



# U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

## U.S. Engagement in the United Nations

The United Nations provides the United States with an international forum where we can enhance national security, advance foreign policy objectives, and promote American values. The United States seeks to uphold the UN's founding principles. We share a commitment to foster international peace and security; to fight poverty through development; to eradicate pandemic diseases; and to advance freedom, human rights, and democracy.

U.S. leadership in the UN is critical to making the world more secure, more democratic, and more prosperous. At the same time, the United States is committed to ensuring good stewardship of UN resources so these universal goals are met effectively and efficiently.



## Benefits to Americans

The United States benefits from membership in the UN and other international organizations by being part of a multilateral approach to address a wide range of serious global issues. Through

the UN, the United States can build coalitions and pursue multilateral programs that advance U.S. and international interests. U.S. priorities include: countering global terrorism; preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; encouraging nuclear safeguards, arms control, and disarmament; promoting peace in the Middle East and an end to anguish in other regions such as Africa;

promoting economic growth; treating those with HIV/AIDS and preventing new HIV infections; and, bringing an end to trafficking in persons. The United Nations provides the forum for the U.S. to address these and other key objectives.

## U.S. Financial Contributions to the United Nations

The United States is the largest financial contributor to the UN, and has been every year since its creation in 1945. U.S. contributions to the UN system in 2003 were well over \$3 billion. In-kind contributions include items such as food donations for the World Food Program.

The U.S.-assessed contribution to the UN regular budget in 2003 was \$341 million, and to UN specialized agencies was over \$400 million. The United States also contributed \$686 million in assessments to the peacekeeping budget; \$57 million for the support of the international war crimes tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia; and, \$6 million for preparatory work relating to the Capital Master Plan to renovate the UN Headquarters in New York. Moreover, each year the United States provides a significant amount in voluntary contributions to the UN and its affiliated agencies and activities, largely for humanitarian and development programs.

### The United States is a generous supporter—in many cases the largest supporter—of key UN programs. In 2003, the U.S. contributed:

- 57% to the budget of the **World Food Program** to help feed 104 million people in 81 countries;
- 17% to the budget of the **United Nations Children's Fund** to feed, vaccinate, educate, and protect children in 158 countries;
- 14% to the core budget of the **United Nations Development Program** to eradicate poverty and encourage democratic governance;
- 33% to the budget of the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**.