, addresses the general debate of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly. *UN Photo/Cia Pak*

RECENT REFORMS AT THE UN

In order to meet the challenges of the 21st century and to ensure member states' resources are used most effectively, the United Nations continues to update its operations and management practices. Changes have taken place in nearly every area of UN operations, from the management of peacekeeping missions, to tougher ethics rules, to streamlined budget processes, to delivery of humanitarian aid on the ground. However, reform takes concerted engagement by all member states and positive U.S. leadership—along with that of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon—will be essential to continuing the reform agenda in 2015.

QUICK FACTS

- ➔ **The UN's 2014-2015 regular budget cut spending from the previous two-year budget, cut staff positions by 2%, and included a one-year freeze in UN staff compensation.**
- ➔ **The UN makes all of its internal OIOS audit reports publicly available online.**

ONGOING STEPS TO REDUCE COSTS AND ENHANCE EFFECTIVENESS

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Under-Secretary General for Management, Yukio Takasu, are committed to a strong reform agenda in 2015, in order to make the UN more cost-effective, global, and modern. The United States remains a crucial partner in these efforts, and by working constructively with the UN Secretariat and other member states, has helped achieve important results in recent years. In December 2013, the General Assembly approved the UN's core budget for 2014-2015, cutting spending from the UN's previous two-year budget, following the budget reduction trend seen in the previous biennium. The new budget also included a two percent staffing cut, translating to approximately 221 posts, and a one-year freeze in UN staff compensation.

Aside from budgetary issues, the UN has created new mechanisms and continues to enhance UN operations through a number of reforms, including:

- **Transparency:** The UN now makes all internal audit reports issued by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) publicly available online. This development followed similar decisions by UNICEF, UNDP, and UNFPA. The U.S. Mission to the UN has called this new commitment to transparency “a turning point in how the UN does business.”

- **Peacekeeping Reform:** The last several years have witnessed a number of important reforms and advancements in UN peacekeeping operations. For example, the UN continues to implement the Global Field Support Strategy, a five-year project (2010-2015) aimed at improving the efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and speed of administrative and logistics support to UN peacekeeping and political missions. This has delivered important dividends. For example, implementation of the strategy led to a \$250 million reduction in operational costs for peacekeeping missions in the 2013-2014 peacekeeping budget versus the 2009-2010 period, despite the fact that the same number of uniformed personnel were operating in the field.

In addition to this ongoing initiative, important changes have taken place recently in the way UN peacekeepers are evaluated and paid. Starting this year, as much as \$50 million in annual bonuses will be paid to peacekeepers and UN member states that set a positive example—serving with distinction in risky areas or providing key services such as medical care, engineering, or air support. These are some of the UN's first attempts at pay-for-performance, and could lead to better outcomes for UN missions and the people they serve.

The Secretary-General recently established a High-Level Panel on Peace Operations to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the state of UN peace operations. This is a significant development, as peace operations today are increasingly called on to confront politically complex and challenging conflicts, often in volatile security environments where UN missions are directly targeted. The panel will review and provide recommendations on a broad spectrum of issues including the changing nature of conflict, evolving mandates, planning, partnerships, human rights and protection of civilians, and performance. The Panel will provide recommendations for the UN General Assembly's consideration in September 2015.

- **Management and Oversight Reforms:** The UN has strengthened oversight, doubling the capacity of its audit and investigations' body and making procurement investigations a permanent feature. The UN has also stopped issuing permanent contracts to new employees, overhauled the internal justice system, and expanded public access to budgets, audits, and procurement information. The General Assembly approved a package of reforms to enhance accountability, and adopted International Public Sector Accounting Standards, which will improve the quality and transparency of financial reporting with the UN. The UN has also moved from print to electronic distribution of UN documents, resulting in significantly reduced printing costs.
- **Ethics:** The UN Ethics Office continues to manage the UN's financial disclosure policy and whistleblower protection policies as well as to provide training to UN staff on ethics practices and policies. The financial disclosure policy enacted widens the scope of individuals who must report. The UN also put in force an enhanced whistleblower protection policy, stronger than that of the U.S. government's.
- **Combating Sexual Exploitation and Abuse:** In order to combat incidents of sex crimes committed by peacekeepers, the UN has established mandatory conduct, discipline, and awareness training for all troops and staff through 12 Conduct and Discipline Teams and launched outreach campaigns to educate the local population on how to report allegations; moved investigators and support staff to regional hubs in order to speed investigation of allegations and reduce costs; followed up on every substantiated sexual abuse and exploitation case to ensure that all violators are repatriated; begun issuing quarterly press releases to make public statistics regarding sexual abuse and exploitation cases in field missions; and provided victims with assistance, including medical, legal, and psychosocial care.
- Making sure these reform efforts are successful requires member states—particularly the U.S.—to engage. Withholding money from the UN budget in order to force reform, as some suggest, would be more of an impediment to reform than a catalyst to encourage it. This approach alienates our allies, whose support the U.S. needs to push for changes, and sends a signal that the U.S. is more interested in weakening the UN than making it effective.



US Permanent Representative Briefs the Press on Situation in the Middle East

Samantha Power, United States Permanent Representative to the UN, briefs the press following the Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East. *UN Photo/Kim Haughton*

KEY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

The United Nations provides a platform for nations to work together to establish international norms, standards, and agreements in the common interest of all nations. In recent decades, the UN has facilitated negotiation of critical international treaties on issues ranging from trade and commerce to the environment and human rights.

Historically, the United States has played a leading role in fostering the development of international law. But the U.S. has not ratified a number of international treaties and agreements, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). During the 114th Congress, it is possible that the Senate may take up one or more of these measures for formal consideration. Provided below is a summary of several such treaties.

UN CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is a set of rules, negotiated by member states, governing the use of the world's oceans. It defines maritime zones and boundaries, creates legally secured navigation and resource usage rights, and sets standards for protecting the marine environment, sustaining fishing stocks, and preventing pollution from land and air sources. In 1994, the U.S. signed an UNCLOS implementation agreement originally sought by President Reagan, but has not yet ratified the treaty as a whole. Leaders of both political parties, the Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, environmental organizations, and all major ocean industry groups—including fishing, undersea cable, and oil companies—back ratification of the treaty. In addition, the treaty has already been ratified by 165 UN member states, plus the European Union. This broad coalition of support was on full display during the summer of 2012, when industry leaders, Republican and Democratic officials, and six four-star generals testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during a series of hearings about the benefits of U.S. accession to UNCLOS.

Those who object to U.S. ratification contend that doing so would surrender U.S. sovereignty, result in what they call a “UN tax”, or restrict activities of the U.S. Navy. All three claims are untrue: joining the treaty would actually increase U.S. ocean territory by 4.1 million square miles, the U.S. would incur no taxes, and UNCLOS has no jurisdiction over U.S. military activities. In addition, ratification of the treaty would be a boon to our nation's economic interests, firmly entrenching U.S. rights to drill for oil, gas, and other critical resources on its extended continental shelf, and giving American companies the opportunity to obtain clear legal title to engage in mining activities in the deep seabed.

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Signed by the U.S. in July 2009, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) requires countries to ensure equality under the law for persons with disabilities, as well as take action to stamp out discrimination in access to justice, health care, education, and employment. Inspired in large part by our

nation's own landmark disability rights law, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 151 countries have ratified the Convention to date, including close U.S. allies like the UK, Canada, Australia, Italy, Germany, South Korea, Japan, and Israel. While ratification of the CRPD would not require the U.S. to change its own laws, it would allow America to reassert its position as a world leader on disability rights and export the core principles of the ADA abroad. On December 4, 2012, the CRPD was brought to the Senate floor, but fell five votes short of the two-thirds majority required for ratification under the U.S. Constitution. Nevertheless, it is possible that the treaty could be brought before the Senate again during the 114th Congress.

CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) functions as “an international bill of rights for women”. It provides a definition of discrimination against women, affirms women's equality to men, and commits states to ensuring that women receive the same rights as men. Members of the treaty agree to take appropriate measures to enforce and protect these rights and to work to prevent and punish all forms of discrimination.

Only seven countries, out of a total 194 UN member states, have not ratified CEDAW – including the U.S., Iran, Somalia and Sudan. U.S.-based opponents of CEDAW contend that it promotes a ‘radical feminist’ agenda and supports abortion. That almost the entire world outside the U.S. supports the treaty, including countries where abortion is illegal, belies the former claim, and the latter charge is simply untrue: CEDAW makes no mention of abortion, and the U.S. Department of State deemed it “abortion neutral.” Despite concerns to the contrary, CEDAW would not force the U.S. to change our laws; as with other international agreements, implementation of the Convention's provisions is the sovereign right of the U.S. government.

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recognizes the basic human rights of children under 18 years of age. It obliges governments to protect children, ensure their access to education and health care, and provide them with a safe upbringing that takes their best interests into account, all without discrimination.

UNICEF describes the CRC as the “most widely and rapidly ratified human rights treaty in history.” Only the U.S. and Somalia have not yet ratified the treaty. In the U.S., opponents of the CRC believe that it would undermine state and federal law. However, the U.S. government alone would determine how to implement the CRC, as with CEDAW and other international treaties. Nothing in the CRC, moreover, would contravene any current U.S. policies towards the rights of children and no requirements would be imposed on the United States.

QUICK FACTS

- ➔ **Ratification of the Law of the Sea Treaty would firmly entrench the rights of American companies to drill for oil, gas, and other critical resources on its extended continental shelf.**
- ➔ **The CRPD was inspired by our nation's own landmark disability rights law, the Americans with Disabilities Act.**
- ➔ **The U.S. and Somalia are the only countries to have not yet ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child.**



APPENDIX I: **KEY UN INSTITUTIONS**



Security Council Votes to Extend UNMIL and Support Response to Ebola Virus

A wide view of the Security Council during today's unanimous vote on the draft resolution 2176 (2014) extending the mandate of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) until 30 September 2015, while making adjustments to the Mission's focus and strength, as well as supporting the efforts of the Governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in responding to the Ebola virus, which has caused the death of more than 1,400 people in West Africa since December 2013. *UN Photo/Evan Schneider*

THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

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

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

QUICK FACTS

➔ **The current non-permanent members of the Security Council are Angola, Chad, Chile, Jordan, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Spain, and Venezuela.**

HISTORY AND RELEVANCE

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

As outlined in the UN Charter, the Security Council's purpose is to: "Investigate any dispute, or any situation which might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute, in order to determine whether the continuance of the dispute or situation is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security" and act accordingly, by:

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

On January 17, 1946, the Security Council met for the first time in London. The first UN peacekeeping mission was deployed in 1948 to the Middle East, and over the last 60 years, the Security Council has defused innumerable international crises and strengthened international cooperation on counter-terrorism and nonproliferation. Through Security Council resolutions, the UN has undertaken 69 peacekeeping missions in some of the most dangerous places in the world, helped implement 172 peaceful settlements that have ended conflicts, and enabled millions of people in dozens of countries to take part in free and fair elections to pave the way for democracy.

REFORM AND ENLARGEMENT

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

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

Veto power is a key element in moving forward on Security Council reform. It can prevent the adoption of any substantive draft Council resolution, regardless of the level of international support for the draft. Currently, the five permanent members of the Council (the so-called P-5) are the only members who have such authority. Some have proposed that a reformed Security Council grant the veto to new members or alternatively restrict the use of the veto by the P-5 nations. The U.S. and other P-5 members, however, strongly resist diluting or weakening the veto, and the U.S. has publically opposed any reform which alters the veto structure. Additionally, the Obama Administration has stated that any Security Council reform should ensure that the Council remains an effective instrument, as some fear that additional members may make reaching decisions more difficult.

Changes to the Security Council require the unanimous agreement of the P-5, and some P-5 members may threaten to veto giving a permanent seat to their regional competitors. To get around these obstacles and increase the legitimacy of the Council, some have proposed reforming current working methods to allow non-permanent countries to be represented. This could include holding sessions in which, for instance, countries contributing peacekeeping troops and other UN members have a chance to voice their views.



Secretary-General Briefs General Assembly on 2015 Priorities

A view of the General Assembly Hall as Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (shown on screens) briefs the Assembly on the UN's priorities for 2015. *UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe*

THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

VOTING AND SESSIONS

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

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

The UN Security Council or a majority of member states can request an emergency or special session of the General Assembly. Examples of extra sessions include an emergency session in 1950 on North and South Korea and two recent special sessions, one to adopt the Millennium Development Declaration in 2000 and another to set a UN reform agenda in 2005.

STRUCTURE

A president, elected prior to the annual opening session, heads the General Assembly and helps set its agenda. Sam Kutesa, former Foreign Minister of Uganda, is the current president of the General Assembly now in its 69th session.

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

QUICK FACTS

- ➔ **Each September, the opening of the UN General Assembly in New York provides heads of state and government the only universal forum in which to address one another.**
- ➔ **Aside from budgetary matters, General Assembly resolutions are non-binding on member states.**

HISTORY AND RELEVANCE

Although General Assembly resolutions are non-binding on member states, they often have a dramatic and lasting effect. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is, perhaps, the most famous General Assembly Declaration. Passed in 1948, largely due to the efforts of former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, this document has become the international guidebook for human rights. The Uniting for Peace Resolution, passed in 1950 allowing police action to protect South Korea from North Korean aggression, is also noteworthy.

In 2000, the General Assembly adopted a Millennium Development Declaration to achieve specific goals related to poverty, illiteracy, health, and environmental progress by 2015. In September 2015, the General Assembly will come together once again to adopt the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. In 2005, the General Assembly passed a resolution, the World Summit Outcome, for comprehensive reform to make the organization more efficient, transparent, and accountable and enable it to better address human rights, peacebuilding, and protection challenges.



Secretary-General Visits Jabalia School in Gaza

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (centre) poses with students during his visit to the UN school at the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza Strip. The school was damaged by Israeli shelling during the conflict in Gaza the previous summer. *UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe*

THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT

The UN Secretariat is headed by the Secretary-General and staffed by 43,000 personnel worldwide, making it smaller in size than Google. The Secretariat carries out the day-to-day work of managing the general operations of the UN globally, implementing mandates adopted by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and other relevant UN bodies. The Secretariat has responsibility over UN peacekeeping operations and political missions but does not include UN funds, programs, and agencies that have their own executive boards.

AREAS OF WORK

Although the work of the Secretariat changes according to the work of the United Nations, some of its main functions include planning and managing UN peacekeeping operations, mediating international disputes and supporting the Secretary-General's good offices function, assisting in the implementation of Security Council decisions and sanctions, coordinating disaster relief across dozens of humanitarian organizations, promoting social and economic development and tracking statistics and research on progress made, and planning and facilitating discussion and meetings among 193 countries on a daily basis, which includes translating documents and speeches into the UN's six official languages. All of this is done with an annual budget of approximately \$2.8 billion, less than the state budget of Delaware. The United States contributes 22 percent of the budget of the UN Secretariat.

STRUCTURE

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LEADERSHIP

The Secretariat is led by the UN Secretary-General, who is selected every five years by the Security Council and approved by the General Assembly. Although there is no formal limit to the number of five-year terms a Secretary-General may serve, they generally serve no more than two. Candidacies for the position have traditionally been considered on the basis of regional rotation amongst the continents.

The current Secretary-General of the United Nations is Ban Ki-moon of South Korea, who assumed office on January 1, 2007. He is currently in his second term as Secretary-General, which will end on December 31, 2016. Throughout his tenure in office, Secretary-General Ban has sought to reform UN management practices and increase transparency and accountability; prioritized women's empowerment; and confronted a number of other critical issues, including climate change, efforts to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development, nuclear non-proliferation, and efforts to address conflict and humanitarian crises in Syria, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Haiti, Mali, Afghanistan, and DR Congo.

KEY DEPARTMENTS OF THE UN SECRETARIAT

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

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

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA): This office mobilizes and coordinates humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors in the event of disasters and emergencies. OCHA advocates for the rights of people in need, promotes preparedness and prevention, and facilitates sustainable solutions.

Department of Management: This body manages the UN budget, human resources, and central services, putting it in charge of everything from financing lifesaving peacekeeping missions, to information technology, to the renovation of UN headquarters.

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Secretary-General Meets US Secretary of State in Gujarat, India

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (left) meets with United States Secretary of State John Kerry, at the 7th Vibrant Gujarat Summit in India.
UN Photo/Mark Garten

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

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

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



APPENDIX II: **THE UN SYSTEM**

UN Photo/UNICEF/Albert González Farran



WFP Nutrition Programme, North Darfur

A community volunteer (centre) delivers corn-soya blend to a woman at a food distribution centre in the Rwanda camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs), near Tawila, North Darfur. *UN Photo/Albert González Farran*

UN FUNDS & PROGRAMS

The UN system is comprised of the UN, whose headquarters is in New York, and more than 30 affiliated organizations—known as programs, funds, and specialized agencies—with their own membership, leadership, and budget processes. These groups work with and through the UN to promote world-wide peace and prosperity.

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

- **United Nations Development Program (UNDP):** On the ground in 170 countries, UNDP is the UN's global development network, focusing on the challenges of democratic governance, poverty reduction, crisis prevention and recovery, energy and environment, and HIV/AIDS. UNDP is also one of the primary implementing bodies for UN electoral assistance, helping to facilitate on average one free and fair election somewhere in the world every two weeks. Over the last year, in the field, UNDP has supported efforts to strengthen Ethiopia's private sector by providing skills training and business advisory services to nearly 200,000 entrepreneurs; helped host communities in Lebanon and Jordan cope with an influx of Syrian refugees by improving local infrastructure and boosting economic opportunities; and trained more than 10,000 local officials in Moldova, one of Europe's poorest countries, to better manage public services and more effectively engage with members of the community.
- **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF):** UNICEF provides long-term humanitarian and development assistance to children and mothers. UNICEF is involved in a number of critical initiatives, working to help increase the number of girls enrolled in school in Afghanistan; supplying lifesaving vaccines to more than 36% of the world's children; and providing clean water, sanitation, educational support, and nutritional assistance to children in disaster zones and war-torn regions around the world, including Syria, Iraq, the Central African Republic, and Ebola-hit communities in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea.

- **World Food Program (WFP):** WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency dedicated to the goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition. In 2013 alone, the agency provided lifesaving food aid to more than 80 million people in 75 countries. Over the last year, WFP has been providing food rations, school meals, vouchers to help people buy food, and other critical forms of assistance to millions of people whose lives have been upended by conflict and natural disasters in Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, and the Philippines. In Somalia, where more than one million people are in urgent need of food and nutrition assistance, WFP is working to scale-up its response. In Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea, where food security has been negatively affected by the Ebola outbreak, WFP has distributed aid to nearly 1.3 million people under quarantine and in communities hard-hit by the disease since April 2014.
- **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):** UNHCR protects refugees worldwide and facilitates their resettlement or return home. UNHCR is currently working on the ground in 120 countries to help more than 36 million people, including people displaced by ongoing conflicts in Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia, Pakistan, and Mali. Over the last decade, UNHCR has helped more than 4.6 million Afghan refugees return to their home country and provided assistance as they reintegrate into society. In November 2014, UNHCR launched a global campaign to end the problem of statelessness—a legal limbo that affects more than 10 million people worldwide—within a decade.
- **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):** UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs, organized crime, corruption and terrorism. The Vienna-based organization helps member states address these challenges by providing field-based technical support to enhance the capacity of criminal justice systems and adherence to the rule of law, helping states implement relevant international treaties, and serving as a source of research and information to help guide policy decisions on countering drugs and crime. UNODC also works to improve cross-border cooperation on human trafficking.
- **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):** UNFPA, which operates in more than 150 countries, is the largest international source of funding for population and reproductive health programs in the world. UNFPA helps women, men, and young people plan their families, including the number, timing, and spacing of their children, go through pregnancy and childbirth safely, and avoid sexually transmitted infections. UNFPA also combats violence against women and promotes women's equality. UNFPA does not provide, support, or advocate for abortion, nor does it support, promote, or condone coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization.
- **United Nations Environment Program (UNEP):** UNEP coordinates the UN's environmental activities. It develops international environmental conventions, assesses global environmental trends, encourages new civil sector partnerships, and strengthens institutions so they might better protect the environment.

QUICK FACTS

- ➔ **UNICEF supplies lifesaving vaccines to more than 36% of the world's children.**
- ➔ **The UN Refugee Agency has helped more than 4.6 million Afghan refugees return to their home country and provided assistance as they reintegrate into society.**
- ➔ **The UN Office on Drugs and Crime works to improve cross-border cooperation to combat human trafficking.**



Monitoring for Ebola in Guinea

A World Health Organization (WHO) doctor in Guinea checks a man's temperature in Conakry. *UN Photo/Martine Perret*

UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

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

- **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):** The IAEA works to prevent, detect, and respond to the illicit or non-peaceful use of nuclear material, conducting monitoring and inspection activities in 140 countries to verify compliance with international nuclear safeguard agreements. For nearly a decade, the IAEA's monitoring activities in Iran have helped shine a light on that country's nuclear program and bolster U.S.-led efforts to curb it. This has provided the impetus for bilateral and multilateral sanctions against Iran, as well as for negotiations between Iran and the P5+1 to end the nuclear standoff.
- **World Health Organization (WHO):** WHO serves as a coordinating authority on international public health. It is responsible for leading the global response to health emergencies, monitoring outbreaks of infectious disease, spearheading global vaccination efforts, and developing campaigns to combat life threatening diseases like polio, malaria, and HIV/AIDS. In addition to a number of other critical activities, WHO is currently playing a leading role in international efforts to combat the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):** UNESCO carries out a diverse array of programs in five major areas: education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, and communication and information. UNESCO's work in these fields serves a number of our nation's core values and national security interests. For example, UNESCO has been facilitating U.S.-led efforts to create a capable and professional police force in Afghanistan by providing literacy training to members of the Afghan National Police. The organization's field office in Iraq, meanwhile, works to fight extremism by managing an educational program to instill young Iraqis with civic values, including a unified national identity that transcends sectarian fissures and women's rights. Unfortu-

nately, UNESCO's work has been severely hampered since October 2011, when a decision by the agency's General Conference to admit the Palestinians as a member state triggered two U.S. laws from the 1990s requiring our country to cut off funding to any UN agency that does so.

- **International Labor Organization (ILO):** The ILO is responsible for formulating and overseeing the implementation of international labor standards. The agency works to promote the protection of worker rights and improvement of working conditions around the world, the abolition of forced and child labor, and the creation of greater opportunities for employment. Among other benefits, the achievement of these objectives can help improve U.S. economic competitiveness by requiring other countries to operate by a common set of labor-related rules. ILO's membership structure is unique in that it is the UN's only tripartite agency: it brings together not only national governments, but employers and workers as well, to jointly shape multilateral labor policies.
- **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):** The FAO fights hunger worldwide by promoting sustainable agricultural development and supporting efforts to rebuild agricultural livelihoods in the wake of natural disasters. In addition, the FAO works to develop global standards for food safety and plant and animal health, which in turn help protect American farmers and consumers, as well as facilitate international trade. Currently, FAO is scaling up operations to confront the challenging food security situation in South Sudan, distributing veterinary drugs and vaccines to protect cattle from disease, providing quality seeds, tools, and training to South Sudanese farmers, and promoting the establishment of agricultural infrastructure throughout the country.
- **International Maritime Organization (IMO):** The IMO sets international safety standards for ships, ports, and maritime facilities, develops ship design and operating requirements, and leads global efforts to prevent maritime pollution. Standards promulgated by the IMO are central to the health of the U.S. economy, as more than 90% of all international trade is carried on ships, and the vast majority of ships that call at U.S. ports have foreign crews and are registered under foreign flags. IMO also works with member states to address security threats to the international shipping industry, including piracy and terrorism. In November 2014, IMO adopted new design, construction, equipment, training, and search and rescue requirements for ships operating in Arctic and Antarctic waters, in order to prevent accidents and pollution.
- **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO):** ICAO enables safe air travel everywhere by setting global standards for navigation, communication, and airline safety. These standards map out airspace jurisdiction and establish "free range" airspace over oceans and seas. This agency also sets international standards for limiting environmental degradation and works to strengthen aviation security by conducting regular audits of aviation security oversight in ICAO member states. In response to the shoot down of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over eastern Ukraine in July 2014, ICAO launched a task force to examine ways for states to better share information about risks to commercial aviation over conflict zones.

QUICK FACTS

- ➔ **The IAEA conducts monitoring and inspection activities in 140 countries to prevent, detect, and respond to illicit or non-peaceful uses of nuclear material.**
- ➔ **The WHO is playing a leading role in international efforts to combat the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.**
- ➔ **The IMO sets international safety standards for ships, ports, and maritime facilities, develops ship design and operating requirements, and leads global efforts to prevent maritime pollution.**

- **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO):** WIPO encourages American innovation and economic growth through the registration and protection of patents, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property, as well as through the adjudication of cross-border disputes on intellectual property. Dozens of major American companies have sought out WIPO's dispute resolution services as an alternative to costly court proceedings, including the American Automobile Association, Apple, North Face, Costco, and Facebook. Moreover, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, one of 57 NGO observers at WIPO, nearly 19 million Americans are employed in IP-intensive industries, and therefore depend on WIPO-administered IP protection activities.
- **International Telecommunication Union (ITU):** The ITU helps facilitate the connectivity and interoperability of the world's telecommunications networks, which is of critical importance to the U.S. telecommunications industry and American defense and intelligence communications capabilities. By allocating radio spectrum and satellite orbits, as well as developing technical standards to ensure that networks interconnect seamlessly, the ITU's work helps make communicating possible even in some of the world's most remote locations.
- **World Meteorological Organization (WMO):** WMO facilitates the unrestricted international exchange of meteorological data, forecasts and warnings, and works to further their use in the aviation, shipping, agriculture, energy, and defense sectors. Weather knows no boundaries, and through these activities, the WMO helps the U.S. predict and prepare for natural disasters resulting from severe weather events, including hurricanes.
- **Universal Postal Union (UPU):** The UPU facilitates postal service across the globe, helping Americans conduct business everywhere, from Beijing to London to São Paulo. By setting standards for the worldwide postal system and promoting affordable basic postal services in all territories, the UPU enables U.S. businesses to utilize the postal system to conduct business at low costs.
- **World Bank:** The World Bank focuses on poverty reduction and the improvement of living standards worldwide by providing low-interest loans, interest-free credit, and grants to developing countries for education, health, infrastructure, and communications. Dr. Jim Yong Kim of the United States is the 12th president of the World Bank.
- **International Monetary Fund (IMF):** The IMF is an organization of 188 countries that fosters global monetary cooperation, facilitates international trade, promotes high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduces poverty. It offers financial and technical assistance to its members, making it an international lender of last resort. The IMF currently has \$78 billion in outstanding loans to 74 nations.



ECOSOC Integration Segment: Sustainable Urbanization

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) holds its first-ever segment on integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development -- economic development, social development and environmental protection -- the focus of the discussion being sustainable urbanization. *UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras*

AMERICANS AT THE UN

The United Nations employs more than 1,800 Americans in the United States and thousands of others in UN offices abroad. A 2010 Government Accountability Office (GAO) study found that Americans comprise the largest number of staff in all professional positions within the UN agencies it reviewed.

Provided below are examples of Americans in leadership roles at the UN:

- **UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake**, who began serving in May 2010, leads global efforts to promote the protection of children's rights in 190 countries. UNICEF's work on behalf of children includes education, HIV/AIDS prevention, protection from abuse, and other activities that save lives, such as the provision of vaccines, nutritional supplements, and anti-malarial bed nets.
- **World Food Program Executive Director Ertharin Cousin** oversees the world's largest humanitarian agency addressing hunger. The WFP provides food to an average of more than 90 million people in 73 countries each year. Cousin began her tenure as the 12th Executive Director of WFP on April 5, 2012, and is based in Rome.
- **Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman**, has managed the Department of Political Affairs since July 2012, which plays a key role in UN efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts around the world. He also advises the Secretary-General on global peace and security issues, working closely with political missions and peace envoys on the ground. Previously, Mr. Feltman served as U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs from 2009-2012.

Provided below are examples of Americans in leadership roles at the UN:

- **Dr. Paul Farmer**, Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Community-Based Medicine and Lessons from Haiti;
- **Ray Chambers**, Special Envoy for Malaria; Special Envoy for Financing the Health Millennium Development Goals
- **Anthony Banbury**, Head of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER)
- **Matthew Nimetz**, the Secretary-General's Envoy for talks between Greece and Macedonia;
- **Michael Bloomberg**, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Cities and Climate Change
- **Christopher Ross**, Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara;
- **John Ruggie**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the Issue of Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises;
- **Jeffrey D. Sachs**, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals;
- **Lisa Buttenheim**, Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)
- **Lise Grande**, Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

A young girl in a blue and white checkered school uniform is the central focus. She has her hair in braids with a blue headband and is looking thoughtfully at the camera with her hands near her mouth. In the background, other children are visible, including a girl in a pink shirt. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

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The Better World Campaign (BWC) works to strengthen the relationship between the United States and the United Nations through outreach, communications, and advocacy. It encourages U.S. leadership to enhance the UN's ability to carry out its invaluable international work on behalf of peace, progress, freedom, and justice. In these efforts, BWC engages policymakers, the media, and the American public to increase awareness of and support for the United Nations.

For more information, visit www.BetterWorldCampaign.org.



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