



TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FR: BILL MCINTURFF/ELIZABETH HARRINGTON/GEOFF GARIN

DT: DECEMBER 20, 2016

RE: BETTER WORLD CAMPAIGN – INDEX OF PUBLIC OPINION ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND THE UNITED NATIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

National research conducted from December 7-12, 2016 by Public Opinion Strategies and Hart Research Associates, on behalf of the Better World Campaign, shows:

- More than eight in ten voters continue to believe it is better for the United States to work with allies and through international organizations (81%) than to act mainly on our own (14%). This viewpoint is strongly held across partisan lines.
- Overwhelmingly, voters continue to believe it is important for the United States to maintain an active role in the United Nations (88% important/11% not important), with a substantial majority (62%) saying it is “very important” for the United States do so. Majorities of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents agree.
 - Voters believe the United Nations supports America’s goals and objectives around the world (63% supportive/29% not supportive).
- More than six in ten voters have a favorable image of the United Nations (61% favorable/11% neutral/26% unfavorable). Overall, the United Nations has the most favorable image of the organizations, institutions, and people we tested in this survey.
- Two-thirds of voters support the United States paying our dues to the United Nations on time and in full (67% favor/28% oppose). And seven out of ten voters support the United States paying our peacekeeping dues to the United Nations on time and in full (70% favor/25% oppose).
 - Majorities of Republicans, Independents, and Democrats support the U.S. paying our UN general and peacekeeping dues on time and in full.

- Other than terrorism, the most important international issues voters want President-elect Trump to focus on in 2017 are: hostile nations such as North Korea and Iran (29%), international trade (28%), and the conflicts in Syria and Iraq (26%).
 - There are differences by party, with Republicans focusing on hostile nations (40%) and international trade (40%), Democrats focusing on global climate change (40%) and extreme poverty around the world (28%), and Independents focusing on hostile nations (32%) and international trade (28%).

- Voters think it is very important for President-elect Trump to have the following priorities with regard to America's role in the world: 1) "Be committed to keeping America strong and secure around the world" (77% rating 8-10); 2) "Have the right balance of toughness and diplomacy in working with other countries around the world" (75% rating 8-10); and, 3) "Put America first, and always put the interests of the American people and American security above all else" (74% rating 8-10).
 - Voters were read a series of different viewpoints about America's role in the world. They were asked to rate each viewpoint on a scale of zero to ten regarding how important they thought it was for President-elect Trump to have that viewpoint of America's role in the world. (Scale: zero = not at all important and ten = very important)

DETAILED FINDINGS:

1. More than eight in ten voters continue to believe it is better for the United States to work with allies and through international organizations (81%) than to act mainly on our own (14%).

- We asked the following question: *“Now, thinking about the United States foreign policy in general...To achieve our foreign policy goals, do you think it is better for the United States to work with allies and through international organizations or act mainly on our own?”*

	<u>Work with major allies/through international organizations</u>	<u>Act mainly on own</u>
October 2012	78%	18%
October 2013	78%	18%
October 2014	79%	16%
October 2015	82%	15%
December 2016	81%	14%

- This viewpoint is strongly held across partisan lines. Republicans (71% allies-international orgs/21% on own), Independents (82%/11%), and Democrats (91%/7%) agree with this point of view about U.S. foreign policy.

2. Voters overwhelmingly believe it is important the United States maintain an active role within the United Nations. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of voters say it is important that the United States maintain an active role within the United Nations, with a substantial majority (62%) saying it is *very important* the United States do so.

- We asked the following question: *“How important do you think it is for the United States to maintain an active role within the United Nations? Would you say...it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?”*

	<u>Total Important</u>	<u>Total Not Important</u>
June 2009	85%	15%
May 2011	85%	15%
October 2011	86%	13%
April 2012	83%	17%
January 2013	86%	13%
October 2013	88%	12%
April 2014	86%	13%
October 2014	87%	11%
October 2015	89%	11%
December 2016	88%	11%

Significant majorities of Republicans, Independents, and Democrats agree with this point of view.

	<u>Total Important</u>	<u>Total Not Important</u>
Republicans	80%	19%
Independents	85%	13%
Democrats	98%	1%

3. Voters believe the United Nations supports America’s goals and objectives around the world (63% supportive/29% not supportive).
- We asked the following question: *“Thinking about the UN’s support for America’s objectives around the world, would you say the UN has been very supportive, somewhat supportive, not too supportive, or not at all supportive of America’s goals and objectives around the world?”*

Republicans are more closely divided on this question, while majorities of Independents and Democrats agree with this premise.

	<u>Total Supportive</u>	<u>Total Not Supportive</u>
Republicans	44%	48%
Independents	60%	28%
Democrats	82%	10%

4. More than six in ten voters have a favorable image of the United Nations (61% favorable/11% neutral/26% unfavorable). This data is consistent with our last track (within the margin of error).

	<i>United Nations Image</i>	
	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>
June 2009	54%	35%
October 2009	50%	36%
April 2010	60%	30%
October 2010	59%	29%
May 2011	59%	28%
October 2011	56%	30%
April 2012	58%	30%
October 2012	50%	32%
January 2013	57%	28%
October 2013	60%	28%
April 2014	59%	28%
October 2014	58%	28%
October 2015	63%	26%
December 2016	61%	26%

Overall, the United Nations has the most favorable image of the organizations, institutions, and people we tested in this survey.

Image	% Total Favorable	% Total Unfavorable
The United Nations	61%	26%
Barack Obama	58%	38%
NATO	56%	19%
UNICEF	55%	13%
Donald Trump	47%	45%
The United Nations Security Council	46%	28%
The United States Congress	37%	54%
The United Nations Refugee Agency	36%	26%
Nikki Haley, the nominee for United States Ambassador to the United Nations (asked of half of the sample)	28%	17%
Nikki Haley (asked of half of the sample)	25%	12%
The World Bank	24%	33%
Antonio Guterres, the new Secretary General of the United Nations (asked of half of the sample)	14%	13%
Antonio Guterres (asked of half of the sample)	7%	5%

5. Voters continue to support the U.S. paying our dues for the UN regular budget and for UN peacekeeping on time and in full. This remains strong and consistent with past tracks.
- Respondents were read the following information and asked the following question: *“Each member-nation of the United Nations pays a portion of the UN regular budget in the form of dues. These dues are based on a member-nation's capacity to pay for its share of world income. The United States represents approximately twenty-six percent of the world's income, and currently pays twenty-two percent of the UN's budget. Knowing this, do you...favor...or...oppose...the United States paying our dues to the UN on time and in full?”*

Pay UN General Dues On Time/In Full

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
October 2010	63%	31%
May 2011	60%	34%
October 2011	64%	31%
April 2012	64%	32%
January 2013	67%	28%
October 2013	63%	31%

April 2014	65%	31%
October 2014	66%	27%
October 2015	67%	30%
December 2016	67%	28%

- Majorities of Republicans, Independents and Democrats favor paying our general UN dues on time and in full.

Pay UN General Dues On Time/In Full – By Party

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Republicans	54%	40%
Independents	68%	27%
Democrats	79%	17%

Seven out of ten voters support the United States paying our peacekeeping dues to the United Nations on time and in full.

- Respondents were read the following information and asked the following question: *“As you may know, the United Nations organizes peacekeeping operations around the world. Each member-nation of the United Nations pays for a portion of the United Nations peacekeeping missions in the form of dues. The United States represents approximately twenty-six percent of the world's income, and currently pays twenty-eight percent of the UN’s peacekeeping budget. Do you favor or oppose the United States paying our peacekeeping dues to the UN on time and in full?”*

Pay UN Peacekeeping Dues On Time/In Full

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
April 2012	68%	30%
January 2013	67%	29%
October 2013	71%	27%
April 2014	66%	31%
October 2014	72%	24%
October 2015	73%	24%
December 2016	70%	25%

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

Pay UN Peacekeeping Dues On Time/In Full – By Party

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Republicans	57%	38%
Independents	63%	28%
Democrats	86%	11%

6. Other than terrorism, the most important international issues voters want President-elect Trump to focus on in 2017 are: hostile nations such as North Korea and Iran (29%), international trade (28%), and the conflicts in Syria and Iraq (26%).
- We asked respondents the following question: *“Now, I am going to read you a list of international concerns that some people have. Other than terrorism, please tell me which one of the following international issues you think is most important for President-elect Trump to focus on in 2017? Is it...(Insert Randomized List of Issues).”* If respondents selected a first choice, they were then asked: *“And which do you think would be the next most important international issue for President-elect Trump to focus on in 2017?”*

Ranked by Combined 1st & 2nd Choices

<u>1ST</u>	<u>Comb</u>	
15%	29%	Hostile nations such as North Korea and Iran
15%	28%	International trade
11%	26%	The conflicts in Syria and Iraq
14%	25%	America’s relations with other countries
16%	23%	Global climate change
9%	21%	Extreme poverty around the world
9%	20%	The number of refugees around the world
5%	12%	Global health issues like the spread of AIDS, Zika, and other diseases
3%	6%	Other
2%	2%	None of these
1%	1%	Don’t know

- There are differences by party, with Republicans focusing on hostile nations (40%) and international trade (40%), Democrats focusing on global climate change (40%) and extreme poverty around the world (28%), and Independents focusing on hostile nations (32%) and international trade (28%).

7. Voters think it is very important for President-elect Trump to have the following priorities with regard to America’s role in the world: 1) “Be committed to keeping America strong and secure around the world” (77% rating 8-10); 2) “Have the right balance of toughness and diplomacy in working with other countries around the world” (75% rating 8-10); and, 3) “Put America first, and always put the interests of the American people and American security above all else” (74% rating 8-10).
- Voters were read a series of different viewpoints about America’s role in the world. They were asked to rate each viewpoint on a scale of zero to ten. *“Please rate how important each one is to you in terms of a viewpoint that president-elect Trump should have about America’s role in the world. Please use a scale of zero to ten, with ten meaning it is very important and zero meaning it is not important at all.”* The table on the following page shows all of the viewpoints we tested and the results.

**Summary of Viewpoints about America's Role in the World
Ranked by %8-10 (Very Important)**

Viewpoint	MEAN SCORE	% 8-10
Be committed to keeping America strong and secure around the world	8.7	77% (GOP – 92%, IND – 66%, DEM – 67%)
Have the right balance of toughness and diplomacy in working with other countries around the world	8.5	75% (GOP – 83%, IND – 66%, DEM – 70%)
Put America first, and always put the interests of the American people and American security above all else	8.4	74% (GOP – 91%, IND – 66%, DEM – 61%)
Work with other countries, through organizations such as the United Nations, to tackle global terrorism and work to end conflicts in other countries	7.8	63% (GOP – 52%, IND – 56%, DEM – 76%)
Work to improve America's image around the world	7.7	61% (GOP – 65%, IND – 46%, DEM – 64%)
Be willing to act on our own without ally support if our country's security is threatened	7.5	61% (GOP – 78%, IND – 52%, DEM – 47%)
Focus much more on issues here at home and much less on issues around the world	7.3	52% (GOP – 62%, IND – 47%, DEM – 45%)
Significantly limit America's role in the world and supports a foreign policy of abstaining from political or economic relations with other countries	4.9	24% (GOP – 23%, IND – 18%, DEM – 28%)

METHODOLOGY:

Public Opinion Strategies and Hart Research Associates conducted a national telephone survey of 800 registered voters (440 landline; 360 cell phone), from December 7-12, 2016 on behalf of the Better World Campaign. The purpose of the survey was to measure American attitudes toward international issues and the United Nations. The margin of error on a sample of 800 interviews is $\pm 3.46\%$.