

**Statement of Ambassador Michael Waltz
Representative of the United States to the United Nations
Before the House Foreign Affairs Committee
UN Reform**

Testimony Remarks
July 22, 2026

Thank you, Chairman Mast, Ranking Member Meeks, and members of the Committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today.

When I arrived in New York, I tried to do what I did as a Green Beret: listen and learn.

Here's what I heard—and I've heard it from my former constituents back in Florida, my colleagues up at the UN, and all of you—this place has drifted badly from its core mission.

But, I am proud to report that under President Trump, we have made progress getting the UN back to basics: peace and security.

It lost itself in endless growth. It tried to become all things to all people. It should do less, better. And, as Secretary Rubio has noted repeatedly: we will use every cent the UN claims we owe to claw it back to its original purpose and get it working for the American people.

The UN has done nothing but grow in its 80-year history. Its overall budget ballooned to \$3.5 billion every single year. And, if you haven't noticed: our donations to the UN make up the biggest portion of that budget—by far. In fact, we have traditionally contributed more than the next five countries combined.

So, in our very first year here, we secured the first real budget cut in UN history—saving more than half a billion dollars overall and more than \$100 million a year in U.S. funding.

Early this month we cut another \$600 million from the peacekeeping budget. That's more than a billion dollars in cuts in the last six months—and hundreds of millions in savings for everyday Americans.

The UN got addicted to bureaucracy. So, we cut nearly 4,000 headquarters bureaucratic positions and reduced peacekeepers by 25 percent. I work for a peace President—who has made more peace deals (in spite of the UN) than the Security Council could dream of. And with Secretary Rubio's leadership at State, we are using bilateral relationships to chart peace without needless bureaucracy and process.

Meanwhile, the UN became comfortable with 90,000 peacekeepers all over the world and forever peacekeeping missions that last 30, 40, 50 years with no exit strategy.

We are sending underperforming peacekeepers home, downsizing missions that have outlived their purpose, and tying every mission to real political and military change on the ground. We are also taking a hard look at sexual abuse by peacekeepers. Those who abuse the peace—instead of keeping it—will be thrown out.

The UN let countries use peacekeeping missions as cash cows for their militaries. Peacekeepers could bring equipment, park it, never use it, take it home brand new, and get it paid for by the UN.

We changed that. If peacekeepers want to be reimbursed for equipment, they must use that equipment for peacekeeping.

Wherever they are, peacekeepers should always be working themselves out of a job—not sitting on their hands.

The UN's other core mission has been humanitarian aid delivery. In theory: good. In practice: it has laundered American taxpayers' money away from them as cash rewards for the NGO industrial complex. And, they've been doing it for decades.

When I was a Green Beret, I visited a tiny health ministry in a small African country. There were no more than 10 people working there. But outside, there were 14 UN vehicles from 14 different UN agencies. These guys were practically tripping over each other in a ministry smaller than most House offices.

Thankfully, now, we're setting up pooled funds, shared warehouses, coordinated logistics, and more accountability where aid is genuinely needed.

Where aid isn't needed, we're pushing for trade over aid. Dependency is out. Business is in.

And when UN agencies rush to regulate those businesses, we are fighting for great American candidates and American businesses large and small, so that our air traffic controllers speak English, global telecom is free and fair, and so carbon taxes on ships or planes don't kill our economy.

We should be pushing the UN to become an organization President Trump can use to deliver peace, share the burden, and advance America First foreign policy.

And, he is.

Before this administration, the UN was weak on Gaza, quiet on Iran, and assumed America would carry every burden in the world. Worse yet, it was obsessed with SDGs, antisemitism, and literally funding terrorists through UNRWA.

We are fighting that UN tooth and nail.

Under President Trump, we helped drive a landmark Security Council resolution condemning Iran's attacks against its neighbors and its weaponization of the Strait of Hormuz—with a record-breaking 136 cosponsors.

And, when President Trump put forward a 20-point peace plan for Gaza, we brought that plan to the Security Council and secured endorsement without opposition. It now anchors an International Stabilization Force, local Palestinian governance, and a World Bank-managed reconstruction fund financed largely by regional partners. Not American taxpayers.

In Haiti—where guns, drugs, and gangs threaten Florida and our Southern border—we built support for a Gang Suppression Force, with international, Francophone troops (not U.S. troops) helping restore order, and UN logistics helping cut costs by 75 percent.

In Western Sahara, we're marching toward peace, after 50 years (!) of frozen conflict. In Sudan, we're getting aid in and thugs sanctioned.

And, all around the world, our friends and enemies are waking up to a UN that is starting to remember what it is capable of when it does LESS, BETTER.

President Trump believes the UN has potential. So do I.

Now, our job is to make the UN live up to that potential.

Believe me. There's more work to do—and more in our crosshairs: stopping bureaucrats' business travel; ludicrous 17 percent pension contributions; and a \$105 billion-plus pension fund. And, getting in a reform-minded Secretary-General; more patriotic Americans in UN agencies; and, ultimately, a UN that once again does less, better for the American people.

Thank you.