

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

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

Congressman Dave Loebsack (IA-02)

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

Yes. The United Nations has a critical role to play in global security, whether it is through peacekeeping missions, disaster response, global health initiatives, or political stability and economic development. The United States should partner with the UN and help to support effective, proven programs that promote stability, security, and prosperity.

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. While I believe that it is imperative to the strength and relevance of the United Nations that significant reform, particularly in regard to management and budgeting practices, is enacted, I do not believe withholding of dues is an effective method of forcing reform. U.S. contributions to the UN play a significant role in the UN's ability to combat global terrorism, promote economic growth and responsive governance in developing countries, and to put peacekeeping forces on the ground. I believe that we put ourselves in the best position to enact change and support critical and effective programs by acting as a full partner with the United Nations.

Do you support an increased role for the United Nations to help strengthen the U.S.-led effort to stabilize Iraq?

The United States and our brave men and women in uniform cannot continue to bear the burden alone, and I strongly believe that the international community should increase its presence in Iraq. Increased participation by the UN would not only support US efforts but encourage the involvement of Iraq's neighbors in Iraq's and the region's stability and support humanitarian missions such as refugee protection.

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

The United Nations has an important role to play in Iraq. The United States should support an expanded UN effort there. However, the Iraqis themselves, who are projected to enjoy a \$79 billion budget surplus by year's end, should increasingly take responsibility for their own reconstruction efforts.

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

Yes. I strongly believe that the global community must redouble its efforts against terrorism. The threat posed by terrorists affects us all and requires an international commitment and an

international response. The UN can and should play a central role in bringing the international community together in action to shut down terrorist financing and addressing the poverty, human rights violations, and political and economic instability that give rise to terrorists and support for terrorist organizations.

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. Global climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time and it will require a concerted, cooperative response and plan by the international community. As the largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world, the United States has a responsibility to not only lead by example in the fight against climate change but to also bring the international community together in action.

Do you support Security Council reform?

I believe that reforming the Security Council to improve its ability to respond effectively and rapidly to global crises is critical to the long-term relevancy and effectiveness of the United Nations generally and the Security Council specifically. Thus, any reform that is undertaken should be focused on improving the Security Council's ability to respond to situations such as the genocide in Darfur and nuclear nonproliferation.

Do you support UN peacekeeping operations as 'force multipliers' that can complement U.S. efforts to stabilize conflict zones around the world?

Yes. United Nations peacekeepers are currently stationed in conflict areas around the world and provide critical security and protection of civilians, women, and children. They are often able to prevent local conflicts from becoming regional and therefore serve US and global security by preventing conflicts from escalating to the point where they require US or other troops to be deployed. UN peacekeeping missions thereby protect American interests, lives, and finances.

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

Yes. Meeting our peacekeeping funding obligations is in our national self-interest as these missions provide a high return in national security for minimal investment.

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

Yes. The International Criminal Court has an important role to play in the prosecution of war criminals, the crack-down on international narcotics trafficking, and the prosecution of terrorists over whom the US does not have jurisdiction. United States support for the International Criminal Court would strengthen not only the institution itself but also US efforts in the fight against terrorism.

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

Yes. I strongly support the Millennium Development Goals. One billion people live on less than one dollar a day. We have a moral responsibility to honor our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals by working with our international partners to eradicate extreme poverty; fight AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; improve education and opportunity for all, including women and children; and to help nations invest in their own people and health care systems to achieve sustainable improvements and security. Poverty at home and abroad is a scourge that I believe the United States must be a leader in addressing.