



June 26, 2017

Dear Members of the U.S. House and Senate Committees on Appropriations:

As members of the business community, we are writing to express our strong support to fully fund the United States' financial obligations to the United Nations (UN) in the FY18 State/Foreign Operations Appropriations bills.

The President's FY'18 budget proposal calls for deep cuts to the State Department including critical UN accounts. As businesses with international operations, we think this proposed level of cuts to the UN will significantly harm U.S. interests. We are also very concerned that if enacted, the proposed cuts would impact funding for development and diplomacy at a time when global challenges are clearly on the rise - hurting some of the world's most vulnerable populations in developing and emerging countries.

We welcome and recognize that it is important to have significant scrutiny of all spending – including U.S. contributions to the UN. Yet, as you think about U.S. funding, we encourage you to likewise consider how the UN supports American businesses operating globally as well as how the organization's programs help create and maintain U.S. jobs and promote economic development in the United States.

Each of us, in our own particular business sectors, regularly work with a range of UN entities to create and further develop initiatives with major long term implications for business, governments, and global populations. We have many examples we can share with you that span every industry, be it food safety and nutrition, health, information communication technology, energy, infrastructure, etc. But there is a common theme that runs through all our work: the problems/opportunities we are jointly trying to address are unique and complex and we cannot do this work without the mutual support, collaboration, and global presence of the UN. The organization has an unparalleled degree of legitimacy and value at the country level and programs reaching communities throughout the world. Moreover, the broader peace and security, rule of law and human rights mandate of the UN fosters a vital enabling environment for economic growth.

In its simplest form, working with different UN entities are core to our business growth strategies and objectives. By maintaining full funding to the UN, the U.S. can advance its own goals and interests of securing and promoting peace and security and simultaneously pursue job growth here and development.

We look forward to working with each of you to ensure that this U.S. business perspective is recognized as you consider the FY 2018 appropriation levels and the ongoing U.S. contribution to the United Nations.

Thank you for your consideration.