

# Issue Brief

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## A Strong U.S.-UN Relationship

Through the Better World Campaign and the United Nations Association of the United States of America, we advocate in support of a strong, effective, and fully funded United Nations. As the single largest network of American supporters of the UN, we educate the public about the UN's work, mobilize media to communicate UN efforts, and help ensure the U.S. government pays its dues to the UN on time and in full.

Why? Because a strong UN is the world's most effective voice for international cooperation on behalf of peace, development, global health, the environment, and human rights. As just a few examples, a robust U.S.-UN relationship means that Peacekeeping efforts can continue serving American interests overseas, building security both at home and abroad. It also means that entities like the World Health Organization can continue protecting against many of the world's most pervasive, deadly, and yet often preventable diseases. And it means that the educations, livelihoods, and rights of women and girls around the globe can be safeguarded, creating a more equitable future for women and girls everywhere.

“And the UN is the one place on the planet... where we can marshal the support and share the cost of doing what's necessary to protect the United States.”

– Susan Rice  
U.S. Ambassador to  
the United Nations

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Our programs include:

## The Better World Campaign

The Better World Campaign (BWC) works with the U.S. Congress and the Administration to build support for U.S. policies that reinforce and renew U.S. engagement in the United Nations. Created with assistance from entrepreneur and philanthropist Ted Turner as part of his historic \$1 billion gift in 1998 to support UN causes, BWC has helped mobilize support for U.S. dues to the UN to be paid on time and in full; robust UN peacekeeping operations; the continued work of UN specialized agencies and the Human Rights Council; achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; ratification of key UN agreements; and the adoption of reforms so the UN can better address the global challenges of the 21st century. For more information, visit [www.betterworldcampaign.org](http://www.betterworldcampaign.org).

## United Nations Association of the United States of America

The United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA), a program of the UN Foundation, is a membership organization dedicated to informing, inspiring, and mobilizing the American people to support the principles and vital work of the United Nations. UNA-USA works to accomplish its mission through its national network of Chapters, advocacy efforts, education programs, and public events. It empowers Chapters' advocacy efforts through its Advocacy Agenda, which focuses on four core areas: securing U.S. funding for the UN; advancing human rights; supporting the Millennium Development Goals; and encouraging U.S. ratification of UN treaties. UNA-USA and its sister organization the Better World Campaign are the single largest network of advocates and supporters of the United Nations in the world. For more information, visit [www.unausa.org](http://www.unausa.org).

## Global Classrooms Model UN

*Global Classrooms*® is UNA-USA's innovative educational program that engages middle school and high school students in an exploration of current world issues through interactive simulations and curricular materials. At the core of *Global Classrooms* is Model United Nations. Model UN has been the premier vehicle for building young people's leadership skills and understanding of international affairs, world cultures, and the workings of the UN for more than 60 years. Model UN enables its young participants to master the art of consensus building while drafting resolutions to solve some of today's most complex global issues. By stepping into the shoes of diplomats and representing viewpoints of 193 UN member states, young people gain awareness of ideas and trends that most deeply affect their generation. In 1999, *Global Classrooms* was created to bridge the gap in the Model UN community between experienced programs and traditionally underserved schools worldwide. Annually, *Global Classrooms* engages more than 25,000 students and teachers at Model UN conferences and in classrooms in over 20 countries. For more information, visit [www.unausa.org/globalclassrooms](http://www.unausa.org/globalclassrooms).

## By the Numbers

- Helped ensure the U.S. government paid nearly \$2 billion in United States debt to the UN
- Hosted the largest network of UN supporters across the U.S., involving 120 UNA-USA Chapters and Divisions and organized hundreds of meetings with members of Congress and staff to make the case for a strong U.S.-UN partnership
- Engaged more than 25,000 students and teachers in *Global Classrooms* and Model UN conferences in over 20 countries
- Sent more than 20,000 letters of thanks to UN Peacekeepers from our grassroots supporters
- Engaged thousands of people in our "My World. My UN." youth-focused campaign
- Conducted nationwide bipartisan polling finding that some eight in 10 voters support a strong U.S.-UN relationship
- Launched the first-ever U.S. Youth Observer at the UN program in partnership with the U.S. Department of State, generating more than 700 applicants in under two weeks