

Barney Frank



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America
AND THE BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR THE UNITED NATIONS



**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.)*

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

YES

NO

COMMENTS:

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

NO

COMMENTS:

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 of a widely-accepted comprehensive international agreement for preventing catastrophic climate change by the end of 2009. (For further information, visit 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

NO

COMMENTS:

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.)

Do you support Security Council reform?

YES

NO

COMMENTS:

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 Nations – 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.)*

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?

YES

NO

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

YES

NO

COMMENTS:

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.)*

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

YES

NO

COMMENTS:

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 HIV/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.)*

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

YES

NO

COMMENTS:

Iraq Comments

I am not interested in the UN playing a role in helping us maintain our presence there. My highest priority regarding Iraq is for the United States to be able to extricate itself. To the extent that we can receive international cooperation by doing that, I support it, but I do not support a greater reliance on the UN enhancing our position there, even in ways that comply with democratic norms. That is, I am not interested in having the UN help us with the constitution, elections etc. I am interested in our withdrawing. If the UN is a useful vehicle for some sort of replacement stabilizing force – in my mind it should be one predominantly manned by the Sunni Arab neighbors of Iraq – then that would be fine. But to repeat, my primary goal here is not to have the UN help us with our current policy, but for us to get out.