



## Partners Toolkit for May/June 2006

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Citizens for Global Solutions  
Partners Nationwide Teleconference

-United Nations Reform-  
Where we are and where we're going

Saturday, 13 May 2006  
1:00 PM Eastern time

Dial: 800-391-2548  
Verbal password: V A 3 1 7 8 5 5

Speakers

- Simon Weber, Legislative Coordinator, Citizens for Global Solutions
- Scott Paul, Campaigns Manager, Citizens for Global Solutions

Agenda:

- Flash Contest Update
- UN reform over the last year
- What's coming in the next few months on UN reform
- Legislative update on UN reform issues

Here are some useful tips regarding how to access the call:

- Participants should dial in 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- When dialing in, the Host and participants should hold the line for an operator.
- Participants will verbally give their password to the operator.
- All Hosts should identify themselves accordingly to the operator when they dial in.
- Operators will take the city, state and number of people in the room and place them into the Main Conference.



## U.S.-U.N. Relations: A Fork in the Road

### *Solutions to Major Global Problems Hang in the Balance*

#### Overview:

Beginning at the September World Summit at the United Nations, the U.S.-U.N. relationship has become more strained than usual. The nomination of John Bolton as U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. and a new push for U.N. reform have put the organization front and center in the minds of American foreign policy thinkers and public officials. During this same period, the world body's hard-line detractors have stepped up their criticism and coalesced around a few key points regarding the UN: it is corrupt and wasteful; it is a breeding ground for anti-U.S. and anti-Israel sentiment and policymaking; and working with it is not the only way to pursue effective multilateralism.

This strategy goes against our nation's 60 year relationship to work with our friends and allies through the U.N. to work together in order to address the problems of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century that no one nation, not even the United States, can solve alone.

While President Bush supports most of Secretary-General Kofi Annan's reform proposals, his administration, under the leadership of Ambassador Bolton, has taken a confrontational stance that has undermined progress. This summer, a spate of crucial issues will come to a head and will determine the future of U.S.-U.N. relations. Barring a change in course by the administration and Ambassador Bolton, the U.S. is likely to fall short of key foreign policy and U.N. reform goals.

Our staff has written a memorandum that discusses seven of the most important policy battles to be fought over the next few months. This memorandum can be found at: [http://www.globalsolutions.org/involved/partners/us\\_un\\_relations.pdf](http://www.globalsolutions.org/involved/partners/us_un_relations.pdf) This memorandum discusses the following issues:

- The Crisis in Darfur
- The Human Rights Council
- Iran
- Management and Operations Reform
- Mandate Review
- The Next Secretary General
- Terrorism
- The UN Budget Battle

- Congress and the UN
- A Timeline of what is expected to happen over the next few months.

The U.S. is deeply invested in these debates. Failure to meet U.S. goals in these areas will affect two other battles addressed in this memo: renewing the U.N. budget and U.N. legislation and appropriations in Congress. The outcome of these battles, specifically, will be seen as indicators of the state of the U.S.-U.N. partnership.

Should this partnership erode any further, the possibility of a better and safer world for future generations could be at risk.

## Congress and the United Nations

### Overview:

The United Nations has always had its die-hard opponents and tough critics on Capitol Hill. Over the past year, however, Congress has become increasingly hostile towards the United Nations. Senator Norm Coleman's (R-MN) has called for Secretary-General Kofi Annan's resignation; and consistent criticism of U.N. operations and management from Coleman and others, suggest that U.S. funding for the U.N. may be a particularly tough battle this year.

The main battles in Congress this summer will center on a U.N. reform bill that may include withholding and appropriations legislation that will determine U.S. contributions to the U.N. and its various specialized agencies, including funding for U.N. peacekeeping. Both are likely to be influenced by the outcomes and messages of the other issues discussed in this memo, and both are crucial to the effort to build a strong and effective U.N.

The Hyde bill would automatically withhold half of U.S. contributions to the U.N. unless a set of over 40 reforms were implemented on an unrealistically strict timeline. In addition, it supports a shift in the funding of 18 U.N. agencies from mandatory assessed contributions to voluntary contributions. The Bush Administration opposed the bill immediately, and Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA) offered an alternative bill that mirrored the call for reform but instead left the authority to withhold dues in the hands of the president and Secretary of State. Rep. Hyde's bill passed twice last year on the House floor, but Hyde recently indicated a willingness to abandon his bill and forge compromise legislation with Rep. Lantos. Legislation similar to the Hyde bill, S. 1394, was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Gordon Smith (R-OR), and currently has five co-sponsors. Sens. Norm Coleman (R-MN) and Richard Lugar (R-IN) have introduced a bill, S.1383 that leaves withholding discretion to the President. Neither chamber has sent their more moderate U.N. reform bills to the floor.

Congress is also debating appropriations for the Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities (CIPA) account, which funds the U.S. share of 18 U.N. peacekeeping missions. The U.S. is behind \$521 million in U.N. peacekeeping dues, a shortfall accrued over the last two fiscal years, and President Bush's request for this year is also considerably less than the amount that peacekeeping experts estimate will be the U.S.'s assessed share. Both the FY '07 budget and the FY '06 supplemental request are serving as battlegrounds for this fight over CIPA.

The Bush Administration has opposed mandatory withholding of U.N. dues, but has publicly said very little to discourage lawmakers from taking such an approach. Under Ambassador Bolton's leadership, the administration is also studying the possibility of transferring a number of U.N. agencies – as well as the core U.N. budget – from a schedule of mandatory assessed contributions to voluntary contributions.

The administration supports its initial budget request for CIPA.

We (CGS) would prefer that no legislation tying U.N. dues to U.N. reform become law. Should a U.N. reform bill pass, it should not limit U.S. payments of U.N. dues or shift the budgets of U.N. agencies (or the core U.N. budget, as advocated by Ambassador Bolton) from assessed to voluntary funding. In addition, it should include positive incentives for U.N. reform, recognize recent progress, and include additional funds to support reform efforts.

Appropriations for the CIPA account should approach as closely as possible the amount assessed by the U.N. With the U.N. tentatively planning for a new mission in Darfur, it is critically important that the U.S. signals its strong support for U.N. peacekeeping. Also, if Congress includes supplemental appropriations for the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), they should not be offset by decreases in CIPA funding.

## May/June Partners Projects

### 1) Hold a Flash Party

As you may know, our Citizens for Global Solutions Flash Contest just wrapped up. Over 9,000 young people registered for this contest, and we received over 300 entries. To say the least, we are completely astounded by the success of the contest as well as the quality of the flash pieces produced. Last week, you should have received an email telling you about the finalists in the flash contest and inviting you to cast your ballot. If you haven't seen the Flash pieces, please check them out as they truly are phenomenal.

As a follow-up to the Flash contest, we are asking you to hold small Flash parties in your home for chapter members, friends, family, young people, and, well, anyone else you can think of to invite.

As an "entrance fee" for attending the party, we are asking you to require that all who attend write a short letter to their senators or representative about United Nations Reform. The letter only needs to be a few sentences, but they should be hand-written and it would be great if you could provide stamped envelopes as well as the senators' and/or representatives' address. It would be good to have a copy or two of the memorandum at the party to give people ideas as well as copies of our UN Minute, which provide messaging advice for talking to others about United Nations reform. You can find the UN memo at [http://www.globalsolutions.org/involved/partners/us\\_un\\_relations.pdf](http://www.globalsolutions.org/involved/partners/us_un_relations.pdf) Here's a little information about the UN Minute:

This year, opponents of the UN - people who want to fundamentally damage the U.S.-UN relationship - have been coordinating their attacks to create the impression that the institution is corrupt, ineffective, and beyond repair. Citizens for Global Solutions has launched a counteroffensive - the UN Minute. The Minute is a messaging memo for supporters of a strong and effective UN. We send it out every 2 weeks. We're encouraging people to use our talking points in Letters to the Editor, speeches, op-eds, conversations, interviews, and other communications.

Want to be part of this national effort to fight back against the UN-bashers? Send an e-mail to [un\\_minute-request@lists-globalsolutions.org](mailto:un_minute-request@lists-globalsolutions.org) with "subscribe" in the subject line. It takes longer to delete it than to read it!

You can also always get up-to-date information about the United Nations by visiting our UN information center found on our website at:

[http://www.globalsolutions.org/programs/intl\\_instit/UN21/index.html](http://www.globalsolutions.org/programs/intl_instit/UN21/index.html)

There are several steps you will need to follow in order to be able to actually show the Flash pieces. First, you will need a computer with speakers and access to the internet. A high-speed internet connection is helpful, but not vital. In other words, if you know someone who has a high-speed connection, consider having the party at his/her house instead. You will also need a program called Macromedia Flash. It is very easy to download this program. All you need to do is go to [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) and click on "Get Macromedia Flash Player." It will walk you through how to download the program. It really is simple. Don't know if you have the program on your computer? No problem. Try to download it. It will tell you if you already have it. Download the Flash player BEFORE the party. That way, if you have any problems, you can call me or send me an email and I can do my best to help you out. Also, go to [www.globalsolutions.org/flash](http://www.globalsolutions.org/flash) to see this year's finalists. Again, watch them before the party in case you have any problems. The first time you watch the Flash pieces, they will take a few minutes to download; this time usually gets shorter the second time you watch them. If, during the party, the Flash pieces are taking some time to download, then simply ask people to write their letters between watching the pieces or provide refreshments.

## **2) Letters-to-the-editor**

As always, LTEs are a vital tool in getting our message out. Following this project's theme of UN Reform, we are asking you to use the UN Minute and/or the sample LTE below to write your own LTEs and send them to your local papers. For more advice about writing LTEs and getting them published, please visit our Activist Media Center which can be found on our website at

[http://www.globalsolutions.org/press\\_room/activist\\_presskit.html](http://www.globalsolutions.org/press_room/activist_presskit.html)

### **SAMPLE LTE:**

In today's interdependent world, America needs to work with our friends and allies to strengthen and revitalize the United Nations. For 60 years, our nation has helped shape the UN and we have a tremendous opportunity – and responsibility – to reform the world body in order to address the global problems of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; problems no one nation, not even the United States, can solve alone.

U.S. leadership and partnership with the UN is needed in order to effectively address genocide in Darfur, nuclear proliferation, global human rights and an array of other issues that affect all of us. We as a nation can not abandon our historic 60-year partnership with the UN at this time. If we truly want a better and safer world for our

children and grandchildren, we must continue to be global leaders in our policies and at the UN.

America has much to gain from a modernized UN that began last fall, but only if it is willing to be a team player. Some of the key provisions on the table at the UN – spreading democracy, ensuring effective peacekeeping and promoting human rights – reflect fundamental American interests. If we respect the priorities and interests of others, it is more likely that they will respect ours.

President Bush should recognize that the UN is a critical foreign policy partner for the U.S. and he should work to strengthen the world body so that it can play an even more effective role in an era of global interdependence.

### **3) Candidate Questionnaire follow-up**

If you sent our CQ to someone running for office, it is definitely time to follow up with the candidate if you haven't already. Also, if you haven't sent a CQ out to all the candidates running in your area, it isn't too late to do so. There's still time, but the sooner we get these out and get them returned to the national office, the better. Please, help us build a globalist majority in Congress! You can download the CQ at [http://www.globalsolutions.org/elections/CQ\\_home.html](http://www.globalsolutions.org/elections/CQ_home.html) or you can request paper copies by calling Drew Asson at 202-546-3950 x102.

4) Yet again, I am asking that if you haven't lobbied your mayor or city council to sign onto the Urban Environmental Accords, please consider doing so. This is a great initiative that we have had some great success with. For more information, please refer to the November 2005 Partners mailing which can be found at: <http://www.globalsolutions.org/involved/partners/November.doc> as well as [http://www.globalsolutions.org/programs/health\\_environment/urban\\_accords/index.html](http://www.globalsolutions.org/programs/health_environment/urban_accords/index.html)

## Monthly Report of Your Accomplishments

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Over the past few months, we have had several projects. Please answer each of the following questions (unless you have already sent this information to me).

*Did you lobby your mayor or city council to sign either the Urban Environmental Accords or/and the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement? If so, did you lobby for one or both of the above-mentioned environmental treaties? Did your mayor agree to sign onto either or both?*

*Have you sent out candidate questionnaires?*

*Have you collected district intelligence?*

*Have you written any LTEs? Were they printed?*

Letters to the editor and op-eds *(Please note them here even if you are enclosing copies)*

Total Submitted	Total Printed	Type: LTE, op-ed	Topic	Written By	Paper	Date It Ran

Other Political or Media Activities Your Chapter Engaged In

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*Use another sheet if necessary to continue your report. Please detach and return to Sara Bodenbergl by May 30th so your accomplishments can be published in the next mailing.*

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\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE TAKE 5 MINUTES TO FILL THIS OUT AND SEND IT BACK TO THE NATIONAL OFFICE. I AM RECEIVING FEWER AND FEWER OF THEM. THIS INFORMATION IS VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR SEVERAL REASONS, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS THAT WHEN THE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TEAM GOES TO LOBBY, IT GREATLY HELPS TO TELL THE SENATOR OR REP WHAT THEIR CONSTITUENTS HAVE BEEN DOING. EVEN IF YOU SEND ME A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR CHAPTER, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT SOMEONE IN THE CHAPTER FILLS THIS OUT.

## News from the Field

- Congratulations to our **Portland**, OR Chapter who got their city to sign onto the Urban Environmental Accords!
- Our **Milwaukee** Chapter showed the Peacekeepers at the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee last month. Well Done!
- Our **Oberlin**, Ohio Chapter has sent out 34 Candidate Questionnaires to candidates running in their area. Keep up the great work!
- Our **Chicago** Chapter held a two-session lecture and discussion series on "Peace in the Middle East" featuring their very own Professor Nari Safavi and Professor Guity Nashat. Nari talked about foreign policy developments between the U.S. and Iran and Nashat talked about the role of women in the Middle East. Congratulations!
- Our **Maine** Chapter has been busy tabling at several events as well as writing Letters to the Editor, one of which was published last month. They are also responsible for handing out a contest-in-a-box kit which resulted in a high school student sending in an entry that is one of our Flash Contests Finalists. Keep up the good work!

Please remember, I can't tell everyone about the wonderful things you are doing if you don't tell me about them. Don't forget to fill out the monthly report form.

**Every day, you are changing the world!**