

## **Testimony of Congresswoman Harriet M. Hageman (WY at-Large)**

### **House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security,**

### **Department of State, and Related Programs**

Member Day, March 25, 2026

Chairman Diaz-Balart, Ranking Member Frankel, and Members of the subcommittee:

I am grateful for the opportunity to testify before you today for the subcommittee's Member Day hearing regarding the issue of the Chinese Communist Party's growing influence in the United Nation's Specialized Agencies.

The Chinese Communist Party, or CCP, is waging a multilateral influence operation with the intent to undermine the U.S. as a world power while reorienting the global system in its favor. And, in order to achieve these ends, the CCP is seeking to gain legitimacy inside the UN through its Specialized Agencies.

The CCP is targeting elections for leadership positions within these specialized agencies, and then seeking to shift its policies in the CCP's favor. Simultaneously, the CCP is working to stack the rank-and-file employees of the Specialized Agencies with Chinese citizens and CCP affiliated individuals. A Chinese national currently leads the Food and Agriculture Organization, and over the last 15 years, China has led the World Health Organization, UN Industrial Development Organization, International Civil and Aviation Organization, International Telecommunication Union. In 2020, China nearly succeeded in its bid to lead the World Intellectual Property Organization.

I do not seek to ring alarm bells without just cause. The FAO, under CCP bureaucrat Qu Dongyu, has been marked by allegations with criticism, including from UN officials, for mismanaging the agency, failing to properly respond to global food shortages, and promoting an agenda that aligns with the CCP's Global Development Initiative. For example, when Russia's invasion of Ukraine crippled Ukrainian food and agricultural exports, the FAO refused to act – despite the authority to do so – until US and EU officials forced an emergency meeting of the FAO council.

This trend is not unique to the FAO. For example, in 2019, Secretary-General Fang Liu of the ICAO advanced policies dictated by Beijing, including new air routes through Taiwanese airspace instituted in violation of ICAO procedures. Liu also concealed cyber

security breaches linked to China that threatened the security of ICAO, its member states, and the aviation industry.

The FAO, ICAO, WIPO and many of the other Specialized Agencies coordinate in major sectors crucial for development and modern life, yet I am concerned that the State Department is not taking these threats seriously, and only engaging with countering Chinese ascension to these leadership positions when elections get down to the wire, or if there is media scrutiny. Despite being the largest funder of the UN, U.S. employment numbers within the UN consistently fall below target levels per the GAO. If we are going to foot the bill at international organizations, we should not do so at the expense of promoting the CCP.

We can increase US leadership, and I want to commend this subcommittee for providing \$5 million for the placement of U.S. citizens in the Junior Professional Officer Program and not less than \$750,000 to enhance the competitiveness of U.S. citizens for leadership positions within the UN system in FY26. But we must also ensure that US taxpayer funds are not being used to advance the CCP's malign influence through the UN Specialized Agencies. Therefore, I respectfully urge this subcommittee use the FY27 appropriations bill to take two actions. First, direct the State Department to routinely and strategically prepare for UN elections. Second, to prohibit funding to UN Specialized agencies that are chaired, or otherwise under the leadership of, a CCP affiliated individual.

I believe that the United States can, and should, play a larger role in the leadership of these Specialized Agencies based on our funding levels but, until that happens, we should not continue to bankroll the CCP's agenda. Doing so constitutes a flagrant waste of taxpayer money.

Once again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify and I look forward to working with each of you as we begin the ever-important process of drafting our appropriations bills for FY27.