

Promoting American Leadership at the United Nations

Spokesperson Toolkit

Overview

On May 23, the Administration will release its full budget proposal. The budget request will include deep funding cuts to foreign assistance and multilateral organizations, including the United Nations, as was outlined in the March “skinny budget.”

This toolkit includes a series of materials that you can use when communicating with the media, policymakers, and your constituencies.

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Background

On May 5, 2017, the President signed a \$1.2 trillion omnibus spending bill approved by Congress, which set the U.S. funding levels for the UN and UN Peacekeeping through the rest of this fiscal year.

The bill fully funds the UN regular budget and a number of UN agencies, but falls \$289 million short of fully funding the U.S. share of UN Peacekeeping operations, reprograms funding away from UNFPA, and ends funding for the Green Climate Fund and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

What to Expect in FY 2018

The Administration's budget for Fiscal Year 2018 proposes significant reductions in funding for the State Department and the UN. Below please find a list of the proposed cuts to UN-related accounts:

- The overall State Department and USAID budget will see a 12 billion dollar reduction from FY17.
- The CIPA Account, which funds UN Peacekeeping, will see a 37% reduction, from \$1.908b in FY17 to \$1.196b in FY18.
- The CIO Account, which funds the UN Regular Budget and WHO - will see a 27% reduction from \$1.359b in FY17 to \$996m in FY18.
- Ends U.S. funding for the IO&P Account, which funds voluntary contributions to UN agencies like UNDP, UN Women, and UNFPA. (Funding for UNICEF would likely be moved into Global Health Programs Account). In FY17, IO&P was funded at \$339m.
- The Global Health Programs Account will see a 26% reduction from \$8.725b in FY17 to \$6.48b in FY18, with Family Planning funding zeroed out.
- Ends U.S. funding for UN climate change programs, including the Green Climate Fund.

The budget decisions will now move to Capitol Hill where Members of Congress will begin negotiating FY'2018 appropriations.

Key Budget Dates

Below please find a series of key dates that are relevant to the UN budget process in the U.S.:

- **June** – Consideration of House and Senate Budget Resolutions, which set top-line numbers for the Appropriations Committees.
- **Mid-June** – Secretary Tillerson and Ambassador Haley testify before the House and Senate Authorizing and Appropriations Committees.
- **July** – House and Senate Appropriations Committees mark-up FY'18 State Foreign Operations bills

- **September 30** – Passage of FY18 Continuing Resolution.
- **November/December** – Final Appropriations Measure for FY'18.

High-Level Talking Points

(Please note, we would be happy to provide additional issue-specific talking points on Peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, global health, or other issues.)

The UN: Ensuring Others Stand Up, Not Stand By

- The UN is a critical tool for ensuring all countries – no matter how big or small, rich or poor – do their part to maintain the international order.
- The organization's efforts to promote peace and security, coordinate responses to global pandemics and diseases, establish international business norms, and deliver lifesaving humanitarian aid ensures that the United States doesn't have to go it alone.

The U.S. cannot afford to confront the globe's threats and military crises by ourselves.

- The UN's assessed, mandatory contribution system allows us to share the financial burden of responding to challenges with other countries, avoiding the "free rider" problem we've experienced with NATO defense spending.
- By working through the UN, the U.S. shares the global security and humanitarian relief burden with other countries, saving American taxpayers billions of dollars.

The U.S. maintains significant influence over the work of the UN.

- The UN cannot act on peace and security issues – from imposing sanctions on North Korea to establishing a peacekeeping mission to prevent ethnic cleansing in the Central African Republic – without the approval of the United States in the UN Security Council.
- By working with the UN, our influence is magnified, ensuring that the peace and security decisions the U.S. champions are backed up by the collective will of the international system.

Slashing Funding Undermines Reform

- Failing to meet our funding commitments will undermine the Secretary-General's and US-UN Ambassador Haley's efforts to reform the organization.

On UN Peacekeeping:

UN Peacekeeping missions are cost-effective.

- UN peacekeeping operations account for less than 0.5% of annual global military spending, even though they currently constitute the largest deployed multinational military force in the world.
- The U.S. share of UN Peacekeeping budget is equal to what Americans spent on Easter candy last year (\$2.4 billion).
- According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, these missions are eight times cheaper than U.S. forces acting alone. In addition, it costs the

United States \$2 million to deploy a single U.S. soldier and \$17,000 to deploy a UN peacekeeper.

UN peacekeeping is ‘exhibit A’ for what the Trump administration demands of other countries: step in and step up.

- Other countries provide almost all the troops – there is now over 100,000 – the largest deployed military in the world, and they pay about 75 percent of the costs.
- The U.S. currently provides fewer than 100 soldiers, military advisors, and police officers to UN peacekeeping operations – accounting for less than .01 percent.

UN Peacekeeping missions are directly in our national security interests.

- As a member of the UN Security Council, no peacekeeping mission can be deployed without U.S. consent. Peacekeeping has enjoyed bipartisan support for decades – with the largest growth in peacekeeping during the George W. Bush Administration.
- Missions stabilize fragile states, prevent civil wars from metastasizing into full-blown regional conflicts, decrease forced displacement and refugee outflows, and deny potential fertile recruitment or operating environments to extremist groups and organized crime rings.
- As Admiral Mike Mullen, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, said: “[United Nations] peacekeepers help promote stability and help reduce the risks that major U.S. military interventions may be required. Therefore, the success of these operations is very much in our national interest.”

Sample Petition Language

Dear [Decision Maker], I am writing to express my support for fully funding our dues to the United Nations in Fiscal Year 2018.

The UN works to coordinate responses to global pandemics and diseases, promote peace and security, establish international business norms, protect human rights, and deliver lifesaving humanitarian aid, which ensures the United States doesn't have to go it alone.

The President's budget proposal for FY 2018 proposes deep cuts to foreign assistance, including funds for the United Nations and UN Peacekeeping, which if enacted, would cripple U.S. influence within the organization, further destabilize the world, and cause untold suffering.

Amid the ongoing negotiations of the FY 2018 spending bill, Congress must reject calls from the White House to slash funds for the UN and rectify our current funding shortfalls for UN Peacekeeping.

I hope you will stand with your constituents in protecting funding for the vitally important work of the UN in FY 2018.

Sample Social Media Language

Facebook:

- The U.S. cannot afford to confront the globe’s threats and military crises by ourselves. By working through the UN, the U.S. shares the burden with other countries, saving American taxpayers billions of dollars and making the world safer. Learn more: <http://bit.ly/fundtheUN>
- UN Peacekeeping missions are in our military interest and are eight times cheaper than U.S. forces acting alone. Learn more about the importance of funding the UN and UN Peacekeeping: <http://bit.ly/fundtheUN>

Twitter:

- The @UN makes the U.S. stronger, safer & more prosperous. Learn more about the value of UN: <http://bit.ly/fundtheUN> via @BetterWorldOrg #USUN
- The @UN makes up only 0.2% of the federal budget – a bargain for American taxpayers: <http://bit.ly/fundtheUN> via @BetterWorldOrg #USUN
- #DYK: Deploying @UN Peacekeepers reduces the hazard that a country will slide back into all-out war by 50%: <http://bit.ly/fundtheUN> #USUN
- The @UN is on the frontlines combatting terrorism, preventing health pandemics & more! <http://bit.ly/fundtheUN> via @BetterWorldOrg #USUN

Graphics: (Download all graphics here)



UN 101: Fact Vs. Fiction

FICTION: The UN doesn't benefit the U.S.

FACT: The UN makes America safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

- Broadly speaking, the UN promotes peace and stability in the world, which makes the U.S. safer. The UN helps families and countries move out of poverty, creating more stable communities and new customers and markets for U.S. products. The UN convenes countries to work on challenges that threaten America, but that the U.S. can't (and shouldn't have to) work on alone, like terrorism, climate change, and pandemics.

- A few specific examples:
 - We're healthier because the World Health Organization coordinates global health security, from preparing for pandemics to stopping outbreaks, and works to stamp out infectious diseases like smallpox.
 - The U.S. is safer because the UN's IAEA inspects nuclear facilities to prevent the use of nuclear materials in weapons.
 - On the economic front, our Better World Campaign has found that U.S. businesses generated more than \$1.5 billion in contracts with the UN between 2014 and 2016.
 - American businesses benefit from UN specialized agencies that help set global standards for airline safety, share meteorological data, and facilitate mail exchanges across borders.

FICTION: The U.S. picks up too much of the tab.

FACT: The UN is a bargain for Americans.

- Yes, we are the UN's biggest donor, but the amount we give the UN makes up only 0.2% of our federal budget. The U.S. spends about twice as much on Valentine's Day candy and cards as we do on the UN.
- By paying our dues on time and in full, other countries are encouraged to do the same – picking up 78% of the tab of UN regular dues.
- It is eight times cheaper to send in a UN peacekeeping force than U.S. military. It has cost about \$17,000 to reimburse a UN peacekeeper vs. \$2.1 million to deploy a U.S. soldier.

FICTION: The U.S. doesn't need the UN. It's easier if we work alone.

FACT: The United States can't – and shouldn't be expected to – solve all of the world's problems by itself.

- The UN brings countries together to share the costs, responsibilities, and people needed to address international issues.
- Challenges like violent extremism, human trafficking, climate change, and disease outbreaks affect many countries, and what happens in one part of the world can impact the United States. Global problems need global solutions; other countries can and

should help the U.S. tackle them. The UN is the world's platform to bring countries and sectors together to make progress.

- Right now, approximately 20 million people across four countries (Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan, and northeastern Nigeria) are extremely food insecure and face the prospect of looming famine. Superpowers don't let people starve, but the U.S. alone can't feed hungry people around the world. By supporting the UN, we can help save lives and take our resources further since UN humanitarian agencies are on the front lines of the response – delivering aid, supporting local responders, and coordinating with governments and partners to increase impact.

FICTION: Most Americans don't support the UN.

FACT: There is broad support for the UN among Americans.

- Polling conducted by a bipartisan research team and released by the Better World Campaign in January found an overwhelming majority of U.S. voters – 88% – believe it is important for the U.S. to maintain an active role at the UN. In fact, more Americans support a strong U.S.-UN relationship than apple pie, and baseball.

FICTION: The UN doesn't do much.

FACT: The UN does a TON.

- This criticism just doesn't hold up when you take a look at what the UN actually does. Here is just a sliver:
 - Vaccinates 45 percent of the world's children;
 - Provides food to 80 million people across 80 countries;
 - Maintaining peace and security through 16 peacekeeping operations;
 - Adopting and monitoring sanctions against terrorist groups like ISIS and rogue regimes like North Korea;
 - Monitoring nuclear materials to prevent their use in weapons;
 - Providing shelter and medical treatment for millions fleeing war and persecution;
 - Enabling education for children in emergencies;
 - Helping girls stay safe from child marriage
 - Tracking and reporting human rights violations;
 - Coordinating the response and providing technical assistance to stop disease outbreaks like Ebola and Zika.

FICTION: We should only focus on the challenges we have in the U.S.

FACT: We can tackle issues at home and abroad; in fact, to keep America safe and strong, we must.

- Our world is connected, and problems like terrorism, human trafficking, and disease outbreaks that happen in one part of the world often make their way to the United States. To keep America safe and strong, we have to address global challenges.
- The good news is that the United States has long been a leader on global issues, and we have the brainpower, the technology, and the resources to make progress on

international problems while still addressing domestic needs. We don't have to choose between addressing problems at home and around the world. It's a false choice.

- Take measles for example. Although the U.S. declared the elimination of measles in the country in 2000, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the disease still makes it ways into our borders every year from unvaccinated people who travel to places where measles is more common.
- No reasonable person thinks the U.S. should be in charge of eliminating measles around the world, but it's in our country's interest – and ability – to protect children around the world from the disease. UN agencies are a leading part of the global coalition to vaccinate children worldwide and end measles. Strong U.S. support has helped this partnership reduce measles deaths by 79% since 2000.

FICTION: The UN is controlled by nations that don't share our values.

FACT: The United States is one of the UN's most important leaders.

- As the UN's biggest funder, its host nation, and a permanent member of the Security Council with veto power, the U.S. is a very influential voice at the UN.
- The great majority of Member States are supportive of U.S. positions/proposals at the UN. In terms of voting patterns, the average voting coincidence of all UN member states with the U.S., when consensus resolutions are factored in, is 85 percent.
- While not every other member state shares our values, they certainly don't control the UN. Regardless, our voice is stronger when we engage at the UN, including paying our dues on time and in full.

Resources

- [Digital Toolkit & Graphics](#)
- [BWC Statement on the Skinny Budget](#)
- [Importance of Fully Funding the UN Landing Page](#)

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