

Executive Order—Auditing and Reducing U.S. Funding of International Organizations

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Auditing and Reducing U.S. Funding of International Organizations

In 2010, the United States gave more than \$8.6 billion to various international organizations, a figure that has steadily grown each year. The bulk of that money goes to the United Nations and its agencies received \$7.7 billion from the U.S. in 2010). The United States is in fact the United Nations' largest financial supporter, providing nearly a quarter of its total revenues, and the American contribution continues to grow annually. This financial commitment is particularly burdensome given the current fiscal crisis and ballooning budget deficits and national debt. And while the United States' financial support for the United Nations is enormous, the United Nations often pursues an agenda contrary to American interests.

The purpose of the accompanying executive order is to ensure better alignment between United States national interests and U.S. monetary support to the United Nations and other international organizations. Specifically, the proposed order will help identify and eliminate wasteful and counterproductive giving. The proposed order would create a committee charged with identifying areas where U.S. financial contributions can and should be reduced in accordance with U.S. policy interests, and where existing contributions may be better allocated based on the same.

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EXECUTIVE ORDER

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By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to ensure that U.S. funding of international organizations supports American priorities, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment of International Funding Accountability Committee. There shall be established an International Funding Accountability Committee (the Committee), which shall consist of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Director of National Intelligence, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and the Counsel to the President, or their respective designees.

Sec. 2. Definition. For purposes of this order, the term “international organization” shall mean the United Nations, any other international organization with sovereign states as members, and any other international organization within the diplomatic portfolio of the Bureau of International Organization Affairs of the Department of State, but it shall not include security organizations or treaty bodies.

Sec. 3. Duties and Functions of Committee. The Committee shall:

- (a) Prepare a comprehensive report of all current and expected U.S. funding designated for support of the United Nations, its related agencies, and any other international organization. For each such organization, the report shall include a description of whether the funding is voluntary or assessed, how the recipient has used such funds during the past eight fiscal years, and how the organization expects to use them going forward;
- (b) The report shall separately identify any organization for which a complete report under subsection (a) of this order is not practicable because of lack of information made available by the organization;
- (c) Identify the compelling national interest or interests directly advanced by continued funding, in part or in whole, of each international organization, as well as any international organization for which continued funding, in part or in whole, would not advance a compelling national interest;

(d) Recommend appropriate strategies to reform international organizations of which the United States is a member in such a way that the international organizations transition from a funding mechanism derived from mandatory assessments to one derived from voluntary contributions, and recommend legislative, regulatory, and administrative mechanisms by which the United States could selectively fund the specific parts of an international organization that align with U.S. interests;

(e) Identify international organizations for which the United States funds a disproportionate share of the organization's budget, and recommend appropriate strategies to reduce the U.S. share or otherwise to end the disparity;

(f) Recommend appropriate strategies to ensure that U.S. funds contributed to international organizations are used only in a manner consistent with their designated purpose;

(g) Recommend appropriate criteria for determining whether the United States shall provide funding to an international organization, including auditing requirements consistent with generally accepted accounting standards and transparency requirements about how and where all funds are used;

(h) Recommend at least a 40 percent overall decrease in the amount of annual funding of voluntary contributions (not counting funding terminated under section 4 of this order) to international organizations, whether by reduction or outright termination of current funding;

(i) Make recommendations in accordance with the special issues identified in sections 4 and 5 of this order;

(j) Perform future reviews as directed by the President; and

(k) Create and maintain a public website detailing the Committee's accounting of U.S. funding to international organizations.

Sec. 3. Special Review of Funding. The Committee shall prepare detailed explanations of how U.S. funding, including in-kind contributions, directly or indirectly supports each of the practices or recipients listed in this section as subsections (a) through (g). Each explanation of an item shall identify which aspects of that funding advance U.S. policies and which do not, and shall recommend appropriate strategies, including reallocating funding to alternative practices or recipients, for limiting funding to objectives that advance U.S. policies. The Committee shall examine:

(a) International peacekeeping operations;

(b) Any dues increase assessed by an international organization;

- (c) Compensation for employees of international organizations exceeding compensation for U.S. civil servants;
- (d) Resolutions or sanctions that single out the State of Israel;
- (e) The United Nations Population Fund;
- (f) The International Criminal Court; and
- (g) Development aid (but not humanitarian or security aid) given to countries that oppose important U.S. policies or that, in general, oppose more than support U.S. policies across the United Nations system.

Sec. 4. Specific Funding Prohibitions. The Committee shall recommend appropriate strategies to cease U.S. funding that directly or indirectly supports any of the following:

- (a) Any United Nations affiliate or other international organization that grants full membership to the Palestinian Authority or Palestinian Liberation Organization;
- (b) Any United Nations affiliate or other international organization that is controlled or substantially influenced by any state that sponsors terrorism, persecutes marginalized groups, or engages in any other systematic violation of human rights;
- (c) Any United Nations affiliate or other international organization that circumvents sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea or the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- (d) The performance of abortion or sterilization as a method of family planning or the provision of incentives to motivate or coerce any person to undergo an abortion or sterilization; or
- (e) Any activity proscribed by U.S. statute.

Sec. 5. Report. The Committee shall deliver its findings to the President in a report no later than January 1, 2018. For each reduction or termination in international funding proposed, the Committee shall recommend the specific means and legal authority by which the President may act on the proposal, including recommending any legislation that may be necessary to carry out the recommendations of the Committee.

Sec. 6. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof, or the status of that department or agency within the Federal Government; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.