

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
and Related Programs
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
and Related Programs
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Lee,

We write to express our strong support for meeting our financial obligations to the United Nations (UN) in the Fiscal Year 2025 State and Foreign Operations appropriations legislation. Specifically, we request \$1.234 billion for the Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities (CIPA) account, \$1.676 billion for the Contributions to International Organizations (CIO) account, and \$411 million for the Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) account. We also request the inclusion of bill language lifting the arbitrary 25 percent cap on U.S. contributions to UN peacekeeping operations.

The UN continues to serve as a force-multiplier for the United States, helping to protect our interests and promote our values with the support of international partners. UN peacekeeping and political missions play an important role in stabilizing fragile and conflict-affected countries, facilitating peaceful transitions of power, and protecting civilians from all forms of violence. Successive Government Accountability Office reports have found UN peacekeeping operations to be one-eighth the cost to U.S. taxpayers of deploying our own forces. These missions include soldiers and police from more than 120 countries, allowing the United States to avoid deploying our own boots on the ground.

In addition to peacekeeping, a range of other UN work also helps advance U.S. foreign policy objectives. For example, the UN and its humanitarian agencies are at the forefront of international efforts to respond to Russia's brutal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. With more than 10 million Ukrainians internally displaced or having become refugees, the UN has scaled up to provide food aid, shelter, medical care, and other lifesaving forms of relief to millions of civilians, and is working to blunt the resulting global food security crisis. In Gaza, where half the population is currently at risk of famine, UN agencies are supplying lifesaving food assistance to Palestinians.

We were pleased that the Fiscal Year 2024 omnibus appropriations bill provided sufficient resources to pay the full U.S. assessed contribution to the UN and robust funding for its family of

agencies across a range of critical activities and programs. Unfortunately, the legislation did not lift the statutory cap on U.S. contributions to UN peacekeeping operations or provide funding to make a down payment on arrears, so the United States has again failed to return to good financial standing at the UN and we continue to pile onto the more than \$1 billion we currently owe in peacekeeping assessments.

Continuing to accrue arrears at the UN harms U.S. credibility and efforts to wield influence to advance our interests. Accumulating arrears hinders our ability to pursue our reform agenda at the UN and provides a convenient and damaging talking point to foreign adversaries while creating space for them to expand their clout. While the United States has underfunded its financial obligations to peacekeeping in recent years, the People's Republic of China (PRC) substantially increased its own investment and is currently the second largest financial contributor to UN peacekeeping operations as well as the top contributor at some UN agencies. As part of the PRC's comprehensive, long-term strategy to replace the United States as the global leader, the PRC is leveraging these contributions to undermine U.S. national security objectives, and push peacekeeping in a direction that more closely aligns with its interests and world view. Russia is also expanding its influence and abusing its seat on the UN Security Council to delay, obstruct, and deny the human rights of millions of innocent people in Ukraine and elsewhere around the world.

For the United States to remain successful in efforts to lead the international community against our foreign adversaries and competitors, it is critical that we prioritize full reengagement with the UN, including by paying our dues on time and in full. We urge you to temporarily waive the statutory peacekeeping cap and provide sufficient funding in the CIPA and PKO accounts to pay our peacekeeping arrears. We also urge you to fully fund our share of the UN's other core activities through the CIO account.

We look forward to working with you to ensure U.S. financial obligations to the UN are met. Thank you for your leadership and consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,



Gregory W. Meeks
Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs
Committee



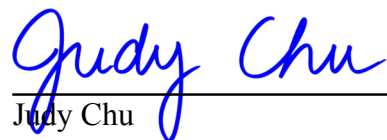
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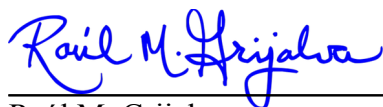
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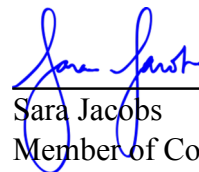
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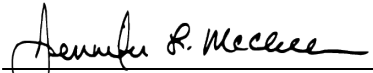
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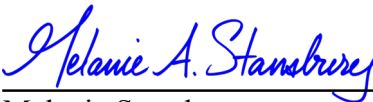
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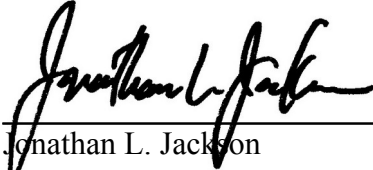
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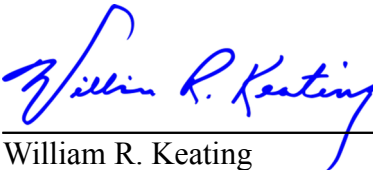
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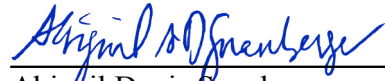
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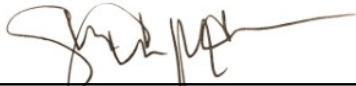
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