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**Testimony of Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Jonathan Moore
Bureau of International Organization Affairs**

**Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Multilateral International Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International
Economic, Energy, and Environmental Policy Subcommittee**

November 20, 2019

Chairman Young, Ranking Member Merkley, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you very much for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I'm here on behalf of the State Department's Bureau of International Organization Affairs. We are dedicated to ensuring that the views of the administration and the values of the American people are accurately reflected and respected in multilateral fora, including in United Nations resolutions, statements, reports, correspondence, and activities.

In addition to our foreign affairs professionals, we are extremely fortunate to have energetic, expert, informed, and influential ambassadors and permanent representatives in New York, Geneva, Rome, Montreal, Vienna, and Nairobi.

Thank you for including Ambassador Kip Tom in this hearing; he will speak to his perspectives from our mission to the UN in Rome.

Mr. Chairman, the United States played the lead role in founding the United Nations nearly 75 years ago, and continues to be the proud host of the UN Security Council and General Assembly in New York. The UN and other international organizations have key responsibilities on the global stage, and American leadership is crucial.

The challenges we face are real – active conflicts, humanitarian crises, terrorism, and threats to global health.

The opportunities are also real – from protecting intellectual property to improving aviation safety, reinforcing human rights protections, and helping people in need.

The administration has repeatedly demonstrated its determination to promote American interests and prosperity in and through international organizations.

As you know well, Mr. Chairman, the United States remains by far the largest financial contributor to the United Nations – well over nine billion dollars last year, the vast majority of which supports humanitarian response efforts.

UN peacekeeping operations are among the most effective mechanisms to address global challenges to international peace and security, and remain an essential tool in protecting the most vulnerable populations.

It's important to note that the UN has recently concluded peace operations in Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia, and that the peacekeeping mission in Haiti has transitioned to a special political mission.

Across the multilateral system, the administration's commitment to reform is unwavering. Much more can and must be done to cut waste and overlap, improve hiring practices, and embrace transparency.

Eliminating sexual exploitation and abuse is another critical aspect of reform, both in peacekeeping operations and throughout UN agencies.

Reform also extends to fixing parts of the multilateral system that have failed to keep pace with global trends. At the Universal Postal Union, grossly outdated pricing systems created market distortions that harmed U.S. business. In October 2018, the President announced his intent to withdraw from the UPU unless corrective action was taken.

Over the following year, we coordinated intensive diplomatic outreach and accomplished that goal, with the result that U.S. businesses will no longer face severe disadvantages related to the international shipping of small packages.

This is just one example of how the administration is scrutinizing international organizations to guarantee that our international commitments do not result in unfair or inequitable treatment for the United States.

The UN Human Rights Council is a less positive example. Our efforts to spur reform of the Council were genuine and sustained, but it remains fundamentally broken. Nevertheless, with the strong support of Congress, the United States remains vigorously engaged in protecting human rights around the world. My colleague, Scott Busby, will speak to this.

As a further example of our multilateral engagement, the administration is considering our return – with the consent of Congress – to the UN World Tourism Organization, recognizing that tourism is a significant economic driver in many areas of the United States.

As we approach the UN's 75th anniversary, we need the UN to remain relevant and serve our national interests, particularly as other centers of power such as China become increasingly assertive.

Mr. Chairman, over its history, the UN has been responsible for some impressive successes and some spectacular failures. Your attention, and that of Congress, are invaluable in helping us serve the United States, and keep the UN

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on track. Thank you again for the opportunity to discuss these and other important issues today. I look forward to responding to your questions.