



**Report to Congress on
The activities of the United Nations and of the participation of the United States therein for
2019**

Section 4 of the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 (P.L. 79-264)

This report is submitted consistent with section 4 of the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 (P.L. 79-264), which provides, in part: “The President shall from time to time as occasion may require, but not less than once each year, make reports to the Congress of the activities of the United Nations and of the participation of the United States therein.”

What follows is a brief treatment of key activities of the United States in the United Nations and its agencies during 2019. (Current year’s activities will be reflected in the 2020 version of this report, to be submitted in 2021.) It illustrates the scope of U.S. engagement at the United Nations, discusses key successes and shortcomings, and highlights how U.S. goals were advanced. Upon submission to Congress, this report (as well as previous years’ reports) will be available online at <https://www.state.gov/reports-bureau-of-international-organization-affairs/>.

In 2019, U.S. leadership was evident in a wide range of UN activities in pursuit of U.S. national interests, including global peace and security, humanitarian response, economic development, and international health. U.S. efforts in international fora are often instrumental in driving important initiatives, organizing coalitions, and spurring efforts to block counterproductive measures, including persistent anti-Israel bias. For the purposes of this report, U.S. priorities at the UN are presented under broad categories: UN Security Council; UN Peacekeeping; Human Rights, Humanitarian Response, and Development; Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies; and Budget, Reform, and Administration.

UN Security Council

In 2019, the United States led efforts in the UN Security Council to address threats to international peace and security, defend Israel, address humanitarian needs, and more.

North Korea: In 2019, the United States promoted full implementation of UN sanctions related to the DPRK’s illicit nuclear and ballistic missile programs. These sanctions included

prohibitions on the use of North Korean laborers, strict restrictions on the supply, sale, or transfer of numerous commodities, including coal and petroleum products, and authorizations for member states to seize and inspect any vessel in a member state's port suspected of prohibited activities.

As of mid-December 2018, UN Member States were required to have repatriated DPRK nationals earning income overseas, subject to limited exceptions. In 2019, the United States increased pressure on Member States that had not fulfilled this obligation, given the important revenue that DPRK labor overseas provides. The United States nominated 15 entities, vessels, and individuals for designation by the 1718 Sanctions Committee during the reporting period.

Middle East: Throughout the year, the United States worked to address anti-Israel bias in the UN. In the UN Security Council, the United States advocated for Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights and argued forcefully that the establishment of Israeli settlements is not per se inconsistent with international law.

The United States again affirmed that this conflict can only be solved through direct discussions between the parties. The United States continued to support the work of UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East, Nickolay Mladenov, and appreciated his efforts as a neutral voice in the region. The United States also continued to push back against anti-Israel bias in the General Assembly. The United States, while in the minority, voted against fifteen resolutions biased against Israel. There were no UNSC Resolutions on Israeli-Palestinian issues in 2019.

Iran: Throughout 2019, the United States worked closely with likeminded partners to sustain maximum political and economic pressure on Iran, including to address its continued missile activity in defiance of UN Security Council resolution 2231. In March and August of 2019, the United States sent letters to the UN Secretary-General condemning Iran's launch of space launch delivery vehicles and ballistic missiles. In those letters, the United States warned that Iran's actions were destabilizing the Middle East, and that the United States would not permit Iran's malign behavior to threaten the security of U.S. partners and allies.

In December, the United States coordinated a UN inspection of Iranian-origin weapons seized in late November by the U.S. Navy in the Arabian Sea. Weapons specialists from the UN Secretariat and the Yemen Panel of Experts participated in the inspection, and their conclusions featured in two subsequent public reports to the Security Council.

Syria: The United States continued to demonstrate support for UN Special Envoy (SE) Geir Pedersen's efforts to reach a lasting ceasefire in Syria and implement a credible political process to achieve a lasting political settlement in Syria in line with UN Security Council resolution 2254 (2015).

2019 marked the ninth consecutive year of a conflict that has caused immeasurable suffering for the Syrian people. As Russia repeatedly shielded the Assad regime from accountability for violations of international law, the United States worked with our partners to pursue meaningful consequences for the Assad regime and to call out Russia for its unconscionable obstruction. The Council convened 25 meetings on the crisis in Syria in 2019, and SE Pederson achieved a brief political breakthrough in October 2019, when the parties agreed to terms of a Constitutional Committee and convened its first meeting. However, that progress faltered when the Syrian army and troops from the Russian Federation expanded their military activities.

The United States continued to emphasize that cross border humanitarian aid remained the most effective, transparent, and essential way to bring assistance to those who need it most. In December, Russia and China vetoed a proposed extension to Security Council resolution 2449 (2018) to extend cross-border humanitarian assistance into Syria, setting up a follow-on negotiation in early 2020 that resulted in the adoption of resolution 2504 (2020).

Yemen: The United States consistently supported the UN-led peace process in Yemen and strongly backed the efforts of UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths (UK), working closely with him on multiple fronts and continuing to urge negotiations among parties to the conflict in order to help bring the conflict to resolution.

The United States has remained one of the largest single donors to humanitarian assistance in Yemen, and regularly urged others to step up their financial contributions and disburse unfulfilled pledges. In 2019, the United States voted in favor of adopting UN Security Council resolution 2452 (2019), which created the UN Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA), and also supported resolution 2481, which extended the UNMHA mandate for an additional six months. The United States also voted in favor of UN Security Council resolution 2456 (2019), which reauthorized a one year extension of asset freeze and travel ban measures against those designated for engaging in or providing support for acts that threaten Yemen's peace, security and stability.

In addition to negotiating and joining a Presidential Statement on Yemen, which reinforced UNSC support for Griffiths' efforts to resolve the conflict, the United States negotiated and joined five press statements on Yemen issued by the Security Council in 2019, which endorsed a range of political and negotiation efforts to resolve the conflict and condemned violations of the various ceasefires in place during the reporting period.

The United States continued supporting the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen (UNVIM), which oversees monitoring and inspection services of commercial and humanitarian assistance cargo destined for Yemen's Red Sea ports.

Haiti: The United States remained active on Haiti issues within the UN, negotiating the conclusion of a 15-year-long United Nations peacekeeping presence. Following a final six-

month mandate extension in UN Security Council resolution 2466 (2019), the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) ended its operations on October 15, and was succeeded on October 16 by the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), a special political mission.

BINUH is tasked with providing advisory services and good offices in key areas including good governance, elections, human rights, the reduction of gang violence, and police and corrections support. The United States remains the largest single donor of humanitarian assistance to Haiti, and has urged strong support for the efforts of Special Representative of the Secretary-General Helen La Lime (U.S.) to encourage Haiti's stakeholders to address underlying drivers of instability.

Venezuela: In January, 2019, the Security Council took up the issue of Venezuela in an emergency meeting to address the deteriorating political, economic and humanitarian situation brought on by Nicholas Maduro's usurpation of the previous year's national elections.

Secretary Pompeo attended in person, condemning the illegitimate Maduro regime and its violent contempt for the Venezuelan people. A month later, the Security Council revisited the ongoing crisis in Venezuela with U.S.-drafted resolution S/2019/186, which called for the start of a peaceful political process leading to free, fair and credible presidential elections in line with Venezuela's constitution. It also called for unhindered access to and delivery of humanitarian assistance. The resolution received the nine votes sufficient to pass, but was vetoed by Russia and China. The competing Russian-drafted resolution, S/2019/190, supported the illegitimate Maduro regime and received only four "yes" votes-- not enough to pass.

In April, the Security Council again addressed the growing Venezuelan humanitarian crisis and its regional impact, with Vice President Pence exhorting the Security Council to stand up for democracy and the rule of law. The United States, in coordination with our partners, provided steady support to the interim Guaido government's UN engagement efforts.

Counterterrorism: On counterterrorism, the United States played a key role in assisting the drafting of UNSC Resolution 2462 (2019), requiring all UN Member States to establish criminal offenses allowing for the prosecution of, and appropriate penalization for, the financing of terrorist organizations and individual terrorists for any purpose.

The United States also continued to support the provision of technical assistance and capacity building for the implementation of Resolution 2396 (2017), which requires Member States to disrupt the travel of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), including developing and utilizing certain advanced screening technologies and improving border controls to counter the threat of FTFs relocating from the battlefield.

Additionally, the United States continues to use the Security Council's 1267 Sanctions Regime as an important tool in the fight against ISIS and Al-Qaida, as designations of individuals and entities through the Security Council result in binding asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo-related obligations on all member states.

In 2019, the 1267 Committee designated four individuals and two entities. Among those designated were Hamza Usama Muhammad bin Laden, son of al-Qaida founder Usama bin Laden, and Mohammed Masood Azhar Alvi, the longtime leader of the terror group, Jaish-i-Mohammed.

Cyberspace: On the cyberspace front, the United States pushed back on a Russia-drafted UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution that established "an open-ended ad hoc intergovernmental committee of experts...to elaborate a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes." The United States and our allies strongly opposed the resolution, but the resolution passed on December 27, 2019, by a vote of 79 in favor, 60 against, with 30 abstentions.

The United States participated in the Fifth Session of the open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group on Cybercrime (IEG), which focused on issues of law-enforcement investigations as well as electronic evidence and criminal justice, with a view toward the IEG stocktaking meeting in 2021 that is expected to discuss preliminary conclusions and recommendations emanating from the IEG's work.

The United States also continued to push our cyber stability framework through UNGA, over even stronger objections from Russia and China. Despite the challenges, the United States and our partners worked constructively through two parallel processes -- the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) consisting of all member states and the sixth Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on States' use of information and communication technologies-- both of which are expected to produce reports to UNGA in 2021.

Other UNSC Action: Throughout all negotiations in 2019, the United States pushed for language to address women, peace, and security; sexual violence in armed conflict; and human rights.

The United States also supported the Secretary-General's call in February to extend the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) for one year with the intent of closing the mission in 2020. The United States also supported the Security Council's embrace of the African Union's call to rid the continent of conflict by 2030.

The United States held the monthly rotating presidency of the Security Council in December 2019, with the theme of "a credible Council." Highlights for the U.S. presidency included: a

side event co-hosted by the United States, India, Portugal, Senegal, Uruguay, and Vietnam to urge the Secretariat to implement UN Security Council resolution 2436 (peacekeeping performance); a side event on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities co-hosted by the United States and Poland on the importance of UN Security Council resolution 2475 (Protection of Persons with Disabilities in Conflict) and how its implementation can be improved; a United States-hosted panel discussion on trafficking in persons to illustrate the importance of documentation as a tool for combatting modern slavery; and a United States-hosted side event on decriminalizing homosexual conduct in solidarity with LGBTI people.

UN Peacekeeping

UN peacekeeping missions remain of vital interest to the United States because they fulfill a difficult but necessary role in sustaining peace, protecting civilians, and promoting the conditions necessary for political resolution of the associated conflicts. Many peacekeeping missions, such as those in Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, faced increasingly complex operating environments over the course of the year.

At the end of 2019, there were 13 UN peacekeeping missions around the world with approximately 100,000 total personnel deployed. The United States deployed 36 military staff officers and four police officers to six peacekeeping missions. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) also operated under a UN Security Council mandate and received logistical assistance through the UN Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) in 2019. In addition to reform, the United States continued to press for preserving critical human rights functions within UN peacekeeping operations, resisting efforts from other member states to substantially reduce or eliminate funding for these activities during peacekeeping budget negotiations. The United States was able to ensure peacekeeping operations retained these essential resources while still achieving a substantial budgetary savings.

In 2019, the United States supported peacekeeping reforms in three key areas: (1) enhancing peacekeeping forces' abilities to perform the tasks mandated by the UN Security Council (performance), (2) designing and operating UN peacekeeping missions that are able to achieve their mandates (planning), and (3) adopting mandates that support active political processes (political solutions). The United States focused this year on strengthening accountability for peacekeeping performance through the implementation of UNSC Resolution 2436 and ensuring the addition of relevant language in mission mandate renewals.

The United States also continued to advocate for rigorous enforcement of the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy for sexual exploitation and abuse. The United States pushed for improved support for victims and greater accountability for UN peacekeepers who commit these acts, including through swift and credible investigations.

To ensure efforts to address sexual exploitation and abuse are centered on victims, the United States supported the creation of a Victims' Rights Advocate by the Secretary-General and deployment of field-based victims' rights advocates in peacekeeping operations with a high instance of sexual exploitation and abuse. The United States also supported the establishment of a pilot mapping exercise by field-based victims' rights advocates to identify best practices, gaps, areas of overlap, and lessons learned in victims' rights approaches and available services.

Human Rights, Humanitarian Response, and Development

In 2019, the United States continued its engagement at the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), ECOSOC subsidiary bodies, and other UN bodies to advance human rights priorities.

Despite not being a member of the UN Human Rights Council, the United States continued to engage with independent mechanisms created by the UNHRC, including the Syria Commission of Inquiry, Burundi Commission of Inquiry, the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, and Special Rapporteurs on human rights in Burma, DPRK, Iran, and Belarus, among others.

The United States also engaged with thematic independent mandate holders such as the Special Rapporteurs on freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression, disabilities, and freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity, among others. In the UN General Assembly, the United States advocated successfully for the adoption of resolutions condemning the serious human rights situations in Burma, Crimea, DPRK, Iran, and Syria. The United States was also a sponsor of a successful resolution on elections.

Empowerment of Women and Girls: On women's and girls' empowerment, the United States took part in the UN Commission on the Status of Women spring 2019 session on "Social Protection, Access to Public Services, and Sustainable Infrastructure for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls." We do not support the inclusion of regional documents in CSW or other UN gatherings as they do not enjoy the agreement of all Member States nor do all enjoy even the consensus within the region. For example, the United States voted against the UN Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific's Beijing+25 regional political declaration entitled, "Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review," because the document attempted to include new language the Administration believes promotes abortion and which attempted to undermine the hard-fought consensus reached at Beijing 25 years ago.

During the 2019 General Assembly, the United States negotiated updated resolutions on the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, the Beijing women's conference, persons with

disabilities, equal pay, International Year of the Family, the girl child, the International Conference on Population and Development, indigenous peoples, rights of the child, rural women, trafficking in persons, violence against women migrant workers, and youth, among others.

In the UN Security Council, the United States participated in negotiations on a Women, Peace, and Security resolution led by South Africa, which was adopted unanimously. The United States advocated for language on the protection of women, particularly women human rights defenders, which was ultimately blocked by China. The United States also continued to advocate for strengthened Women, Peace, and Security language in peacekeeping-related resolutions and products.

The United States also remained determined to ensure the visibility and voice of civil society in the United Nations system, including through its seat on ECOSOC's Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO Committee). The United States continued to serve on the Advisory Board of the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF) to support the Fund's mission and ensure effective use of contributions by member states.

In FY 2019, the United States provided nearly \$252 million to FAO, including \$101 million in assessed contributions and \$151 million in voluntary contributions to promote food security, agricultural development in developing countries, and to combat fall army worm and desert locusts in Africa.

Humanitarian Assistance: In FY 2019, the United States remained the world's single largest humanitarian assistance donor, providing more than \$9 billion in humanitarian assistance globally. These vital resources are targeted to reduce human suffering, stabilize fragile areas, bolster bilateral relations, counter violent extremism, and pursue and achieve other U.S. national security goals in places such as Iraq, Yemen, Syria, the Sahel and beyond.

Given the scale of global humanitarian needs, the United States encouraged other donors to share responsibility in responding to humanitarian crises and encouraged UN organizations to expand their pool of donors and implement important reforms to increase cost efficiencies and the effectiveness of UN programs and relief aid.

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: Throughout the year, the United States worked closely with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to strengthen and support its critical work to ensure the timely, coordinated, and principled responses of the international community to humanitarian crises and facilitate transition from emergency relief to rehabilitation and sustainable development. The U.S. partnership with OCHA helped mobilize and coordinate the international humanitarian response to crises and

natural disasters in many countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.

The United States continued to support the UN humanitarian response to the situation in Venezuela, including by providing water, sanitation, and hygiene supplies, support for surveillance of COVID-19 cases, and information on where to find crucial psychosocial support and other health services for displaced persons.

In 2019, the United States also continued efforts to implement new approaches in the delivery of humanitarian assistance. This included joint needs assessments and analyses that underpin prioritized, need-based response plans, and reduction of management costs while preserving auditing and other oversight mechanisms.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA): The United States also took affirmative steps with other donors to improve oversight and accountability on issues relating to preventing sexual exploitation and abuse in its funding agreements with the United Nations. The U.S. negotiated and developed model language on PSEA for UN agencies with other donors, including a model clause for bilateral funding agreements and language for pooled funding agreements that was agreed with the UN Secretariat in November 2019. The United States has also begun negotiations with UN agencies to incorporate the bilateral clause in future funding agreements and is working to facilitate a coordinated approach across the U.S. Government to these issues. Continued oversight of the UN remains a critical priority in this area, including to ensure timely reporting, strengthen prevention and accountability measures - including among subpartners, ensure a survivor-centered approach to incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse, and hold perpetrators accountable.

Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies

As in years past, the United States actively engaged across a broad spectrum of UN specialized agencies and related organizations to advance U.S. national interests on a host of matters, including health, transportation, telecommunications, intellectual property, economic growth, and much more. These bodies include high-profile institutions addressing critical national security issues such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and institutions which can advance the U.S. economy, including the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

International Telecommunication Union: The International Telecommunication Union (ITU)'s World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-19) concluded on 22 November 2019 with the signing of the provisional Final Acts by the United States and 143 other nations. Key outcomes reinforce U.S. leadership in 5G and will help provide an enabling environment for innovation

and investment in new and emerging terrestrial and satellite technologies to spur economic growth, promote public safety and national security, and bridge the global digital divide.

Universal Postal Union: After an Extraordinary Congress of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in September 2018 failed to address U.S. concerns over economic distortions caused by the low rates postal operators of certain countries, including China, pay to the U.S. Postal Service for the delivery of small packets, in October, 2018 the United States announced its intention to withdraw following a required one-year period. With strong White House leadership and intensive interagency cooperation, the State Department led a successful campaign to adopt a landmark set of reforms at the Universal Postal Union's Extraordinary Congress in late September 2019. The reforms included a significant improvement to the UPU's system for pricing international mail ("terminal dues") that will enable the United States Postal Service (USPS) to fully cover its international mail costs and eliminate significant market distortions that have harmed U.S. businesses. The UPU reforms were a major diplomatic victory and a demonstration of American leadership. Our meticulous, sustained diplomacy uncovered a commonality of interests relating to Chinese trade practices and facilitated isolating China to secure the reforms.

World Heritage: The United States withdrew from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), effective December 31, 2018, due to continuing anti-Israeli bias at the organization, U.S. concerns with mounting arrears, and the need for fundamental reforms. Nevertheless, the United States remains a party to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

On July 7, 2019, the World Heritage Committee unanimously supported inscription of the U.S. nomination, "Twentieth Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright" as the 24th U.S. World Heritage Site. The inscription consists of eight buildings located in six states: Taliesin West (Arizona); Hollyhock House (California); Unity Temple and Frederick C. Robie House (Illinois); the Simon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York); Fallingwater (Pennsylvania); and Taliesin and Herbert and Katherine Jacobs House (Wisconsin).

Economic and Development Affairs

During 2019, the United Nations Economic and Financial Committee, referred to as the Second Committee (2C), completed action on 47 resolutions. The United States defended high priority interests across several resolutions: opposing the People's Republic of China's (PRC) efforts to insert ideological language and references to its signature, global foreign policy the Belt and Road Initiative into UN resolutions, halting UN encroachment on the mandates of other multilateral organizations like the World Trade Organization (WTO), combatting anti-Israel bias, and supporting women's empowerment while pushing back on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) language.

Budget, Reform, and Administration

Amounts of funds appropriated by Congress for contributions to international organizations in FY 2019 were similar to prior years. The appropriation for the Contributions to International Organizations (CIO) account, which funds assessed contributions to the UN regular budget, specialized agencies, and other international organizations, was \$1.36 billion, of which \$1.06 billion was allocated for UN entities; the appropriation for the Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities (CIPA) account, which funds U.S. assessed contributions to UN peacekeeping operations, was \$1.55 billion; and the appropriation for the International Organizations and Programs (IO&P) account, which funds U.S. voluntary contribution to many UN funds and programs, was \$394 million, of which \$298 million was allocated for UN entities, including \$32.5 million allocated for the UN Population Fund that was transferred to Global Health Programs in accordance with applicable law. The total amount of funds provided to UN entities by the U.S. government in FY 2019 was \$9.66 billion.

As the result of budget negotiations that occurred in 2018, the levels of the assessed budgets of major UN specialized agencies remained stable in 2019. The levels of the assessed budgets at the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Labor Organization, and the World Health Organization remained constant. The assessed budget of the International Atomic Energy Agency increased 1.8 percent. The level of the UN regular budget increased by 7.7 percent to \$5.8 billion for the 2018-2019 biennium. The increase was primarily the result of increased costs for the UN special political missions.

Comprehensive U.S. efforts to identify cost savings, efficiencies, and other means of restraining UN budget growth at the UN are a continuing challenge, given the increasing demands that UN member states place on the organization. The United States worked closely with other major UN contributors, to limit growth in the UN regular budget during negotiations that concluded in December 2019. UNGA agreed to increase the level of the regular budget for 2020 to \$3.085 billion, an increase of \$20.0 million or 0.65 percent compared to the 2019 annualized level of \$3.065 billion.

The United States continued to lead efforts aimed at strengthening the effectiveness, efficiency, oversight, transparency, and accountability of the United Nations in 2019. On January 1, 2019, as part of the Secretary-General's efforts to streamline management processes, the new Department of Operational Support and the new Department of Management Strategy, Policy, and Compliance were established.

The reorganization aims to ensure that UN management structures better support effective program and mandate delivery by improving the speed and responsiveness of service delivery,

establishing greater coherence in management structures, and building and strengthening a performance management culture.

In the Fifth Committee in 2019, the United States worked to strengthen those reforms, joining like-minded member states to require the Secretary-General to demonstrate the results achieved by his reform agenda, including budgetary efficiencies, thus allowing member states to assess the impact of UN reforms.

The United States also led the way to secure the abolition of first class travel for UN tribunal judges and their dependents, a long overdue and sought-after reform. The U.S. Mission and likeminded missions to the United Nations were successful in getting General Assembly agreement to reaffirm the need to preserve the mandate of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and the integrity of the UN Common System standards for compensating staff.

There was also agreement to call upon UN System organizations to complete implementation of the UN System-wide mandatory retirement at age 65. The General Assembly also called for continued zero tolerance for fraud, corruption, sexual harassment, and sexual exploitation and abuse, including through a specialized team to investigate complaints of sexual harassment. On development reform, the U.S. Mission to the United Nations continued to engage constructively to advance the Secretary-General's initiative to reposition and strengthen the development system through establishment of a new Resident Coordinator System. The UN approved funding to enable the UN Secretariat to meet its share of the financial cost-sharing that is distributed across the UN System in this joint undertaking, with the anticipated result of better coordination at the country level.

With the support of the U.S. Congress, the Department was able to make a voluntary contribution of approximately \$20 million to the Resident Coordinator System, helping to ensure that the System would be financed through voluntary contributions instead of assessed contributions, and important accomplishment in the effort to ensure optimal use of appropriated funds.

The United States also engaged with likeminded allies to advance management reforms across the UN system that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of UN organizations and strengthen these organizations' oversight mechanisms. At ITU and FAO, the United States leads member states in reforming those organizations' internal oversight offices and strengthening the independence of their audit and investigation functions. The United States also effectively pushed back on the use of first class travel by WIPO's Executive Head and encouraged organizations to pursue travel cost-savings and efficiencies. U.S. leadership and engagement on organizational ethics issues, including to combat fraud, waste, and abuse, led to numerous ethics

and management-related reforms, such as establishing ombudsman functions and revising ethics frameworks at ICAO, ILO, and FAO.