



# **The 62<sup>nd</sup> United Nations General Assembly**

## **A Look Forward at the U.S. – United Nations Relationship**



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## About Us

### **Our Mission**

The Better World Campaign (BWC) works to build a stronger relationship between the United States and the United Nations through outreach, communications, and advocacy. We encourage U.S. leadership to strengthen the UN's ability to carry out its invaluable operations around the world. And we engage policy makers, the media, and the American public to increase awareness of and support for the United Nations.

### **History and Highlights**

BWC is a project of the Better World Fund, created with support from entrepreneur and philanthropist Ted Turner as part of his historic \$1 billion gift in support of UN causes.

Launched in 1999, BWC has helped build support for:

- ✓ Re-payment of \$926 million in U.S. debt to the UN, under the Helms-Biden agreement. The last of three payments was made by the U.S. in September 2002.
- ✓ U.S. re-entry into the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in October 2003.
- ✓ Full funding of U.S. assessments for UN peacekeeping operations to ensure that they have the resources needed to foster stability in volatile regions of the world.
- ✓ Constructive U.S. engagement in United Nations reform in 2005 and 2006, which led to the creation of the Democracy Fund, Peacebuilding Commission, Ethics Office, Human Rights Council, and other improvements in UN management.

### **2007 Agenda**

As the United States and the world seek to resolve problems in places like Lebanon, Kosovo, Iraq, and Darfur, the Better World Campaign calls attention to the role and value of the United Nations in finding shared solutions to global threats to peace and security. In Washington, BWC continues to urge the Administration and Congress to provide full and on-time contributions to UN peacekeeping and the regular budget, and to support the development work of UN agencies. BWC is increasingly concerned with growing arrears to our contributions to treaty-based international organizations, including the UN, and is seeking to raise awareness of and support for addressing these shortfalls. This year, BWC has helped advocate for: \$283 million in supplemental FY 2007 funding for peacekeeping operations; increased appropriations for shortfalls in our current-year contributions to UN peacekeeping; and legislative language to remove a congressionally mandated 25% cap on payments for UN peacekeeping operations.

BWC also continues its efforts to educate the public on the role the UN plays in addressing key global challenges so that no country has to pay all the bills or take all the

risks in promoting global peace and progress. Specifically, we are raising public awareness and encouraging Congressional support for UN operations, many of which are directly aligned with core U.S. values and priorities — like keeping the peace in war-torn regions; preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; supporting elections and democratic political processes globally; providing humanitarian assistance for children, refugees, and other victims of conflict and poverty; and eradicating and containing life-threatening diseases.

# Key U.S. – UN Issues

## The UN's Growing Role in Iraq

In August 2007 and with the support of the United States, the UN Security Council's 15 Members unanimously voted to significantly expand the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI). Security Council Resolution (1770/2007) expanded the Iraq mission in three key ways:

- **National Reconciliation:** It called on the UN to help Iraqis review the Constitution, mediate internal border disputes, strengthen the rule of law and human rights, and conduct a census.
- **Regional and International Support:** It called on the UN to facilitate dialogue among Iraq's neighbors, particularly on border security, energy, and refugees matters, in addition to continuing to garner international assistance.
- **Humanitarian Assistance:** It asked the UN to play an increased role in returning refugees and displaced people to their homes and coordinating humanitarian aid delivery in Iraq.

U.S. Ambassador to the UN Zalmay Khalilzad welcomed the resolution as an indication that the international community was developing a shared vision for the future of Iraq. And he has repeatedly noted the unique ways the UN can help mediate the complex political landscape in and around Iraq.

The resolution raises the allowable ceiling for UN international staff in Iraq from 65 to 95 (compared with a current international staff of 50) and the UN has asked for \$130 million to build a heavily reinforced compound in Baghdad to house staff for this expanded mission. Serious concerns remain, however, about the security situation in Iraq and whether or not the UN will be seen as independent of coalition forces.

## Engaging Iraq's Neighbors

Ambassador Khalilzad has noted that the UN is uniquely suited to work out a regional framework to help stabilize Iraq and has asked the UN to broker talks in Baghdad between the U.S. and Iraq's neighbors. Toward this end, Secretary-General Ban will hold a meeting of foreign ministers from the region during the UN's General Assembly in September 2007.

## Garnering International Aid – International Compact for Iraq

The UN launched the International Compact for Iraq in July 2006 at the request of President Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. The Compact's aim is to strengthen peace in Iraq by committing Baghdad to a series of political, social, security, and economic reforms over the next five years while the UN works to garner international aid for the country. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Ibrahim Gambari as his Special Advisor on the Compact, who previously served as the head of the UN's Department of Political Affairs. Ban and Gambari have worked to widen

support for the initiative and have thus far elicited commitments of over \$30 billion from world leaders.

### **Assisting Refugees**

Refugees are pouring out of Iraq by the tens of thousands each month and threatening to destabilize Iraq's neighbors. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is leading the response to this, the fastest growing refugee crisis in the world.

Since the beginning of 2007, UNHCR has registered more than 180,000 Iraqis in neighboring countries and made recommendations to help resettle some 20,000 of the most vulnerable refugees. It convened a conference on the issue in April 2007, which included Iraq, its neighbors, and donor countries, to alert the international community to the humanitarian dimensions of the displacement crisis and to forge an international partnership to alleviate suffering, provide protection, and share the burden with those countries and communities that have so far borne the brunt of the crisis.

UNHCR is also assessing the needs of refugees so that further humanitarian interventions can be made to provide support to host countries by rehabilitating and constructing schools, clinics, and community centers, and providing counseling and care for the most vulnerable refugees.

### **Providing Humanitarian Relief**

There are 16 UN agencies and funds responding to the humanitarian crisis in Iraq. Examples include:

- The World Food Program is providing food assistance to 1.1 million malnourished children and their family members, 350,000 pregnant and new mothers, and 6,400 tuberculosis patients.
- UNFPA has provided medical supplies and equipment in Iraq and at neighboring refugee camps to help ensure that mothers give birth in a safe environment.
- UNICEF has distributed basic school materials for 4.7 million children.
- The World Health Organization has delivered measles, mumps, and rubella vaccinations.

## Key U.S. – UN Issues

### **Deploying a Peacekeeping Mission to Darfur**

On July 31, 2007, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1769 authorizing a joint UN-AU Peacekeeping Mission (UNAMID) to protect civilians, prevent armed attacks, and ensure the security of aid workers in Darfur. Sudan's acceptance of this hybrid mission was the result of months of intense diplomatic activity by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the international community.

With an authorized troop force of 26,000, UNAMID will be one of the largest UN peacekeeping missions ever conducted. It will add to the 10,000 UN peacekeepers already monitoring the North-South Peace Agreement in Southern Sudan (UNMIS); some 200 UN military staff and police advisors currently on the ground in Darfur; and a heavy support package consisting of 2,250 military, 721 police, and 1,136 civilians, which is expected to be deployed this fall, pending the construction of camps for UN personnel and other logistical support.

#### **Timeline for Deployment**

The Security Council provides specific benchmarks for deployment, stating that the UN should be ready to assume command and operational control of the AU forces no later than October 2007. Troop deployments will begin thereafter and the UN shall take full authority no later than December 31, 2007 when the AU mandate expires.

#### **Logistics**

The joint AU–UN force will have a single chain of command under the UN and will require extensive coordination among the UN, the AU, and the UN mission in Southern Sudan (UNMIS). It faces daunting logistical challenges because of Darfur's climate, terrain, and remoteness. The cooperation of the Sudanese government on logistics is essential as there is very little water in the region, few roads, and the nearest port through which supplies can come is 1,400 miles away. The UN expects to fly water to its troops.

#### **Recruiting Troops**

The Security Council Resolution provides that peacekeepers for the Darfur mission must first be drawn from African countries. As of August 2007, UNAMID was on track toward assembling a predominantly African force, having received troop offers from Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Rwanda. The UN has also received troop commitments from Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, and Thailand; several thousand more troops will be needed for the mission to reach its full force level.

## **Adequate Funding Critical to Darfur Mission**

Jane Holl Lute, Acting Head of the UN's new Department of Field Support, estimates that the Darfur mission deployment will cost more than \$2.5 billion a year plus start-up costs, meaning that the U.S. assessment for Darfur alone will be about \$884 million for fiscal year 2008. The Administration's FY 2008 budget request, however, allocated only \$160 million for UN peacekeeping in Darfur – leaving an estimated funding gap of \$724 million. Congress and the Administration will need to address this shortfall as they work to finalize FY 2008 appropriations bills.

## **Seeking a Broader Political Solution for Darfur**

As it moves forward with deploying the joint peacekeeping mission to Darfur, the UN has also intensified efforts to reach a broader political solution in Darfur. The current Darfur Peace Agreement was signed by only one rebel group, leaving more than a dozen outside the process and disaffected. The Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Darfur, Jan Eliasson, and Salim Ahmed Salim of the African Union, along with the help of U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan, are negotiating for a broader peace agreement. They aim to unite all ongoing peace initiatives; conduct shuttle diplomacy between Khartoum and the non-signatory rebel groups; and negotiate a new agreement.

## **The UN in Sudan and the Darfur Region**

The peacekeeping mission in Darfur will add to the UN peacekeeping mission in southern Sudan (UNMIS) and extensive UN humanitarian assistance in and around Darfur, including the coordination of 13 UN agencies, 80 non-governmental organizations, and over 14,000 humanitarian workers who are responding to threats to the survival of more than 2.5 million displaced persons in Darfur and Chad.

# Key U.S. – UN Issues

## Addressing Global Climate Change

*“We will need to do far better in fighting climate change...This is an all-encompassing threat – to health, to food and to water supplies, to the coastal cities in which nearly half the world's population lives.” – UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, January 16, 2007*

### Climate Change Science

The world's scientists have spoken – human activities have changed the Earth's atmosphere and the climate is warming. The global-average surface temperature is now about 0.8 degrees Celsius above its level in 1750, with most of the increase having occurred in the 20th century and the most rapid rise since 1970.

The largest of all of the human and natural influences on climate over the past 250 years has been the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration resulting from deforestation and fossil-fuel burning. The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in recent decades, which have been responsible for the largest part of this buildup, have mostly been produced from burning fossil fuels (70-75 percent), largely in the industrialized countries, and from deforestation and other landcover changes (20-25 percent), largely from developing countries in the tropics.

### The United Nations' Role

The United Nations is addressing global climate change by raising awareness of global climate change; promoting research and forging scientific consensus to address it; mobilizing a global policy response; and helping countries to adapt to impacts.

### Raising Awareness

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has made climate change a top priority at the UN. During his July 2007 meeting with President Bush, Ban raised it as one of the top issues requiring a joint commitment by the UN and the U.S. government. And on September 24, 2007, Ban is convening a Special Session on climate change with the world's leaders to chart a stronger course for addressing this problem.

### Promoting Research and Forging Scientific Consensus

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in 1988 to assess scientific, technical, and socio-economic data on climate change, its potential impact, and options for adaptation and mitigation. Drawing on a consortium of hundreds of officials and experts from relevant ministries, agencies and research institutions from member countries and from participating organizations, including the United States, the IPCC is considered the world's most authoritative scientific effort to understand and address changes in the Earth's climate. Some recent

key findings of the IPCC are listed below and more can be found at [www.ipcc.ch/index.html](http://www.ipcc.ch/index.html).

### **Fostering Diplomacy to Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change.**

The United Nations system established a treaty to address climate change at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, with adoption of the “UN Framework Convention on Climate Change” (UNFCCC), which was signed and ratified by the United States. This agreement established responsibilities for all nations to work to avoid “dangerous human interference” in the climate system. Developed nations, responsible for most of the emissions of greenhouse gases over the past 200 years, were to take a lead on addressing climate change, though all nations were charged with helping with the problem.

In 1997, an amendment to the Framework Convention was adopted. The “Kyoto Protocol” established more powerful, and legally binding, measures. It called on developed countries to commit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by seven percent from 1990 levels by 2012. 168 countries are party to the Kyoto protocol – a sufficient number for it to enter into force – but the United States has declined to participate.

### **Recent Developments**

Negotiations are now underway to establish a new global policy framework, or protocol, to succeed the Kyoto Protocol after 2012. The UN will host the next round of negotiations in December of this year in Bali, Indonesia. The UN negotiations are expected to continue until at least 2008 and aim to engage the United States and more developing countries – especially rapidly industrializing countries like China and India.

Also this year, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a series of assessment reports in 2007. These reports determined that:

- Warming of the earth’s climate system is unequivocal.
- Most of the increase in global temperatures since the mid-20th century is *very likely* due to mankind’s increased generation of greenhouse gases.
- Mountain glaciers and snow cover have declined in both hemispheres. Widespread decreases in glaciers and ice caps have contributed to a sea level rise.
- There is high confidence that the earth is experiencing an enlargement and increased numbers of glacial lakes and increasing ground instability in permafrost regions and rock avalanches in mountainous regions.
- There is high confidence that the earth is experiencing increased run-off and earlier spring peak discharge in many glacier- and snow-fed rivers and the warming of lakes and rivers in many regions, with effects on water quality.
- There is very high confidence that recent warming is strongly affecting biological systems, including bird migration and egg-laying and movements towards the north and south poles among plant and animal species.
- Unless climate change mitigation policies and related practices are changed, global greenhouse gas emissions will continue to grow over the next few decades.
- All parts of the world that were studied could experience substantial near-term health benefits from reduced greenhouse gas emissions; these savings could substantially offset the costs of greenhouse gas mitigation efforts.

## Key U.S. – UN Issues

### Growing U.S. Debt to the UN

The U.S. government is by far the largest debtor to the United Nations and is falling further behind in dues payments to the UN and its affiliated agencies. As detailed in the chart below, the U.S. began 2007 with \$863 million in structural arrears at the United Nations – \$200 million more than last year. This is debt that the U.S. has no plans to pay off.

### Growing U.S. Arrears to the UN

(as of September 2007)

UN Budget Category	Pre-Existing/ Structural Debt	2007 Assessment	FY 2008 Budget Request	Prospective New Debt Level*
<b>Regular Budget</b>	\$291 million	\$493 million	\$496 million	\$288 million
<b>Peacekeeping Operations</b>	\$633 million*	\$2,266 million*	\$1,107 million	\$1,792 million**
<b>Capital Master Plan</b>	\$3 million	\$85 million	\$85 million	\$3 million
<b>Total</b>	\$827 million	\$2,844 million*	\$1,688 million	\$2,083 million*

\* BWC Estimate

\*\*BWC estimate without pending House and Senate FY 2008 appropriations increases of \$195 and \$245 million respectively.

### Debt in UN Peacekeeping

The first and largest source of permanent U.S. arrearages to the United Nations is U.S. government under-funding of UN peacekeeping missions. This is debt that is being absorbed by allies that are providing troops for U.S.-endorsed peacekeeping missions—countries like India, Kenya, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. It is growing even as the U.S. actively presses for more, renewed, and expanded UN peacekeeping missions. The U.S. recently voted along with the UN Security Council to authorize a large new UN-AU peacekeeping force for Darfur, for example. **The anticipated share of U.S. contributions for this mission is expected to be \$884 million; only \$160 million was provided for the Darfur mission in the President’s original budget request.**

Congress has taken some actions to address shortfalls to UN peacekeeping over this past year. In FY 2008 appropriations, the House voted to appropriate \$1,302 million for CIPA, representing a \$195 million increase from the President’s request. The Senate approved \$1,352 million, or a \$245 million increase. **Even if \$245 million is added to the President’s budget request, however, the U.S. will still be \$914 million short of anticipated 2008 assessments for UN peacekeeping missions.**

U.S. dues for UN peacekeeping are obligations undertaken by signing the UN Charter and by voting for peacekeeping missions in the Security Council. The current situation, where the U.S. calls and votes for the UN to undertake more and bigger peacekeeping missions while not paying its bills is not sustainable and not consistent with U.S. treaty obligations.

### **Debt in UN Regular Budget**

U.S. debt in the regular UN budget has also increased recently; the U.S. now has \$291 million in permanent arrears and has yet to pay its \$493 million assessment from January of 2007. The permanent arrears in the regular budget stem mainly from past underfunding to the State Department's Contributions to International Organizations (CIO) account. This account covers U.S. treaty obligations at the UN and 43 other international treaty organizations, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), NATO, and the World Health Organization (WHO). The U.S. is behind in its payments to virtually all major CIO organizations. To begin addressing this, Congress added \$50 million to the CIO account in the FY 2007 Supplemental and the Senate recommended increasing funding to the CIO account by \$20 million in the FY 2008 foreign operations appropriations bill and called on the Administration to request funding to pay back accumulated arrears to international organizations.

## Key U.S. – UN Issues

### **Ambassador Khalilzad & U.S. Representation at the UN**

The United States' Mission to the United Nations is the New York City-based branch of the State Department dedicated to conducting U.S. diplomacy at the UN. The Mission was created in 1947 by the UN Participation Act to help the President and the Secretary of State conduct U.S. foreign policy at the UN and to keep the U.S. Department of State updated on events there. At any given time, approximately 50 U.S. Foreign Service Officers and five U.S. Ambassadors are dedicated to the Mission.

#### **Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad**

The top U.S. Ambassador to the UN is called the U.S. "Permanent Representative." Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad was confirmed by the Senate on March 29, 2007. Ambassador Khalilzad puts tremendous value on the U.S.-UN relationship, having worked with and witnessed the work of the UN first-hand through his service as U.S. Ambassador to Iraq and Afghanistan. During his nomination hearing, he called the UN the "most successful collaborative body for peace in the world's history." He noted that his experience in Afghanistan showed him how the UN can make a profoundly positive impact in the world if given the right mandate.

#### **Key Positions**

Ambassador Khalilzad has focused his work at the UN thus far on garnering support for several U.S. priorities, including:

- **An expanded UN role in Iraq.** Ambassador Khalilzad strongly supported the UN Security Council's move in August to expand the mandate of the UN's Mission in Iraq. He believes the UN has unmatched convening power and legitimacy to contribute to national reconciliation and a regional framework to stabilize Iraq.
- **Paying U.S. dues to the UN in full.** At his nomination hearing, Ambassador Khalilzad said he believes it is "not only our obligation, but our duty" to pay U.S. dues to the UN in full and on time. He has actively supported lifting an atavistic Congressional cap that currently keeps the U.S. from paying its full share for U.S.-approved peacekeeping missions.
- **Using the UN as an effective burden-sharing mechanism.** Ambassador Khalilzad has said that the UN is effective, provides legitimacy, and shares the burden of solving global problems. He believes the UN promotes U.S. values like peace, development, and human rights and thinks the U.S. ought to work to enable the UN to advance these objectives.
- **Supporting justice for Lebanon.** Ambassador Khalilzad began his tenure as U.S. Ambassador to the UN in May 2007, just as the U.S. took on the Security Council Presidency. As Council President, Khalilzad focused on passing a Security Council

resolution to create an international tribunal to try suspects in the assassination of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

- **Settling Kosovo's status.** Ambassador Khalilzad traveled to Kosovo with a Security Council delegation at the end of April 2007. He supports the UN's final status plan for Kosovo and is encouraging the Security Council to act on this issue.

#### **Other U.S. Mission Representatives**

- **Alejandro D. Wolff** (*confirmed by the Senate on November 18, 2005*). Deputy Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations and U.S. Deputy Representative in the UN Security Council.
- **Jackie Wolcott Sanders** (*confirmed by the Senate on February 16, 2006*). U.S. Representative to the UN for Special Political Affairs. Ambassador Sanders's primary duties involve representing the U.S. on issues in the UN Security Council.
- **Richard Terrell Miller** (*confirmed by the Senate on March 16, 2006*). U.S. Representative to the UN Economic and Social Council.
- **Mark Wallace** (*confirmed by the Senate on March 17, 2006*). U.S. Representative to the UN for Management and Reform.

Other Permanent Representatives to the UN during the Administration of President George W. Bush include:

- **John Negroponte** (2001-2004) – A career diplomat, Ambassador Negroponte has served as Ambassador to the Philippines and Iraq, and the Director of National Intelligence. He currently serves as Deputy Secretary of State.
- **John Danforth** (2004-2005) – Ambassador Danforth, former Senator and former U.S. envoy to Sudan where he helped broker the North-South peace agreement, spent several months at the UN.
- **John R. Bolton** (2005-2006) – Ambassador Bolton held various government positions over the years, including Assistant Attorney General under President Ronald Reagan, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs under President George H.W. Bush, and Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security under President George W. Bush.

## Key U.S. – UN Issues

### Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Priorities

Since taking office in January, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has pursued policies to tackle some of the world's toughest problems, including climate change, Darfur, and Iraq. He has also moved to streamline UN operations.

**Creating a Global Framework for Tackling Climate Change.** Ban has made addressing global climate change a priority at the United Nations, warning that failure to act will have grave consequences for all of humanity. He is convening a climate change summit on September 24, 2007 in advance of the UN's annual General Assembly, and appointed three special envoys to prepare proposals for it – Gro Harlem Brundtland, a former prime minister of Norway; Ricardo Lagos, a former president of Chile; and Han Seung-soo, a former foreign minister of South Korea and president of the UN General Assembly in 2001.

**Pressing Sudan for a Peacekeeping Force in Darfur.** As Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon has led an international effort to put pressure on Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir to accept the deployment of a 26,000-strong UN-AU peacekeeping mission to stop atrocities in Darfur. As a result, Bashir endorsed the hybrid operation in June 2007 and the Security Council authorized deployment of the mission in July 2007. Secretary-General Ban visited Sudan in September to help speed deployment of these peacekeepers. His Special Envoy to Darfur, Jan Eliasson, has also been working with all parties involved in the conflict to create a lasting framework for peace.

**Helping Stabilize Iraq.** Secretary-General Ban has said Iraq is "the problem of the whole world," and has worked to elicit commitments of over \$30 billion in international financial aid for the country through the UN's International Compact for Iraq. He endorsed an effort to enhance the UN's role in promoting Iraq's national reconciliation, regional dialogue, humanitarian assistance, and human rights in August 2007, when the Security Council voted to expand the UN's mission in Iraq. The Secretary-General will also host a meeting of foreign ministers from the region during the UN's General Assembly in September 2007.

**Strengthening the UN System.** Ban has said that his "reform agenda, in a nutshell, is to change the culture of the United Nations." He has made transparency, accountability, efficiency, and staff mobility priorities at the UN – enacting strict annual performance reviews, setting term limits for new hires, opening high-level jobs at headquarters to United Nations' field workers, making his own financial disclosure forms public, and pushing for all other top UN officials to do the same. Ban is also moving forward with Secretary-General Annan's work to promote greater coherence in the UN's field work, to reduce overlapping projects and ensure the effective use of development resources.

**Addressing Growing Demands on UN peacekeeping.** Soon after taking office, Secretary-General Ban put forward a proposal to divide UN peacekeeping into two departments to help the UN cope with its mounting peacekeeping responsibilities. Under the new structure, the *Department of Peacekeeping Operations* continues to plan, direct, and manage field operations under the direction Jean-Marie Guehenno. A new department called the *Department of Field Support*, currently led by American Jane Holl Lute, provides services for personnel, finance, procurement, logistics, communication, information technology, and other administrative and general management matters.

**Making Progress on the Millennium Development Goals.** Achieving progress on the Millennium Development Goals is also a priority for Mr. Ban. Born in Korea in 1944, he saw, first-hand, the UN's intervention on behalf of South Korea during the Korean War and the subsequent growth of the war-torn economy into the 11th largest in the world. He has stated publicly on several occasions that this experience shaped his views on the power of the United Nations and his approach to development.

**Strengthening the U.S.-UN Relationship.** Secretary-General Ban believes the U.S.-UN relationship to be central to creating a peaceful, healthy, and more prosperous world. Ban visited Washington, DC immediately after coming into office and has met President Bush, Secretary Rice, and Congressional leaders on numerous occasions to discuss priorities like Darfur, climate change, Iraq and the greater Middle East, and reform. Secretary-General Ban has also urged both the President and Members of Congress to lift the congressionally-mandated 25 percent cap on U.S. contributions to UN peacekeeping so as to prevent constraints on carrying out peacekeeping operations.

### **Diplomatic Career**

Mr. Ban, fluent in Korean, English, and French, has had a distinguished 30-year diplomatic career. Most recently, he served as the Foreign Minister for the Republic of Korea. He served as the Chairman of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization in 1999. He was the *chef-de-cabinet* to the President of the UN General Assembly immediately following the attacks on September 11, 2001, and oversaw the quick adoption of a resolution condemning the attacks. And he played a leading role during the six-nation talks intended to end to North Korea's nuclear program.

Mr. Ban met President John F. Kennedy as a high school student after winning a Red Cross English language competition. He has said that it was after this meeting that he decided to become a diplomat. Ban received his bachelor's degree from Seoul University and a master's degree in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Mr. Ban served two tours in the Republic of Korea's embassy in Washington, D.C.

### **High-Level Appointments**

- Former Tanzanian Foreign Minister **Asha-Rose Migiro** as his Deputy Secretary-General;
- A highly experienced U.S. diplomat, **B. Lynn Pascoe**, as Under-Secretary-General of the UN for Political Affairs;
- **Alicia Bárcena Ibarra** of Mexico as the Under-Secretary-General for Management;
- Senior British diplomat **Sir John Holmes** as the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Emergency Relief Coordinator;

- Veteran Japanese diplomat **Kiyotaka Akasaka** of Japan, as the chief of the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI);
- An award-winning Haitian journalist **Michele Montas**, as his spokeswoman; and
- **Vijay Nambiar** to be his Chef de Cabinet.



## Key U.S. – UN Issues

### **Helping Maintain Peace in Lebanon**

The United Nations has been integrally involved in efforts to keep the peace in Lebanon, to strengthen the Lebanese government, remove Syrian interference from the country, and bring to justice those guilty of the Hariri assassination.

### **Promoting a Full Investigation into the Hariri Assassination**

Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and 22 others were killed in a terrorist bombing in Beirut in 2005. It was widely assumed that the Syrian government was involved in these assassinations.

Accordingly, and with the support of the United States, the UN launched an investigation into Hariri's death and 14 other potentially related bombings. This investigation was begun by Detlev Mehlis and is currently being led by Serge Brammertz, a former International Criminal Court prosecutor. In July 2007, Brammertz updated the Security Council on the investigation, reporting progress in identifying persons suspected of involvement in the attack, though more work needs to be done before indictments can be made. Mr. Brammertz's tour of duty will end in December 2007, at which point, the investigation's findings will be taken up by a newly established tribunal on the assassinations.

This special tribunal was established in May 2007, when the Security Council passed a binding (Chapter VII) resolution mandating that it try suspects in the Hariri assassination. The resolution was introduced by the United States, although it was requested by Lebanese Prime Minister Siniora along with 70 other Lebanese parliamentarians who had been unable to get domestic agreement on the establishment of a Lebanese tribunal. The Netherlands has offered to host this tribunal, which will be funded by UN voluntary, rather than assessed, funds with major donors sitting on its management committee. The tribunal will have four Lebanese and seven international judges, whose names are expected to be announced in October or November of 2007.

The Hariri investigation and tribunal have been a priority of the United Nations and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who has traveled to Lebanon and Syria to encourage Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to cooperate on both matters.

### **UN Peacekeepers in Lebanon**

The United Nations is also helping to secure Lebanon's sovereignty through the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which was significantly strengthened after hostilities broke out between Hezbollah and Israel in the summer of 2006. As part of a subsequent peace agreement, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1701, requiring Hezbollah to cease hostilities and Israel to stop all offensive operations and authorizing the expansion of the UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon

from a force size of 2,000 to 15,000. UNIFIL was charged with monitoring (not enforcing) the cease-fire, assisting the Lebanese government to regain control of southern Lebanon, ensuring humanitarian access to civilian populations, and securing the voluntary and safe return of displaced persons.

Despite the volatility in the region, the tenuous nature of any cease-fire there, and accusations of arms smuggling across the Syrian border, a general peace has held and the major regional players remain invested. As of August 2007, the UN had over 13,000 peacekeepers deployed in Lebanon, with an additional 500 civilian staff and UN ground troops and a naval contingent patrolling the coastline to protect against arms smuggling. UN forces had also allowed for the deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces down to the border between Lebanon and Israel for the first time in decades and UNIFIL had played a key role as negotiator between Israel and Lebanon, working towards the full withdrawal of Israeli troops. Additionally, UNIFIL had destroyed almost 25,000 landmines and other explosive devices and provided humanitarian assistance to the local population, including medical and dental care, in southern Lebanon.

# Key U.S. – UN Issues

## **Continuing Reform at the United Nations**

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has made strengthening the UN and streamlining the institution's operations one of his top priorities.

### **Peacekeeping**

Demand for UN peacekeeping is at an all time high and UN missions are increasingly complex. One of Ban's first moves as Secretary-General was reforming the UN's peacekeeping operations to increase its capacity to mount and sustain peacekeeping operations. A new Department of Field Support was created in June 2007 to consolidate support functions of UN field personnel, procurement and, financial management, as well as to strategize, plan, and deploy UN peacekeeping missions. The reform also created additional senior posts to increase oversight capacity in this burgeoning section of UN operations.

### **Delivering as One**

The UN is proceeding with its "One UN" effort to maximize field coordination by appointing a single team leader to coordinate *all* UN agencies within a given country. This reform has the potential to save money and improve the delivery of UN assistance on the ground. Pilot programs are underway in eight countries – Vietnam, Mozambique, Rwanda, Cape Verde, Pakistan, Tanzania, Albania and Uruguay. The General Assembly met in April 2007 to discuss the effort, and Member States gave it a ringing endorsement. This reform effort will continue during the upcoming 62<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly.

### **Streamlining and Modernizing Human Resources**

Secretary-General Ban has acted to promote a mobile, multi-functional staff in the United Nations. He has enacted strict annual performance reviews, set term limits for new hires, opened high-level jobs at headquarters to UN workers in the field, and pushed for all top officials to make their financial disclosure forms public after having been the first Secretary-General to do so himself. Moreover, in April 2007, the General Assembly adopted the first serious overhaul of the UN's internal justice system in 60 years. The new system will be independent and have informal and formal channels to protect the rights of staff members and managers subject to disciplinary action at the UN, while ensuring accountability at the organization. Further proposals to revamp the UN's human resources policies will be considered during the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly.

### **Improving Oversight**

In June 2007, the General Assembly approved the terms of reference for a new Independent Audit Advisory Committee – one of the principle recommendations of the Volcker report on the Oil for Food allegations. The Committee will be composed of independent experts who will provide advice on oversight and audit components of the

UN and will become operational during the fall of 2007. The General Assembly will also act on proposals to increase the independence of the Office of Internal Oversight Services during the upcoming 62<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly.

### **Disarmament**

Recognizing a need to revitalize disarmament efforts, Secretary-General Ban called for and helped to create a new Office of Disarmament Affairs. The new office will be in the UN's Secretariat and led by a representative at the rank of under-secretary-general. Moving this issue into the Secretariat will ensure access to and more frequent interaction with the Secretary-General, giving disarmament higher level attention.

### **Procurement**

The UN has continued investigating and reforming its procurement processes. The UN is currently investigating 140 cases and reviewing contracts worth about \$1 billion. In June 2007, the General Assembly created a new position – Chief of the Procurement Service in the Office of Central Support Services – to help provide procurement oversight. The General Assembly also provided increased resources to strengthen the procurement system in July 2006, including enhancing internal controls and creating training for vendors in developing countries. More reform of the UN's procurement system will be taken up during the upcoming 62<sup>nd</sup> UN General Assembly.

### **Sexual Abuse and Exploitation**

The UN has made headway in reigning in sexual abuse and exploitation (SEA) among UN peacekeepers. It has established a zero tolerance policy toward sex abuse and prostitution, launched a global audit by the UN's principal investigative arm (OIOS), and taken action in virtually every UN peacekeeping mission to address SEA. The UN's methods for addressing SEA among its peacekeepers are now advanced enough that NATO is consulting with the UN on how to address its own SEA matters. The State Department also recently reported a huge decline in SEA allegations between January and December 2006.

### **Oversight of UN Funds and Programs**

In response to allegations that UN Development Program funds were being converted into hard currency to the benefit of the North Korean government, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for an inquiry into all activities done around the globe by UN funds and programs. On June 1, 2007, the report of a UN audit of UNDP, UNICEF, and UN Population Fund programs in North Korea was released. While press reports had earlier alleged that tens of millions of dollars were being converted to hard currency to benefit the North Korean government, the audit report found that UNDP operated a modest program in North Korea – only about \$2 or \$3 million per year. In August 2007, UNDP announced it will set up an independent inquiry into the allegations to consider issues not within the scope of the UN's audit, including allegations of retaliation against whistleblowers.

# Key U.S. – UN Issues

## **Working Toward a Final Status for Kosovo**

Eight years after atrocities in Kosovo sent a million people fleeing and NATO-led troops in to establish and maintain security, the UN-led effort to determine the final status for Kosovo has come to a head. At this point, a majority of the Security Council is supportive of the UN's plan for Kosovo, but Russia has threatened to veto any plan not approved of by both Serbs and ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. In an attempt to reach consensus, the European Union, Russia, and the United States are leading a round of negotiations between both groups that will conclude December 10, 2007.

### **UN-Led Negotiations on the Final Status of Kosovo**

In February 2007, the UN's Special Envoy for the future status of Kosovo, Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, officially presented a proposal to Pristina and Belgrade recommending that Kosovo head toward independent status. The report suggested that Kosovo should have the right to govern itself and conclude international agreements, but retain an international civilian and military presence to help ensure peace and stability and strong protections for the Serbian minority. It calls for a constitution enshrining principles to protect cultural, language, religious and education rights, and wide-ranging decentralization, focusing in particular on the needs of the Serb community.

Russia has urged delays on any UN decision on Kosovo and threatened to veto any resolution that includes independence. Russia is motivated by an interest to protect Serbian national sovereignty. Serbian officials have said that any form of independence for Kosovo would be unacceptable for Belgrade. On the other hand, the U.S. and other supporters of Kosovo independence have been unified in support of Ahtisaari's plan and putting great pressure on Russia to back the plan, or at least not veto it.

Working towards a definitive and peaceful permanent status for Kosovo is one of Secretary-General Ban's top priorities. The U.S. Administration firmly supports Ahtisaari's proposal.

### **UN Peacekeepers in Kosovo**

Kosovo has been administered by the UN's Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1244 in June 1999, which established an international civil presence led by a Special Representative of the Secretary-General and an international security presence, KFOR, the NATO-led mission that includes 16,300 troops from 35 nations. No other mission had ever been designed with other multilateral organizations made full partners under UN leadership. The UN has directly led police, justice, and civil administration, while the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has led democratization and institution building, and the EU has led reconstruction and economic development. The head of UNMIK is the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo, Mr. Joachim

Rücker of Germany. As the most senior international civilian official in Kosovo, he presides over the work of all multilateral organizations working in Kosovo and facilitates the political process designed to determine Kosovo's future status.

In recent months, UNMIK's approximately 4,100 staff have focused on implementing "standards" – eight internationally endorsed targets for Kosovo – for building democratic institutions, enforcing minority rights, creating a functioning economy, and setting up an impartial legal system.

### **Moving Toward a Final Status Proposal**

In 2005, the UN undertook a comprehensive review of the situation in Kosovo, finding that the conditions were in place to determine Kosovo's future status. The Security Council supported this move and the Secretary-General's appointment of former Finnish President, Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, to lead the process. In addition, members of the six nation "Contact Group" that sets policy for Kosovo (the U.S., Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia) set out a number of guiding principles for the settlement, which include ensuring Kosovo's multi-ethnicity and the protection of the cultural and religious heritage of Kosovo; strengthening regional security and stability; and ensuring Kosovo's cooperation with international organizations and financial institutions.

Throughout 2006, Mr. Ahtisaari and his office led intense shuttle diplomacy effort to craft the final status proposal. They held 15 rounds of direct talks between Pristina and Belgrade. These talks focused on decentralization, the protection of cultural and religious heritage in Kosovo, economic issues, and the protection of community rights. In July 2006, Mr. Ahtisaari presided over direct talks between the Serbian and Kosovo leadership, giving each party the opportunity to present its view of the future of Kosovo to the other and representatives of the international community. In addition to direct talks, the UN has led 26 expert missions to Belgrade and Pristina to talk separately to the parties on various issues.

# Responding to Global Needs

## **Managing Use of the World's Oceans**

This fall, the United States Senate may move to ratify the United Nations' Law of the Sea Treaty – officially known as the “United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.” Ratification would provide a boon to U.S. economic, naval, maritime, and national interests, enhance the United States' ability to mitigate against environmental damage to the oceans, and give it a seat at the table to block or amend rules and procedures on the high seas that it doesn't like.

### **History**

The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is a set of rules governing the use of the world's oceans. It defines maritime zones and boundaries and creates legally secured navigation and resource usage rights and standards for protecting the marine environment, sustaining fishing stocks, and preventing pollution from land and air sources.

As of July 1, 2007, 155 nations had joined the Law of the Sea Treaty. The United States was nearly alone among industrialized nations in its failure to do so. Ratification is supported by the Bush Administration, the United States Navy, and a vast array of maritime economic and environmental interests.

### **U.S. Being Left Behind**

An international race for oil, fish, diamonds and shipping routes has begun and is being accelerated by global warming as the arctic ice cap recedes. At stake are a possible 460,000 square miles of Arctic seabed that could hold as much as 25% of the world's undiscovered oil and gas, valuable commodities like gold and diamonds, fishing stocks, and lucrative freight routes.

Other nations are moving to take advantage of this situation. In August 2007, Russia planted its national flag on the seabed beneath the North Pole, calling international attention to a dubious claim to ownership of the North Pole and the Lomonosov Ridge – with substantial potential oil, gas, and mineral deposits. The Canadians are staking claims in the arctic as well. In August 2007, Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper set off on a three-day tour of the region and announced plans to build two new military bases to reinforce Canada's territorial claims, and the Canadians are spending \$7 billion on new arctic patrol vessels.

Other nations, including the U.S., could enjoy rights in the Arctic, but only nations who are party to the Law of the Sea Treaty can make such claims – or challenge the claims of others. Thus, while nations struggle for control of the arctic, the United States is sitting on the sidelines.

## **Promoting National Security**

Among other things, the Law of the Sea Treaty recognizes and supports the rights of transit and innocent passage on the world's oceans. This allows U.S. maritime forces unimpeded mobility and enables the U.S. Navy to respond to threats anytime and anywhere. Ratification would further provide a framework under which the Coast Guard would be able to interdict illicit drug traffickers and illegal immigrants far beyond U.S. waters, and would enhance the Coast Guard's ability to carry out its mission, refute excessive maritime claims, and help interpret and apply the Treaty on a day-to-day basis.

# Responding to Global Needs

## Keeping Peace Around the World

The United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations has more than 100,000 troops and personnel deployed to 18 peace missions around the world, all for an annual total budget of about \$6 billion. These forces deploy to prevent the outbreak of conflict, contain the spill-over of conflict across borders, assist in implementing peace agreements, stabilize conflict areas after a ceasefire, and help nations transition to stable governments. UN peacekeepers directly impact the lives of more than 200 million people and indirectly affect over a billion people.

**UN Peacekeeping Shares the Burden.** A 2006 General Accountability Office study concluded that *UN peacekeeping is eight times less expensive than funding a comparable U.S. force*. This is in part because other countries pick up the three fourths of all costs for UN peacekeeping operations. Thus, when testifying before the House Appropriations Committee in March 2005, Secretary of State Rice said, “[UN Peacekeeping] is much more cost effective than using American forces. And of course, America doesn't have the forces to do all of these peacekeeping missions, but somebody has to do them.”

**UN Peacekeeping is “Very Effective.”** The White House’s Office of Management and Budget recently gave UN peacekeeping its highest rating for effectiveness, saying UN peacekeeping was achieving its stated goals and linked to the U.S. objectives.

**UN Peacekeeping is Successful.** A 2005 RAND report suggested that the UN is better suited for peacekeeping missions than unilateral U.S. action. The study compared 16 U.S. and UN nation-building missions and found that of the “eight UN-led cases, seven are at peace. Of the eight U.S.-led cases, four are at peace; four are not — or not yet — at peace.”

**The U.S. Votes for UN Peacekeeping Missions -- It Should Pay for Them.** As a veto-wielding member of the UN Security Council, the U.S. has voted to authorize all 18 peacekeeping operations being undertaken by the UN. The U.S. has recently pressed and voted in New York for the expansion of Sudan’s peacekeeping mission into Darfur; reauthorization of the UN’s peacekeeping missions in Haiti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Lebanon; a renewed peacekeeping mission in East Timor; and new missions in Chad, Somalia, and Nepal. Yet the U.S. is increasingly falling behind in paying for UN peacekeeping. When the U.S. fails to pay its bills for these missions, the UN is unable to pay troop-contributors who are putting their citizens’ lives on the line.

**UN Peacekeeping Helps Maintain Global Stability.** In 2005, *The Human Security Report*, a major international study on peace and war, judged that, contrary to popular belief, the global security climate improved dramatically between 1988 and 2001, with genocides and politicides plummeting by 80 percent. The study attributed that decline to an increase in conflict prevention, peacemaking, and post-conflict activities, especially the number and complexity of UN peacekeeping missions.

## **Funding for UN Peacekeeping: U.S. at Risk of Owing More than \$1 Billion**

As a principal driver of UN peacekeeping and at a time when the U.S. is looking to the UN to take on an increased number of complex peacekeeping missions, the United States has a high stake and special responsibility in seeing that these missions have the resources they need to succeed. Yet, with the recently-approved UN-AU mission to Darfur, the President's 2008 budget request falls \$1,159 million short of anticipated assessments for UN peacekeeping, and this amount does not include funds for a possible UN peacekeeping mission in Somalia. When added to a pre-existing \$751 million in permanent arrears, the U.S. is in danger of incurring nearly \$2 billion in debt for UN peacekeeping. This will need to be addressed as Congress finalizes its 2008 war supplemental and the Administration drafts its 2009 budget.

### **Hybrid UN-AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID)**

*Created:* July 31, 2007

*Authorized Mission Strength:* up to 19,555 military personnel, including 360 military observers and liaison officers; up to 3,772 international police; and 19 special police units with up to 2,660 officers.

*Estimate of FY 2008 Assessments:* \$3.4 billion

*U.S. Share:* \$884 Million

*FY 2008 Funding Shortfall:* \$724 million

On July 31, 2007, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1769 authorizing a joint UN-AU mission to Darfur (UNAMID). With a maximum size of 19,555 troops, UNAMID will be one of the largest UN peacekeeping missions in history. Sudan's acceptance of this hybrid mission was the result of months of intense diplomatic activity by Secretary-General Ban and the international community. The UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations will be working to assume command of UNAMID throughout the fall to take full charge of the mission by the end of 2007.

### **Southern Sudan (UNMIS)**

*Created:* March 2005

*Current Strength:* troops 8,824; military observers 591; police 693; international civilian 973; local civilian 2,487; UN volunteer 143

*Fatalities:* 23

*Estimate of Current Needs (FY 2008):* \$231 million

*FY 2008 Funding Shortfall:* None

In January 2005, the central government in Khartoum and rebel groups in Sudan's southern region signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which ended a brutal 20-year civil war that claimed an estimated 2 million lives. Per the agreement, the government in Khartoum permitted the deployment of 10,000 blue helmets for a United Nations Mission in Sudan, (UNMIS). Today, peacekeepers in Southern Sudan provide a blanket of security as provisions of the peace agreement are implemented, including a referendum on southern independence set for 2011.

**Haiti (MINUSTAH)**

*Created:* June 2004

*Current Strength:* troops 7,056; police 1,760; international civilian 462; local civilian 876; UN volunteer 157

*Fatalities:* 29

*Estimate of Current Needs (FY 2008):* \$146 million

*FY 2008 Funding Shortfall:* \$51 million.

The United Nations first deployed peacekeepers to Haiti in an American-led mission in 1994. Today, there are some there are some 8,000 uniformed personnel in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, MINUSTAH, including over 7,000 (mostly Brazilian) troops. Since their deployment in 2003, Haiti has demonstrated steady political progress, including holding presidential and municipal elections. In February 2007, UN peacekeepers began going block-by-block to support the Haitian police in an attempt to rescue impoverished neighborhoods from the grip of mobsters and extortionists. The effort continues to this day. Yet even as UN forces fought violent uprisings in Haiti, the Bush Administration's budget assumed a one-third reduction in the UN mission (MINUSTAH) from its current size.

**Lebanon (UNIFIL)**

*Created:* March 1978

*Strength:* troops 13,286; international civilian 241; local civilian 379

*Fatalities:* 266

*Estimate of Current Needs (FY 2008):* \$196 million

*FY 2008 Funding Shortfall:* \$27 million

After 34 calamitous days last summer, parties to the conflict in Southern Lebanon agreed to a ceasefire negotiated through the Security Council. Within 17 days, new UN peacekeepers were on the ground in Lebanon, making it one of the speediest deployments in history. There are currently over 13,000 uniformed personnel deployed to UNIFIL, including a large contingent of French and Italian forces. These peacekeepers are supporting the Lebanese armed forces as they deploy throughout the south of Lebanon in areas once held by Hezbollah; UN troops also helped ensure humanitarian access to civilians and the voluntary and safe return of displaced persons. Yet even as the Lebanon mission's costs rose ten-fold, the Administration's 2008 budget request assumed a reduction in costs.

**Liberia (UNMIL)**

*Created:* September 2003

*Strength:* troops 13,939; military observers 212; police 1,176; international civilian 524; local civilian 931; UN volunteer 257

*Fatalities:* 95

*Estimate of Current Needs (FY 2008):* \$188 million

*FY 2008 Funding Shortfall:* \$77 million.

In the summer of 2003, the United States diverted a ship carrying 1,500 Marines to the Persian Gulf and stationed it just off the shore of Liberia's capital, Monrovia. President Bush called for Charles Taylor to exit Liberia and face war crimes charges brought against him by the United Nations Special Court for Sierra Leone. Taylor fled to Nigeria, and Nigerian troops led a UN peacekeeping mission to help oversee the peaceful transition of power in Liberia. Today, there are 15,000 UN troops and police in Liberia,

providing security as the country rebuilds after nearly a decade of war. In 2005, Liberians took to the polls to elect Ellen Johnson Sirleaf – Africa’s first female head of state. Charles Taylor, meanwhile, awaits trial in The Hague.

### **Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC)**

*Created:* November 1999

*Strength:* troops 16,619; military observers 729; police 1,036; international civilian 930; local civilian 2,042; UN volunteer 606

*Fatalities:* 109

*Estimate of Current Needs (FY 2008):* \$303 million

*FY 2008 Funding shortfall:* \$134 million

The largest single deployment of UN peacekeepers to date is to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As of June 2007, there were 18,384 total uniformed personnel. They face the grueling task of keeping the peace after a civil war that claimed more lives than any conflict since World War II. In 2006, peacekeepers oversaw a logistical accomplishment of historic proportions. The United Nations registered some 25 million people throughout the country to vote in the country's first multi-party election in 40 years. Ballots were transported by truck, plane, helicopter, and even canoe. Over 80 percent of the population voted and, after a runoff, elected Joseph Kabila president. MONUC costs for the UN are over \$1 billion per year and will remain high in the DRC as a fragile democracy takes root. Yet the Bush Administration’s budget assumes a nearly 50% cut in the mission from last year. No expert familiar with the DRC believes this is possible, including the American leading MONUC, Ambassador William Swing. In fact, the U.S. voted to sustain the MONUC mission size for at least an additional six months in May 2007.

### **East Timor (UNMIT)**

*Created:* August 2006

*Current Strength:* troops 0; military observers 33; police 1,628; international civilian 274; local civilian 938; UN volunteer 301

*Fatalities:* 2

*Estimate of Current Needs (FY 2008):* \$42 million

*FY 2008 Funding Shortfall:* \$29 million

On September 27, 2002, the General Assembly made East Timor the UN's 191st member state. For the previous three years, the United Nations had conducted an ambitious nation-building effort in that tiny country. However, after years of occupation by Indonesia, East Timor was plagued by instability. In April 2006, a demonstration in Dilli turned into a riot and violence quickly spread throughout the country. In response, the Security Council authorized the deployment of 1,600 peacekeepers, mostly police, who remain in East Timor to this day.

**Kosovo (UNMIK)**

*Created:* June 1999

*Strength:* military observers 38; police 2,001; international civilian 484; local civilian 2,008; UN volunteer 145

*Fatalities:* 47

*Estimate of current needs (FY 2008):* \$33 million

*FY 2008 Funding shortfall:* \$13 million.

In 1999, after a 100-day, US-led NATO campaign to evict Serbian armed forces from Kosovo, the Security Council created the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). While NATO provides the bulk of the security for the province, there are 2,000 international police deployed to UNMIK as well. These police are playing an indispensable role in the province as Kosovo inches toward political independence and the situation on the ground grows more tenuous. But the President's budget request cuts the U.S. contribution to UNMIK to a fourth of last year's level and about half of what experts anticipate will be needed.



# Responding to Global Needs

## Meeting Global Security Challenges

The United Nations serves as a key international platform for countering global security challenges like terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and disarmament. The UN brings nations together to share resources and information and to create frameworks for addressing breaches of international agreements.

### Taking Action Against Rogue States

The UN Security Council has addressed threats to international security in its unified condemnation of Iran and North Korea's nuclear programs in 2006 and 2007.

#### Iran

On March 24, 2007, the UN Security Council unanimously agreed to widen the scope of its sanctions against Iran by banning the country's arms exports, freezing the assets, and restricting travel of 28 government and military individuals engaged in the country's proliferation activities, and placing sanctions on the state-owned bank, Sepah. The resolution makes clear that if Iran suspends its uranium enrichment program, sanctions will be lifted and a previous offer of economic incentives will be made available. It follows a December 2006 sanctions resolution, which banned the import and export of materials and technology that could be used to enrich or process uranium or construct ballistic missiles and froze the assets of 22 Iranian officials and institutions. Iran is now one of only 11 countries out of 192 UN member states under sanction.

#### North Korea

In July 2006, North Korea conducted a series of missile tests. In response, the UN Security Council voted unanimously demanding that North Korea suspend all ballistic missile launches and prevent the import or export of funds or goods that could fuel Pyongyang's missile or weapons of mass destruction programs. Following North Korea's nuclear test in October 2006, the Security Council imposed economic and commercial sanctions.

North Korea subsequently agreed to return to six-party diplomatic talks and to shut down its Yongbyon nuclear facility. The regime also invited a visit from the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed ElBaraedi, four years after ordering UN inspectors out of North Korea and withdrawing from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The Yongbyon nuclear reactor was shut down on July 18, 2007.

### Verifying World-Wide Nuclear Security and Usage: IAEA

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was established in 1957 to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and inhibit its use for military purposes. It is a core global actor in countering nuclear terrorism and provides member states with information and a technical reach that is beyond their individual capacities.

Since the 1990s, the IAEA has undertaken inspections and investigations of suspected violators of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The IAEA currently inspects nuclear facilities in over 140 nations. In 2003, IAEA verification efforts unmasked Libya's hidden nuclear weapons program. Libya has since renounced this program.

The IAEA also helps prevent nuclear terrorism through a three-point plan designed to prevent, detect, and respond to any illicit or non-peaceful use of nuclear material.

- **Prevention.** The IAEA helps member states secure radioactive sources that might otherwise be used by terrorists. In partnership with the U.S. and Russia, the agency has been invaluable in helping former Soviet states secure vulnerable material. The IAEA also helps states develop national strategies for regaining control over radioactive materials. As a result, over 100 radioactive sources have been identified and secured.
- **Detection.** This second line of defense involves assisting states and regions detect and interdict illegal trafficking of nuclear materials through border controls, training customs officials, providing technical assistance for the physical protection of materials, and conducting IAEA inspections.
- **Response.** The IAEA trains states and regions to respond to illegal trafficking of nuclear materials, incidents of theft and sabotage, and radiological emergencies.

### **Countering Terrorism through International Law**

As part of the effort to spread the rule of law across the globe, 13 counter-terrorism treaties have been adopted at the UN. They provide the basis for international cooperation to prevent terrorist financing and carry out joint law enforcement and intelligence efforts against terrorist attacks. They also establish the legal foundation for states to harmonize criminal justice standards and provide a legal framework for multilateral action against terrorism. UN Member States continue ratifying these conventions. Additionally, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime has assisted 112 countries synchronize their national legislation with these international conventions, providing states with the tools required to prevent, suppress, and prosecute terrorism.

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution in 2006 creating a Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy – the first time that all 192 UN Member States have agreed to a common strategic and operational approach to fight terrorism. The strategy includes practical steps to be taken at the local, national, and international levels to prevent and combat terrorism, build state capacity to fight terrorism, strengthen the UN's role in fighting terrorism, ensure coordination with regional organizations, and safeguard human rights and the rule of law in the fight against terrorism.

### **Security Council Mechanisms to Fight Terrorism**

#### **Counter-Terrorism Committee**

Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the Security Council created the Counter Terrorism Committee that coordinates a multinational initiative to diminish the financial and logistical capability of terrorist organizations. This committee has taken unprecedented action to crack down on international terrorism by requiring that every country:

- Freeze the financial assets of terrorists and their supporters;
- Deny travel and safe haven for terrorists;
- Prevent terrorist recruitment and weapons supply; and

- Cooperate with other countries by sharing information and prosecuting criminals.

The Counter Terrorism Committee has assessed the relevant legislation of all 192 UN member states, and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime is providing substantive expertise to help countries revise their laws and enhance their enforcement capacities.

#### **Non-Proliferation Committee**

In April 2004, the Security Council created this committee to monitor state-supported development, manufacture, possession, and transportation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons by individuals (non-state actors). It is composed of Security Council members and regularly reports to the Security Council.

#### **The Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee**

This Committee was created by the Security Council in 1999 to maintain a list of over 500 individual members of Al-Qaida, the Taliban, and associated individuals to monitor member state compliance with the international sanctions regime on these individuals. These sanctions have made it harder for terrorists to acquire weapons, move freely around the world, and finance their plots.

#### **Advancing Disarmament**

In March 2007 and at the request of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the General Assembly created a new Office of Disarmament Affairs in the UN's Secretariat to be led by a new under-secretary-general. In July, Ban appointed Sergio de Queiroz Duarte of Brazil to be the High Representative for Disarmament. Moving this issue into the purview of the Secretariat raises its profile within the UN and ensures access and more frequent interaction with the Secretary-General.

The Office will work for universal adherence to international disarmament and non-proliferation agreements and their full and effective implementation. It will also work to achieve more tailored dialogue, cooperation and assistance to Member States and sub-regions, to help nations build capacity to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and tackle the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.



# Responding to Global Needs

## Building Democracy

The United Nations works in myriad ways to build and support democracies around the world. The most visible of these initiatives include:

**Election Monitoring.** Almost half of the world's nations have requested and received the help of the UN in conducting elections. Universally trusted as an unbiased arbiter with decades of experience, the UN is able to provide logistical assistance and guidance prior to elections and increased oversight and transparency during national elections.

**Peacekeeping.** The UN fields the world's second largest standing army, currently deployed to 18 of the world's most hostile environments to help maintain fragile peace agreements. With the help of these forces, countries formerly ruled by tyrants are given an opportunity to develop into democracies.

**Peacebuilding Commission.** Intended to follow the work of UN peacekeepers, the Peacebuilding Commission provides a forum to consolidate peace processes and promote economic growth by focusing on country-specific political, security, development, and economic needs.

**Democracy Fund.** Created at the request of President Bush on July 4, 2005, the UN Democracy Fund was set-up to fund action-oriented projects that strengthen and build democracies around the globe. It has enjoyed widespread support among member states, 30 of whom have contributed and pledged over \$60.2 million to it. A first round of 125 grant recipients was announced in August 2006. Included were three projects in Iraq (one of which will create an independent nationwide news agency), a pilot program in Afghanistan to create tamperproof identity cards to be used for voter identification, and an initiative in Sudan intended to promote political participation by women.

The UN supplements these direct initiatives with other missions that strive to initiate long-term, deep-rooted change that will create foundations for new and stronger democracies. These missions include protecting human rights, strengthening civil institutions, providing civic training, building judicial institutions, fighting poverty and disease, increasing public awareness, and promoting public discussion.

## Recent Efforts

### Afghanistan

Between 2001 and 2005, the United Nations provided a platform for adopting provisional arrangements in Afghanistan following the war and laying the framework for a transition to a representative national government. In December 2005, these efforts culminated in the first meeting of a democratically elected parliament in Afghanistan in over 20 years. In addition, the UN-initiated International Compact for Afghanistan accumulated billions of dollars for relief and reconstruction while forging an international agreement to improve security, adherence to the rule of law, human rights, and development.

As a result of these efforts, four million Afghan refugees have returned, five million children are back at school, 60,000 combatants have rejoined society, and the economy has grown steadily.

### **Congo**

In July 2006, the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo had their first free election in over 46 years with the support of the UN's peacekeeping mission in the Congo and the United Nations Development Program, which helped register 26 million Congolese to vote at 9,000 registration sites. Voter registration kits were distributed to every village, using light aircraft, trucks, canoes, and hand delivery to overcome infrastructural difficulties in a country the size of Western Europe with only 300 miles of paved roads. The UNDP Electoral Assistance Program undertook a widespread civic education program, which included plays, music, classes, and films, to educate an electorate that is predominately illiterate and has never participated in an election. UNDP delivered over 30 million ballots and other technical equipment to over 50,000 polling stations.

### **Sierra Leone**

Sierra Leone has come a long way since a civil war fueled by conflict over diamonds ravaged the country during the 1990s. UN peacekeepers arrived in 1999, leading the effort to restore peace to the country and to demobilize combatants, including child soldiers. The peacekeeping mission concluded in 2005, but the UN recognized the need for continued support in the fragile country and therefore created the first UN Integrated Office to support peace-consolidation efforts. In 2007, this mission assisted with the country's first democratic elections since the UN peacekeeping mission left the country in 2005 by assisting in the registration of 90 percent of the electorate, recruiting and training 37,000 polling staff, drafting election rules, and installing technical advisers. The UN's new Peacebuilding Commission – created to prevent countries emerging from civil war from slipping back into conflict – also took Sierra Leone on as one of its first two focus countries in 2006, in recognition of the need to form a foundation in the country to allow multiparty democratic elections to take place. Now that elections have been held, the Peacebuilding Commission will work with Sierra Leone to create a strategic framework to map out a plan for continued movements toward lasting peace and stability.

# Responding to Global Needs

## **Strengthening Global Health**

The United Nations brings together a wealth of resources and experts on global health issues in various agencies, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization, UNICEF, and the UN Development Program. Below are several major health campaigns being led by the UN.

### **Fighting HIV/AIDS**

Today, 40 million people are living with HIV; 95 percent of whom live in the developing world. The practical work of the UN to combat the spread of HIV and AIDS is done primarily through the WHO and the Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

UNAIDS and WHO generate and disseminate up-to-date and reliable data and analysis on global, regional, and country trends in the epidemic to support advocacy and inform policy and strategy formulation at all levels. The UN also coordinates national and regional programs to aid the distribution of medicine and supplies and supports national responses to the AIDS epidemic in over 100 countries.

In 2003, WHO and UNAIDS created the 3x5 initiative seeking to expand global access to anti-retroviral therapy. Originally devised to provide anti-retrovirals to three million people in low and middle income countries, by 2006 the program had increased the number of people in Sub-Saharan Africa receiving treatment ten-fold.

Further, UNAIDS has raised the profile of combating AIDS in new communities, notably by creating the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, the pre-eminent organization leading the business community in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

### **Stopping the Spread of Malaria**

Malaria infects more than 500 million people a year and kills more than a million. One person dies from the disease about every 30 seconds, 90 percent of whom are African children.

Malaria has been brought under control and even eliminated in many parts of Asia, Europe, and the Americas. Under the Roll Back Malaria initiative, a global partnership founded in 1998 by UNICEF, WHO, the United Nations Development Program, and the World Bank, the UN system is working towards the goal of halving the world's malaria burden by 2010.

In December 2006, a new UN-backed global strategy — the Malaria Vaccine Technology Roadmap — was launched with the goal of developing a vaccine to fight the deadliest form of malaria within 20 years.

## **Global Response to Avian Influenza**

The avian influenza crisis began in Asia in 2003 and has since spread to parts of Europe and Africa. Given the nature of the avian flu threat, international partnerships have been vital to slowing the spread and preparing for a possible human influenza pandemic.

The UN's response to avian flu is managed and coordinated by UN System Influenza Coordination under the leadership of Dr. David Nabarro, Senior UN System Coordinator for Avian and Human Influenza. While 16 different UN agencies are coordinating the response, the two UN agencies on the front line are the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

FAO provides strategic planning, technical expertise, training, equipment, and supplies. The FAO's international staff and 90 country offices have helped countries stay ahead of the disease, while further promoting regional cooperation. In large part because of the FAO's effort, Vietnam had no recorded human cases of avian flu infection in 2006. Vietnam was previously one of the hardest hit nations.

To respond to human cases of avian flu, the WHO is coordinating the global response and monitoring the threat of a pandemic. The organization has developed a global influenza preparedness plan and it offers guidance, tools, and training to assist in national pandemic preparedness plans. Under the guidance of the WHO, most countries have now established avian influenza task forces and developed integrated avian and human influenza prevention and preparedness plans.

## **Working to Eradicate Polio**

Since 1988, the UN has led the effort to eradicate polio. The disease was officially eliminated in Egypt and Niger in 2006, reducing the number of nations with active polio cases to an all-time low of four. The success in Egypt and Niger was the result of an improved vaccine and the intense efforts by the Global Polio Eradication Partnership, a partnership among Rotary International, the United Nations Foundation, UNICEF, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and WHO. Since the Partnership's inception in 1988, the number of polio cases reported each year has declined from more than 350,000 to less than 2,000 – a drop of more than 99 percent.

## **Protecting Children from Measles**

Each year this disease, which has been eliminated in the Western Hemisphere, kills nearly 454,000 people globally, and of those 410,000 are children under the age of five. Measles is a leading vaccine-preventable killer of children in the world.

The Measles Initiative is a long-term commitment to control measles deaths. Leading this effort are the American Red Cross, the United Nations Foundation, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, and WHO. Measles deaths globally have been reduced by 48% largely as a result of this initiative.

## **Promoting Maternal Health**

About 500,000 women die during pregnancy or childbirth every year – 99% of whom live in developing countries. The UN is a unique platform for preventing such deaths, aiming to reduce the maternal mortality ratio by two-thirds by 2015 and increase the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel.

Through the work of its lead agencies tackling maternal health issues – WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA – the UN provides tools and indicators to measure access to maternal healthcare and reproductive and sexual health services, and works to reduce the number of deaths and illnesses associated with pregnancy and childbirth and increase access to prenatal care through advocacy, technical help and funding. Additionally, the UN has the ability to react quickly in a disaster where national authorities may be unable to provide quick relief to address maternal health issues.



# Responding to Global Needs

## Reaching the Millennium Development Goals

The United States and the international community asked the United Nations to establish priorities for global development and poverty eradication. The UN responded by putting together eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aimed at fighting the root causes of poverty, hunger, disease, and inequality. In the year 2000, all UN member countries made an unprecedented promise by committing to achieve these Goals by 2015.

### 2007: Midway to the Deadline

July 2007 marked the halfway point to the 2015 deadline for reaching the MDGs. Progress is being made in virtually all of the goals across all regions.

#### Notable successes thus far include:

- The proportion of people living in extreme poverty fell from nearly a third to less than one fifth between 1990 and 2004.
- Women's political participation in government around the world has been growing.
- More children are going to school in the developing world.
- Child mortality has declined globally.

Yet the July 2007 UN report found that overall success in meeting the MDGs is still far from assured, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is putting pressure on all political leaders to take urgent and concerted actions to ensure that these Goals are a priority for every country – both donors and developing nations.

### Meeting the Millennium Development Goals

Below is an assessment of where the world stands on meeting each of the eight Millennium Development Goals and some key actions by the UN and its agencies on each.

**Eradicating Extreme Poverty.** The world is on track to meet the target of halving the percent of the world's population living on less than one dollar a day. The UN has taken a leading role in fighting extreme poverty through agencies like UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, and UNDP. For example, the UN Public-Private Alliance (UNPPA) for Rural Development identifies, highlights, and promotes replication of successful business practices that are profitable and promote social and economic advancement of poor people in rural areas.

**Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases.** HIV prevalence has leveled off in the developing world, but deaths from AIDS continue to rise in sub-Saharan Africa. UNAIDS brings together the efforts and resources of ten UN agencies to focus on the global AIDS epidemic, and helps countries put HIV/AIDS at the center of national development and poverty reduction strategies. UNAIDS is building national capacity to effectively respond to the epidemic and to protect the rights of people living with AIDS,

with special consideration given to women and vulnerable populations. Though access to AIDS treatment has expanded, the need continues to grow. Under the Roll Back Malaria initiative, a global partnership founded in 1998 by UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Program, and the World Bank, the UN system is working towards the goal of halving the world's malaria burden by 2010.

**Reducing Child Mortality and Improving Maternal Health.** Child mortality rates are going down in all regions of the world. The UN is working to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health by putting in place strategies that will reduce by two-thirds the global mortality rate for children under five. In 2005, UNFPA launched a Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health to promote global and local action to reduce deaths of mothers, newborns, and children. It promotes universal coverage of essential services and advocates for increased resources for these efforts. UNICEF is launching the Low Birth Weight Prevention Initiative to provide nutritional supplements for pregnant women in 11 countries.

**Eradicating Hunger.** In the last decade, hunger has been reduced by at least 25 percent in 30 countries, 14 of which are in sub-Saharan Africa – the region hardest hit by hunger and malnutrition. The World Food Program (WFP) works to put hunger at the center of the international agenda, promoting policies, strategies, and operations that directly benefit the poor and hungry. WFP has reached over 96.7 million people in 82 countries, and plays a pivotal role in natural disasters. Also, in conjunction with UNICEF, WFP has launched the Global School Feeding Campaign in over 40 countries. This program transforms schools into an opportunity to receive food alongside basic education, creating an incentive for poor parents to send their children to school.

**Achieving Universal Primary Education.** Significant progress has been made in getting children to school in sub-Saharan Africa and other regions of the world. UNESCO has initiated a Global Campaign for Education to promote it as a basic human right and to put pressure on governments and the international community to fulfill their promises to provide free, compulsory basic education for all.

**Gender Equality.** The UN has identified four areas that are of critical concern: reducing poverty among women, ending violence against women, reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls, and achieving gender equality in democratic governance. The presence of women in the labor market and in political participation has grown, but progress has been slow. UNIFEM in particular works to increase women's political participation, a fundamental prerequisite for gender equality and genuine democracy.

**Environmental Sustainability.** The halfway report found that despite increased efforts to conserve the land and seas, biodiversity continues to decline through deforestation and the loss of old-growth forest ecosystems. The UN and the UN Environment Program (UNEP) have worked to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life in ways that will not compromise the global ecosystem.

# Working Around the World

## **Promoting Human Rights**

The United Nations works broadly to promote human rights around the globe, including through its Human Rights Council, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the General Assembly's Social, Humanitarian and Cultural (or "Third") Committee.

### **The Human Rights Council**

On March 15, 2006, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to create a new Human Rights Council to replace the Human Rights Commission. Composed of elected Member States, the Council meets throughout the year, elects its own president, passes resolutions and may occasionally order inquiries into allegations of human rights violations and dispatch missions of investigation.

To date, the new Council's work has been criticized for focusing too much on Israel and for a general unwillingness to address other regions' human rights problems. Western democratic countries constitute a minority block on the new Council and less developed democracies, including U.S. allies, have been reluctant to condemn serious abusers within their regions. NGO partners in Geneva also report that Embassies and Ambassadors of progressive states are overwhelmed and lack the capacity to engage as constructively as they might on the new Council, which holds more meetings than the old Commission.

The Council did take action to address human rights violations in Darfur when, in December 2006, it created a group of experts to monitor the human rights situation in Darfur and endorsed a hard-hitting report by a fact-finding mission there. It also adopted important operating procedures in June 2007, including the establishment of a Universal Period Review mechanism and the continued practice of appointing independent special rapporteurs – otherwise known as human rights experts or investigators – to monitor human rights situations around the world.

In May of 2007, UN Member States elected several new members to the Human Rights Council. For the second year in a row, the U.S. decided not to seek a seat on the Council.

### **A Call for a Permanent U.S. Ambassador to the Council**

Though not a member, the U.S. has potential to influence the new Human Rights Council. It worked constructively to persuade Council Members to take action against Darfur and, in the May 2007 elections, led a vigorous and successful campaign to keep Belarus off of the Council by persuading Bosnia-Herzegovina to run for a seat. This echoed similar, successful U.S. diplomatic efforts in 2006 to keep Iran and Venezuela off the new Council.

Democratic allies at the Council are dismayed that the U.S. has not sought membership to the body and have urged more active U.S. involvement. There is a nearly universal call in the NGO community for the U.S. to appoint a Permanent Ambassador to the Human Rights Council who could:

- Press U.S. allies to take a greater leadership role in positively influencing vote outcomes;
- Encourage democratically-minded countries to follow suit and dedicate more and higher level diplomatic resources to this key human rights body;
- Provide a more sustained, high-level effort in negotiating structural reforms on the new Council; and
- Help bridge the gap between Foreign Ministry policies and Ambassadors' actions on the Council.

### **The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

The UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights provides administrative help to six of the seven existing human rights treaties and the Human Rights Council. It is also increasingly engaged on the ground to monitor and report on human rights violations and strengthen the capacity of national human rights institutions. Its activities include preventing human rights violations, securing respect for human rights, promoting international cooperation to protect human rights, coordinating related activities throughout the United Nations, and strengthening and streamlining the United Nations system in the field of human rights.

Kristen Silverberg, Assistant-Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, has called for doubling the budget of OHCHR.

### **Third Committee**

The "Third" (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee of the UN General Assembly, composed of all 192 member states of the UN, took actions in this past year to condemn specific countries for human rights violations, including Belarus, Burma, Iran, and North Korea.

# Key UN Agencies

## United Nations Development Program

### What is UNDP?

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is the UN's global development network, focusing on the challenges of democratic governance, poverty reduction, crisis prevention and recovery, helping poor nations address the problems of global climate change, and HIV/AIDS by putting HIV/AIDS at the center of national development strategies. On the ground in 166 countries, UNDP coordinates national and international efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals aimed at poverty reduction. Recently UNDP helped Liberia prepare for national elections that put Africa's first woman president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, in office. It has helped Thailand build solar-power water pumping stations. And it has helped earthquake damaged regions of Pakistan with long-term development planning. UNDP also publishes an annual *Human Development Report*.

### UNDP Priorities

UNDP helps countries craft their own solutions to development challenges. As nations develop local capacity, they collaborate with UNDP for support and the support of its many partners. UNDP is actively working with leaders to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and has focused on helping countries build and share solutions.

**Democratic Governance.** UNDP helps countries strengthen their electoral and legislative systems, improve access to justice and public administration, and develop greater capacity to deliver basic government services to those most in need

**Poverty Reduction.** UNDP advocates for nationally-owned solutions to reduce poverty and promote human development. UNDP coordinates development projects and connects countries to good governance practices and resources; promotes the role of women in development; and brings governments, civil society and outside funders together to coordinate these efforts.

**Crisis Prevention and Recovery.** UNDP aims to serve as a global headquarters for crisis prevention and recovery. In 2001, the Executive Board of UNDP raised the profile of its work in crisis situations by creating the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) "to enhance UNDP's efforts for sustainable development, working with partners to reduce the incidence and impact of disasters and violent conflicts, and to establish the solid foundations for peace and recovery from crisis, thereby advancing the UN Millennium Development Goals on poverty reduction."

**Energy and Environment.** The poor are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and lack of access to clean, affordable energy services. UNDP helps countries strengthen their capacities to address these challenges at global, national and community levels, seeking out and sharing best practices, providing innovative policy

advice, and linking partners through pilot projects that help poor people build sustainable livelihoods.

**HIV/AIDS.** UNDP works to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and reduce its impact. As a co-sponsor of UNAIDS, it helps countries put HIV/AIDS at the center of national development and poverty reduction strategies, build national capacity to mobilize all levels of government and civil society for a coordinated and effective response to the epidemic, and protect the rights of people living with AIDS, women, and vulnerable populations.

## Key UN Agencies

### United Nations Children's Fund

The United Nations Children's Fund was created by the United Nations General Assembly in 1946 to provide emergency food and healthcare to children in countries that had been devastated by World War II. UNICEF later became a permanent part of the UN system in 1953 and is headquartered in New York City. It provides long term humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers living in developing countries. Recent UNICEF initiatives have included polio immunization for 5.5 million children in Angola, helping girls enroll and stay in school in 34 African countries, and reintegrating child soldiers in Sierra Leone into civil society.

**Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).** Former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman has been Executive Director of UNICEF since May 2005; she was preceded by another prominent American, Carol Bellamy. Veneman's priorities at UNICEF have included working towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – eight concrete goals designed to help end extreme poverty around the globe – and strengthening partnerships with governments, fellow UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and faith-based groups and communities.

#### UNICEF Priorities

UNICEF advocates for measures to give children the best start in life. Specifically, UNICEF focuses its work in several key areas:

**Child survival and development.** UNICEF works to prevent the more than 10 million deaths of children each year to preventable causes. These are caused by illnesses such as diarrhea, pneumonia, malaria, and HIV/AIDS. UNICEF also works to prevent deaths caused by malnutrition, poor hygiene, lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation. By packaging services and implementing maternal newborn and child survival interventions, UNICEF works to save millions of lives.

**HIV/AIDS and children.** HIV/AIDS is one of UNICEF's primary concerns because the epidemic is undermining many basic child health initiatives. UNICEF is mobilizing financial resources and helping persuade governments to put HIV/AIDS at the top of their agendas by treating the epidemic as a national emergency. UNICEF is working with governments, non-profit organizations, and religious groups, youth organizations and many other partners in 155 countries around the world to combat the epidemic.

**Basic education and gender equality.** Quality education remains a distant dream for 115 million children across the globe, the majority of them girls. UNICEF works in 157 countries, calling on development agencies, governments, families, religious groups, civil society, and donors to step up efforts on behalf of education for all children.

**Child protection.** UNICEF works to create a protective environment for children that fortifies them against abuse in the same way that good health and adequate nutrition

fortify them against disease. UNICEF does this by raising awareness and enhancing capacities at various levels of society and in the government.

**Policy and advocacy partnerships.** By analyzing economic, social and legal policies, UNICEF works to understand the forces that affect the well-being of children and women around the world. From its analyses, UNICEF determines best policy practices for children in multiple areas ranging from health to economic and social issues.

### **How is UNICEF funded?**

UNICEF is a voluntarily funded agency that relies on contributions from governments and private donors. In fiscal year 2006, UNICEF's total income was \$2.8 billion. Of that sum, 58 percent came from governments, while the rest came from NGOs and the private sector. The United States contributed \$261 million and was by far the largest governmental donor in FY 2006. The European Union was a distant second, contributing \$77 million.

# Key UN Agencies

## World Health Organization

### What is the World Health Organization?

WHO is the specialized health agency of the United Nations that operates around the world to combat world health crises. WHO is responsible for global vaccination campaigns, responding to public health emergencies, defending against pandemic influenza, and leading eradication campaigns against life-threatening diseases like polio and malaria. Last year, WHO helped to eliminate avian flu in Vietnam, remove two countries from the list of polio-endemic nations, and provide humanitarian assistance in Lebanon and Darfur.

### WHO Priorities

WHO responds to global health challenges using a six-point agenda.

**Development.** Poverty contributes to poor health and shackles populations in poverty. WHO aims to prioritize health concerns among poor, disadvantaged, and vulnerable groups. Attainment of the health-related Millennium Development Goals, preventing and treating chronic diseases, and addressing neglected tropical diseases are the cornerstones of WHO's health and development agenda.

**Health Security.** One of the greatest threats to health security comes from outbreaks of emerging and epidemic prone diseases, like Avian Flu. The WHO mobilizes global resources for collective action against the shared vulnerability of epidemic diseases.

**Health Systems.** WHO works to strengthen health systems to reach poor and underserved populations, multi-purposing as poverty reduction strategies. Areas addressed include the provision of adequate staff, financing, systems for collection of vital statistics, and access to technology and drugs.

**Research.** WHO helps to create authoritative health information and statistics to set norms and standards, articulate evidence-based policy, and monitor global health situations.

**Partnerships.** WHO mobilizes a network of partners toward improved health around the globe, including UN agencies, national governments, and other international organizations.

**Performance.** WHO plans its budget and activities through results based management, with clear expected results to measure performance at country, regional, and international levels.

## **WHO Funding**

WHO is funded by assessed and voluntary contributions from its member nations. WHO also collaborates with NGOs, the pharmaceutical industry, and private charities. Voluntary contributions from national and local governments, foundations, NGOs, and the private sector now exceed assessed contributes from the WHO's 192 member states. In fiscal year 2007, the Bush Administration sought just over \$101 million in assessed funding for the World Health Organization, which partners with the President's Malaria Initiative through the WHO's Roll Back Malaria initiative.

## Key UN Agencies

### **International Atomic Energy Agency**

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was established in 1957 to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and inhibit its use for military purposes. It was set up as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organization within the United Nations family. In the 1990's, the IAEA began to undertake inspections and investigations of suspected violators of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It currently inspects nuclear facilities in over 140 nations. Today, the IAEA is the world's center of cooperation in the nuclear field.

The IAEA reports annually to the UN General Assembly and, when appropriate, to the Security Council regarding non-compliance by States with their treaty obligations and threats to international peace and security. The Agency works with UN Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote safe, secure, and peaceful nuclear technologies.

### **IAEA Priorities**

The IAEA focuses its work in several key areas:

- Assisting its Member States with planning for and using nuclear science and technology for various peaceful purposes, including the generation of electricity, and facilitating the transfer of such technology and knowledge in a sustainable manner to developing Member States;
- Developing nuclear safety standards and promoting the achievement and maintenance of high levels of safety in applications of nuclear energy, as well as the protection of human health and the environment;
- Verifying that States comply with their commitments under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other agreements to use nuclear material and facilities only for peaceful purposes;
- Countering nuclear terrorism and providing member states with information and a technical reach that is beyond their individual capacities to prevent, detect, and respond to any illicit or non-peaceful use of nuclear material; and
- Taking action against rogue states. In 2003, for example, IAEA verification efforts unmasked Libya's hidden nuclear weapons program. Libya has since renounced this program. Also, the IAEA and UN have collaborated to monitor and take action against the nuclear programs of Iran and North Korea. In July 2007, the IAEA verified the shutdown of the Yongbyon nuclear facility in North Korea.

### **How is the IAEA funded?**

The IAEA is funded through the Contributions to International Organizations account, which funds U.S. assessed contributions to 44 treaty-based organizations, including the IAEA and United Nations. The Administration and Congress have often under-funded this account in recent years, leaving the United States with a deficit and late in paying U.S. dues to virtually every treaty organization in this account. In 2006, the U.S. paid all of its regular dues to the IAEA almost a full year late, even as we relied on the organization to track nuclear developments in Iran and North Korea.

# Working Around the World

## United Nations Population Fund

### What is the UN Population Fund?

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), established in 1969, is the world's largest source of population and reproductive health programs and the principal unit within the United Nations for global population issues. In 2005, the organization provided services in some 126 developing and transition countries, with funds totaling \$565 million, drawn exclusively from voluntary contributions made by 171 nations and some foundations.

### UNFPA Priorities

UNFPA activities are focused in seven program areas to support improved reproductive health:

- **Preventing HIV/AIDS.** Promoting safer sexual behavior among young people, ensuring that condoms are available and widely and correctly used, empowering women to protect themselves and their children, and encouraging men to take responsibility for preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS;
- **Making motherhood safer.** Expanding the availability of emergency obstetric care for women who develop complications, having skilled workers available, and meeting unmet needs for contraceptive services;
- **Supporting young people.** Providing accurate information, counseling, and services to prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases;
- **Promoting gender equality.** Promoting legal and policy reforms, supporting gender-sensitive data collection, and backing programs that empower women economically;
- **Assisting in emergencies.** Providing supplies and services to protect reproductive health during disasters;
- **Securing reproductive health supplies.** Coordinating the delivery of supplies, forecasting needs, and building logistical capacity at the country level; and
- **Preventing and treating fistula.** Providing access to medical care, increasing education and family planning services, postponing pregnancy for young girls, improving girls' nutrition, and repairing the physical and emotional damage from physically traumatic childbirth.

## **How is UNFPA funded?**

UNFPA gets most of its income from voluntary contributions. While UNFPA receives voluntary contributions from many countries (171 in 2005), over during the past nine years more than 70 percent of UNFPA's regular donations came from six donor countries – the Netherlands, Japan, Norway, Denmark, the U.K., and the U.S. The Netherlands and Japan have consistently been the largest contributors. The United States has not contributed to UNFPA for the last 15 out of 23 years; in years when the United States has contributed to UNFPA programs, the United States has provided about 8 percent of UNFPA's regular budget, making it the 5th or 6th largest donor.

## **The Debate in the U.S. Congress**

In 15 of the past 23 years the United States has not contributed to UNFPA as a result of executive branch determinations that UNFPA's program in China violated the "Kemp-Kasten" amendment, which bars U.S. aid to organizations that support or participate in the management of programs of forced abortion or involuntary sterilization. Because UNFPA has a program in China, where coercive practices occur, the Administration has held that the agency condones such activities. UNFPA rejects coercion, denies any support for coercive activities and argues that it's presence in China advances human rights by promoting voluntary family planning and strict standards related to informed consent in all aspects of family planning. UNFPA's position has been upheld by numerous independent investigations, including one undertaken by the State Department early in President Bush's term. For the past five years, the Bush Administration has transferred UNFPA appropriations to other foreign aid activities.

# About the UN

## Structure

**General Assembly.** The General Assembly is the main deliberative body of the UN. As opposed to the Security Council, which is exclusive and grants unique veto rights to five nations, all 192 UN member nations have membership and equal voting rights in the General Assembly. The General Assembly approves the admission of new UN members and elects members to other UN organs. Over the years, it has become the primary platform for dialogue between developed and developing states.

**Security Council.** The Security Council is charged with maintaining international peace and security. The Council has the authority to investigate situations that threaten international peace, make recommendations for a peaceful resolution, impose economic sanctions, and enforce its decisions militarily. Fifteen member states serve on the Council at a time. The five permanent members with veto power are the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China. The ten temporary members are elected by the General Assembly and serve in two-year rotations.

**Secretariat.** Including the Secretary-General and his deputy and assistants, the Secretariat is charged with managing the UN, overseeing various departments, and administering the various UN organs, as well as providing reports and information on the UN and its work in carrying out tasks as directed by member states.

**Economic and Social Council.** This Council is charged with promoting international social and economic cooperation and development. Its 54 members are elected by the General Assembly and serve in three-year rotations.

**Specialized Agencies and Programs and Funds.** The United Nations' system includes more than 30 affiliated organizations with their own membership, leadership, and budget processes. These groups, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank, the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), work with and through the United Nations to help promote worldwide peace and prosperity.



# About the UN

## **The Security Council**

The UN's Security Council is the UN's pre-eminent international security agency designed to “investigate any dispute or any situation which might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute.” It is currently comprised of five permanent and ten rotating member nations; the United States is one of the Council's permanent five (or P-5) members.

Last fall, elections were held to fill five of the ten temporary seats on the UN Security Council. New members were chosen by regional groups and confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the UN General Assembly for two-year terms. Belgium, Indonesia, Italy, Panama, and South Africa were elected. The other rotating Council members – Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Peru, Qatar, and Slovakia – are completing the second year of their terms in 2007.

## **History and Relevance**

On October 24, 1945, the victors of World War II – China, the U.S.S.R., France, the United Kingdom, and the United States – ratified the UN Charter, creating the Security Council and establishing themselves as its five permanent members with the unique ability to veto resolutions. Originally there were six temporary members, rotating every two years and distributed on an equitable geographic basis. That rule was more explicitly defined in 1965, when the number of temporary members was increased to ten (five from Africa and Asia, one from Eastern Europe, two from Latin America and the Caribbean, and two from Western Europe). The first temporary members were Australia, Brazil, Egypt, Mexico, the Netherlands, and Poland.

The Security Council acts by:

- Investigating any situation threatening international peace;
- Recommending procedures for peaceful resolution of a dispute;
- Calling upon other member nations to completely or partially interrupt economic relations as well as sea, air, postal, and radio communications, or to sever diplomatic relations; and
- Enforcing its decisions militarily, if necessary.

On January 17, 1946, the Security Council met for the first time in London. The first UN peacekeeping mission was deployed in 1948 to the Middle East; there have been 60 more. Over the last 60 years, the Security Council has taken action to defuse innumerable international crises, the most recent of which include those in North Korea, Iran, and Lebanon.

## **Security Council Reform**

There have been frequent calls to reform the membership of the UN Security Council, most of which recommend accepting the so-called G-4 – Japan, Germany, India, and Brazil – as permanent members. Japan and Germany are the second and third largest contributors to the UN budget respectively. India is a nuclear power, the world's largest democracy, and the second most populous nation. Brazil is the largest, most populous, and most prosperous nation in Latin America. The United Kingdom, France, and Russia are said to support permanent G-4 membership on the Security Council. The Bush Administration has said that it supports Japan's bid.

# About the UN

## The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the main deliberative body of the UN. As opposed to the Security Council, which is exclusive and grants unique veto rights to five nations, all 192 UN member nations have membership and equal voting rights in the General Assembly.

The General Assembly approves the admission of new UN members and elects members to other UN organs. Over the years, it has become the primary platform for the dialogue between developed and developing states. Among its duties are:

- Reviewing reports from the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council;
- Making recommendations on international political cooperation;
- Developing and systematizing international collaboration in economic, social, cultural, educational, and health fields;
- Counseling and encouraging peaceful settlement of hostile situations amongst nations; and
- Appointing the Secretary-General in conjunction with the Security Council and electing non-permanent members of Security Council, judges of International Court of Justice, and members of the Economic and Social Council.

## Membership and Sessions

All 192 member states of the United Nations have a vote in the General Assembly. Additionally, several entities, like the Vatican, have non-voting observer status that allows them to participate in debate, but not vote on resolutions or declarations. Recommendations on peace and security, the election of members to organs, the admission, suspension, and expulsion of members, and budgetary matters require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting to pass. Resolutions on other matters only require a simple majority. Aside from budgetary matters, resolutions are non-binding on member states.

The General Assembly sessions commence annually in September with two weeks of open debate in which many world leaders take the opportunity to address the body directly. The session typically suspends in late December and reconvenes as needed throughout the following year.

The General Assembly can also be called into emergency and special session at the request of the UN Security Council or a majority of Member States. Memorable extra sessions include an emergency session that was held in 1950 on the issue of North and South Korea and two recent special sessions that were held to adopt the Millennium Development Declaration in 2000 and to set a UN reform agenda in 2005.

## **Structure**

The General Assembly has six main committees: Disarmament and International Security; Economic and Financial; Social, Cultural and Humanitarian; Special Political and Decolonization; Administrative and Budgetary; and Legal. There are seven commissions, including the International Law Commission and the new Peacebuilding Commission. There are also councils and panels, such as the new Human Rights Council and other committees that cover a broad range of topics, from the Committee on The Right of the Child to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Finally, there are also a number of working groups.

The General Assembly is headed by a President who is elected prior to the opening session each year. Ambassador Srgjan Kerim of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will serve in this position during the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly.

## **History and Relevance**

Although General Assembly resolutions are non-binding on member states, they often have a dramatic and lasting effect. Perhaps the most famous General Assembly Declaration is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Passed in 1948, largely because of the efforts of former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, this document has become an international guidebook for human rights. Another important action included the United for Peace Resolution passed in 1950 that allowed for police action to protect South Korea from North Korean aggression.

More recently, the General Assembly adopted a Millennium Development Declaration calling for improvements in poverty, illiteracy, health, and the environment by 2015. In 2005, the General Assembly passed a resolution for comprehensive reform to make the organization more efficient, transparent, and accountable.

# About the UN

## **The Secretariat**

The United Nations Secretariat carries out the day-to-day work of managing the general operations of the UN around the world. It assists the other principal parts of the UN, like the General Assembly and Security Council, by administering programs and policies and providing member states with information to exercise oversight of the UN's activities.

### **Areas of Work**

Although the work of the Secretariat changes according to the work of the United Nations, some of its main functions include preparing and managing the UN's peacekeeping operations, mediating international disputes, assisting in the implementation of Security Council decisions, coordinating disaster relief, informing international media about the work of the United Nations, promoting development, and translating documents and speeches into the UN's six official languages. All of this is done with an annual budget of about approximately \$2 billion, of which the U.S. contributes 22%. For more information on departments of the UN Secretariat, you can visit [www.un.org/depts/](http://www.un.org/depts/).

### **Leadership**

The Secretariat is led by the UN Secretary-General who is selected by the Security Council and approved by the General Assembly. The current Secretary-General of the United Nations is Ban Ki-moon, who assumed office on January 1, 2007. Although there are no formal limit to the number of five-year terms a Secretary-General may serve, Secretaries-General generally serve no more than two. Candidacies for the position have traditionally been considered on the basis of regional rotation.

Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Mtengeti-Migiros, the foreign minister of Tanzania was appointed by Ban to be responsible for day-to-day management of the organization.

### **International Civil Servants**

As international civil servants, the Secretary-General and his or her staff answer to the UN alone for their activities and take an oath not to seek or receive instructions from any government or outside authority. Under the Charter, each member state pledges to respect the exclusively international character of the responsibilities of the Secretary-General and his staff and to refrain from seeking to influence them as they exercise their duties.

### **Locations**

The UN is headquartered in New York, but maintains a significant presence in Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Beirut, Geneva, Nairobi, Santiago, and Vienna, in addition to other offices around the world.



# About the UN

## U.S. Dues and Contributions to the UN

Funding for the United Nations and its agencies comes from two sources: *assessed* contributions to finance the UN's regular budget, peacekeeping operations, and specialized agencies like the International Atomic Energy Agency, and *voluntary* contributions to specialized agencies and subsidiary organizations of the UN, through which more than half of the UN's funding is provided.

### Assessed Contributions

Assessed contributions are payments made as part of the obligations that nations undertake when signing treaties – like the one establishing the United Nations. For example, the U.S. is assessed to pay 22 percent of the UN's regular budget and about 26 percent of the UN's peacekeeping operations budget. U.S. assessed contributions support a variety of critical UN initiatives, notably peacekeeping operations that promote global security without requiring the U.S. having to bear all the costs or deploy all the forces. Other recent efforts funded by UN assessed contributions have included:

- Facilitating and holding elections in Afghanistan and Iraq;
- Investigating the assassination of the former Lebanese Prime Minister, Rafiq Hariri;
- Monitoring nuclear programs in North Korea and Iran;
- Coordinating tsunami and earthquake relief projects in Indonesia and Pakistan;
- Detecting outbreaks of avian flu and defending against a world pandemic;
- Creating systems to protect the intellectual property rights of American entrepreneurs; and
- Enabling the delivery of mail around the world.

### Voluntary Contributions

Voluntary contributions are, as the name implies, voluntary rather than assessed payments and are entirely up to the individual country to decide whether or not, and how much, to contribute. These contributions finance most of the United Nations' humanitarian relief and development agencies, including the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Program (WFP), and the UN Development Program (UNDP).

Most U.S. funding of the UN system goes to these programs that the U.S. government independently chooses to fund. These include:

- Purchases of U.S. agricultural products for humanitarian relief and school feeding projects through the World Food Program;
- Department of Labor help for International Labor Organization programs to eliminate and prevent the use of child labor overseas;
- Funding for nuclear energy safety and security overseas; and
- Funding to protect and resolve refugee problems worldwide, tackle the AIDS pandemic, improve education in Pakistan, and increase drug control and crime prevention in Colombia.

Such activities are U.S. national security investments that would be difficult, if not impossible, for the U.S. to undertake alone. U.S. voluntary contributions are financed through the foreign assistance authorization and appropriation legislation.

### **Paying our Dues: The UN Regular Budget**

The UN's regular budget finances the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat.

The current UN assessment structure sets maximum and minimum dues rates for all nations. The maximum "ceiling" rate is 22 percent. The minimum "floor" rate for poorer countries is 0.001 percent. The United States pays the maximum rate but has negotiated several reductions in this rate over time. In 1974, the UN placed a 25 percent cap on member states' assessments; in 2000 the General Assembly reduced this cap (applicable only to the U.S.) to 22 percent. Nonetheless, the top 15 contributing nations remain the major funders of the UN, contributing about 84 percent of the regular budget.

The U.S. assessed contribution to the UN's regular budget is included in the State Department's Contributions to International Organizations (CIO) budget account, along with 43 other UN-system, regional, and non-UN organizations.

### **Paying Our Dues: UN Peacekeeping Budget**

The UN's peacekeeping budget is separate from the regular budget but is also financed by assessments to member states. The UN's peacekeeping assessment formula mirrors the regular budget structure, but gives greater discounts to poorer nations. This discount is made up by the permanent five members of the Security Council (the U.S., the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China), each of which has unique voting and veto rights at the Security Council and can authorize or suspend any peacekeeping operation.

U.S. assessed contributions to UN peacekeeping operations are funded through the State Department's Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities (CIPA) account.

### **Arrears**

Arrears are a chronic problem at the United Nations. Many poorer nations cannot afford to pay their full assessment and are in arrears. Other countries, notably the United States, have delayed or withheld payments for reasons unrelated to their ability to pay. Under the UN Charter, member states that are two years in arrears at the UN can lose their vote in the General Assembly.

## About the UN

### Americans at the UN

The United Nations employs over 1,800 Americans in the U.S. and thousands of others in UN offices abroad.

It has been a priority of the Bureau of International Organization Affairs at the Department of State over the past several years to increase the number of Americans working at the United Nations, an initiative which has received strong congressional support. A recent study of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that while Americans are equitably represented in the Secretariat — the main offices of UN headquarters under the supervision of the Secretary-General — they are underrepresented in some UN agencies. In its report, GAO recommended that the Secretary of State provide more UN employment information on State websites, expand recruitment to reach qualified Americans, and evaluate the costs and benefits of maintaining a roster of qualified candidates for high priority positions and of funding entry-level professional staff where Americans are underrepresented.

To look into potential jobs at the United Nations, you can visit [www.state.gov/p/io/empl/](http://www.state.gov/p/io/empl/) or <https://jobs.un.org/Galaxy/Release3/vacancy/vacancy.aspx>.

Americans currently hold several key leadership posts in the UN system, including:

**Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.** Ambassador B. Lynn Pascoe was appointed Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs in March 2007 by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Pascoe has had an almost 40-year career with the U.S. foreign service, most recently having served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia. The Department of Political Affairs plays a central role in the UN's worldwide efforts to prevent conflict, make peace, and rebuild after conflict.

**Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Peacekeeping Operations.** Jane Holl Lute was appointed as the Assistant Secretary-General for Mission Support in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in August 2003. Since that time, she has managed the start-up of nine new peacekeeping missions (an operation in Darfur will be the tenth) and a more than three-fold increase in the overall size — troop numbers and budget — of UN-based peacekeeping operations.

**Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).** Former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman has been Executive Director of UNICEF since May 2005; she was preceded by another prominent American, Carol Bellamy. Veneman's priorities at UNICEF have included working towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and strengthening existing partnerships and building new collaborations with governments, fellow UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and faith-based groups and communities.

**Executive Director, World Food Program (WFP).** American diplomat Josette Sheeran, was selected in November 2006 by the United Nations to be the next head of the

UN World Food Program. Sheeran heads the world's largest humanitarian agency and will serve a five-year term. Her top priorities are to ensure that no child goes to bed hungry and to reduce hunger-related deaths.

**Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning, UN Secretariat.** Robert Orr has served as Assistant Secretary-General to Kofi Annan since August 2004, and recently helped head the transition team for incoming Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. In his time at the Secretariat, Orr has helped implement plans for strengthening the organization, including streamlining management procedures, reviewing all UN mandates, creating a new Ethics Office, and establishing a reformed Human Rights Council.