

**United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA)  
Better World Campaign (BWC)**

**2008 Congressional Candidate Questionnaire on U.S. - UN Relationship**

**U.S. Participation in the United Nations**

Working cooperatively with the international community and engaging with international organizations can be an important and cost-effective means for furthering U.S. national security interests. The UN provides a forum for the U.S. to build support for global action on enduring foreign policy interests, such as international stability, prosperity, and the promotion of fundamental freedoms. Through burden sharing, the UN allows us to advance our goals without paying all the bills or taking all the risks.

Unfortunately, the United States began 2008 with \$1.5 billion in debt to the United Nations and continues to fall behind in paying its UN dues. This debt has accumulated despite the fact that the U.S. is asking the UN to undertake a wide variety of new tasks and missions, including complex missions in places like Iraq, Lebanon, and Darfur. (For further information, visit [www.un.int/usa](http://www.un.int/usa).)

Does the United States advance national interests and security by working through the United Nations?

**YES**

**COMMENTS:** Yes. As the world's only superpower the US is especially obligated to follow international security and human rights laws written at the UN to encourage all countries to follow. Sadly the US under the Bush administration has failed these high standards miserably, diminishing both US and World security as well as attendant national interests. It is hard to foresee how the US will regain the moral and legal high ground, but Congress should work hard to do so by strongly supporting farsighted UN work.

Do you support paying off U.S. debt to the UN? Will you work to ensure that the U.S. honors its treaty commitments to the United Nations by paying our UN dues on time, in full and without conditions?

**YES**

**COMMENTS:** Yes. The US should always be in full compliance with its UN all other legal obligations if the UN and the US government are to remain credible in international relations.

**The UN and Iraq**

The situation in Iraq has implications that extend far beyond the region, and it is in the interest of the United States to engage the United Nations in stabilizing Iraq. In August

2007, the UN Security Council renewed the UN Mission in Iraq and expanded its mandate in three key areas: (1) promoting national reconciliation; (2) facilitating regional dialogue on issues such as border security, energy, and refugee matters; and (3) providing humanitarian assistance to and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced Iraqis. These efforts build on the United Nations' prior assistance with national elections; the drafting, approval and review of the 2005 Constitution; and the coordination of reconstruction, development, and humanitarian assistance. (For further information, visit [www.uniraq.org](http://www.uniraq.org).)

Do you support an increased role for the United Nations to help strengthen the U.S.-led effort to stabilize Iraq? This is critical in order for the US to end its illegal and immoral occupation of Iraq.

**YES**

Do you support providing the necessary U.S. resources for an enhanced UN presence?

**YES**

**COMMENTS:** Yes. I also support US paid reparations to the people of Iraq for US war crimes, defined by UN treaties like the UN Charter, the Geneva Conventions and the Nuremberg Charter.

### **The Fight against Global Terrorism**

International terrorism is a shared challenge that can be confronted most effectively through coordinated global action. In 2006, UN member states adopted a common Global Counterterrorism Strategy that denounces all forms of terrorism and includes a detailed plan of action with practical steps for fighting terrorism at the national, regional and international levels. The UN and its member governments must now find a way to successfully implement this new comprehensive strategy. (For further information, visit [www.un.org/terrorism](http://www.un.org/terrorism).)

Do you support collective action through the United Nations to address international terrorism?

**SEE COMMENTS**

**COMMENTS:** I am uncertain today of the nature of so called international terrorism. I believe it is based on international crimes syndicates of multiple interests. For example in December, 2007 the former president of Italy said 9-11 was carried out by US, UK and Israeli intelligence and certain business assets. If the UN can dig deeply enough into these kinds of allegations to prove truth, I am for that. Someone should be doing this. Terrorism is a very unclear concept when one considers comments like these. Evidence should be followed to logical ends. If the UN can help define who the terrorists are, it should.

## **Climate Change**

Climate change is the most far-reaching environmental challenge facing the international community, requiring diplomatic, economic, scientific and technological cooperation. The UN can provide the most effective platform for much of this cooperation. Under the framework of the United Nations, the international community has begun the process of drafting a successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, which expires in 2012. The goal of these negotiations is the establishment by the end of 2009 of a widely-accepted comprehensive international agreement for preventing catastrophic climate change. (For further information, visit [www.un.org/climatechange](http://www.un.org/climatechange).)

Do you support the development of a new international agreement for addressing climate change under the auspices of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change?

**YES**

**COMMENTS:** Yes, but realistically the US, which consumes 25% of world fossil fuels and produces much of the world's greenhouse gases must lead on climate change, at the UN, and otherwise with UN help.

## **Strengthening the United Nations**

There is broad support within the international community for renewing and enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations. Proposals for UN reform generally focus on the organization's three major structures: the Security Council, the General Assembly, and the Secretariat. The United States has promoted numerous reforms of the General Assembly and the Secretariat, but has been less eager to engage on Security Council reform. Many other nations place a priority on Security Council reform due to concern that the permanent membership of the Council has remained unchanged since the UN was created at the end of World War II. Some argue that the unrepresentative nature of the Security Council has damaged the legitimacy of its decisions and will need to be addressed before further UN reforms can be agreed upon. (For further information, visit [www.centerforunreform.org](http://www.centerforunreform.org).)

Do you support Security Council reform?

**SEE COMMENTS**

**COMMENTS:** If reforms engage the world more deeply in UN work, then such reforms should be sought.

## **UN Peacekeeping**

UN peacekeeping is perhaps the world's best example of cooperating for international security-an effective means of ensuring that no nation has to pay all the bills or take all the risks associated with maintaining international peace and stability. Over the last

several years, the UN Security Council has authorized an increasing number of new and expanded peacekeeping missions in places such as Darfur, Lebanon, Haiti, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Once the hybrid United Nation - African Union mission to Darfur is fully deployed, there will be more than 130,000 personnel serving in 18 different UN-led peace operations around the world. (For further information, visit [www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko](http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko).)

Despite its continued support for new and expanded missions, the U.S. has been negligent in paying its fair share for UN peacekeeping, resulting in more than \$1.2 billion in debt at the UN for peacekeeping operations alone. (For further information, visit <http://www.betterworldcampaign.org/issues/funding/growing-us-debt-to-the-un.html>.)

Do you support UN peacekeeping operations as 'force multipliers' that can complement U.S. efforts to stabilize conflict zones around the world? I hope one day all world conflicts will be resolved and managed by cooperative UN models.

**YES**

Do you support full U.S. funding for UN peacekeeping operations?

**YES**

### **International Criminal Court**

The International Criminal Court is the world's only permanent international court with jurisdiction to try individuals accused of genocide, crimes against humanity, and serious war crimes when national courts are unwilling or unable to act. More than 100 countries have joined the Court, which only has jurisdiction over crimes committed on the territory or by a citizen of a country that has joined the Court or granted it special consent, or that have been referred to it by the UN Security Council. The International Criminal Court is currently investigating cases in Darfur; the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Uganda; and the Central African Republic. (For further information, visit [www.icc-cpi.int](http://www.icc-cpi.int).)

Should the United States support and join the International Criminal Court?

**YES**

**COMMENTS:** Absolutely; and US Iraq and Afghanistan war criminals should stand trial there as well.

### **Global Poverty**

The scale and scope of global poverty render it a scourge that demands broad international cooperation: one third of the world's population - more than 2 billion people - live in abject poverty. At the urging of the United Nations and the international donor

community, world leaders agreed in 2000 to a specific, prioritized development agenda to strengthen international focus on and commitment to anti-poverty efforts. Reaffirmed by world leaders in 2005, the UN Millennium Development Goals (or MDGs) include eight concrete objectives for achievement by 2015: cutting extreme poverty in half; achieving universal primary education; empowering women; reducing child and maternal mortality; reversing the spread of AIDS and other deadly diseases; protecting the environment; and cooperating internationally on these aims. The MDGs have been endorsed by Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. (For further information, visit [www.un.org/millenniumgoals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals).)

Do you support U.S. efforts to help meet the Millennium Development Goals?

**YES**

**COMMENTS:** Yes, to meet and exceed them.

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