

**Statement of Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs**  
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**Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Multilateral International**  
**Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic, Energy,**  
**and Environmental Policy**  
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Chairman Barrasso, Ranking Member Udall, and distinguished members of the Committee. It is my pleasure to appear before you today to discuss U.S. actions to promote efficiency and effectiveness across the United Nations and other international organizations.

As the Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, it is my job to ensure that U.S. multilateral priorities are advanced across the entire multilateral system, including at the United Nations and several dozen other international organizations. That effort spans seven U.S. multilateral missions, including our mission to the United Nations in New York, and requires collaboration with other federal agencies that depend on international organizations to help advance their priorities.

The organizations we work with are diverse – from distributing emergency food assistance through the World Food Program, to ensuring global aviation safety standards through the International Civil Aviation Organization – but the core U.S. objectives at each of these organizations are the same: to advance our national interests, to promote American values, and to advocate for the efficient and effective use of American taxpayer resources.

As we begin our conversation today, I think it is important that we recognize one truth: we ask a great deal of the United Nations and other international organizations, and to a remarkable degree, those organizations are largely responsive to our demands.

Consider the recent headlines: United Nations agencies are leading the effort to respond to the devastation in Nepal. They are addressing humanitarian emergencies in Yemen, Iraq, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, and in and around Syria. We rely on agencies like the World Health Organization not only to address the impact of Ebola in West Africa, but also to eliminate polio and other diseases once and for all. In many cases, United Nations political missions are the international community's last remaining eyes and ears on the ground in areas experiencing significant insecurity or political instability. In 16 missions

around the world, nearly 130,000 United Nations peacekeepers are contributing to stability and promoting peace and reconciliation.

These are just some of the countless examples where U.S. interests are advanced through coordination at the United Nations and across many other international organizations. The United States simply cannot, and should not, address such global challenges alone. Working through the multilateral system enables us to mobilize global action. And it allows us to leverage the commitments of other countries to ensure that the financial burdens of that action are shared across the international community.

Now, with all of that being said, there is no denying that the United Nations and other international organizations have not always proven to be effective stewards of U.S. taxpayer resources. For too long, the United Nations operated without the necessary commitment to transparency, accountability, and results.

In recognition of that reality, the United States and numerous partner countries have pressed the United Nations system to embrace modern management and budgeting practices. Since becoming Assistant Secretary in September 2014, I have prioritized management and budget reform issues across the United Nations and other international organizations, and I have used my position and voice as frequently as possible to push for progress. The results of this sustained engagement are clear.

Within the past month, we've reached agreement to no-growth budgets at both the International Labor Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization. This continues a trend of limiting growth in international organizations' budgets. For instance, at over half of the more than forty-five organizations we fund through the Contributions to International Organizations account, we are projecting no increases in assessments for Fiscal Year 2016.

Just two weeks ago, I co-chaired a meeting in Geneva of the top donors to the United Nations system, where we agreed to form a working group of senior government and United Nations agency representatives to look at United Nations performance management practices. We also agreed on a plan to increase scrutiny of how United Nations agencies are handling their own audits and ethics rules, including protections of whistleblowers from retaliation.

We're seeing gradual progress on needed reforms in this area. Two organizations that previously did not provide access to audit reports, the International Maritime

Organization and the International Telecommunication Union, have begun providing access. At the United Nations, we gained agreement in December to permanent public access to audit and evaluation reports. And two other organizations that had shortcomings in their whistleblower protection policies, the Organization of American States and the World Health Organization, have corrected those shortcomings. This week, we are hosting here in Washington two additional gatherings of the top donors to the United Nations system to focus on finding additional efficiencies in the multilateral system, including discussing the status of World Health Organization reforms in the wake of their response to the Ebola crisis.

Last month, I traveled to a UNICEF coordination facility in Copenhagen that shows the United Nations' procurement system at its best. At the facility, UNICEF is working with partners to create economies of scale to drive down the price of immunizations and other crucial goods. That effort will not only save the United Nations tens of millions of dollars every year, but it also will bring untold benefit to communities around the world. It is these kinds of efforts that we are trying to replicate across the entire multilateral system.

Furthermore, we remain determined in our efforts to improve accountability and transparency measures in peacekeeping operations. We initiated a comprehensive review of civilian staff in missions, resulting in significant reductions and cost savings. We are holding troop contributing countries accountable through financial penalties if they deploy units to United Nations peace operations with missing or non-functioning equipment. And we worked with our partners at the United Nations to initiate a firm prohibition on payments to troops sent home for misconduct, including for sexual exploitation and abuse.

These examples of reforms and best practices are promising. But unfortunately, they are not yet the norm, and we remain frustrated by sluggish progress in other areas. For example, some organizations continue to struggle to provide whistleblower protections, and the formulas that determine how much funding each member state contributes to the important work of the United Nations remain woefully outdated. There is clearly more work to be done across the board.

I am grateful to this Subcommittee for holding today's hearing and for your continued interest in our work at the United Nations and other international organizations. As I said in my confirmation hearing before this Committee, we have a deep stake in shaping the continual renewal of the international system and making sure it is as efficient and effective as possible. The investments we make

in the multilateral arena today are more important than ever in advancing U.S. national interests around the globe. Congress, and especially members of this Subcommittee, play a critical role in helping to ensure taxpayer resources are used efficiently at multilateral institutions to help advance U.S. objectives. I welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues with you and your staff any time, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.