

UNA-USA 2019 TALKING POINTS

1. INTRODUCE YOURSELF

Hi, I'm [your name], a constituent and voter from [your city/county/state]. I'm a member of the United Nations Association of the United States of America, a grassroots movement of Americans dedicated to supporting the principles and vital work of the UN. My local chapter is UNA [chapter name].

2. MAKE THE ASK

As you probably know, the President's FY20 Budget Request called for reducing the International Affairs Budget by 24% and severely cutting U.S. contributions to the UN. I, like so many Republican and Democratic Members of Congress, believe that efforts to cut U.S. funding for the UN's lifesaving humanitarian, development, and peace and security work is strategically unwise and simply un-American. Whether it's preventing a famine in Yemen (page 15), working to reduce the risks of climate change (page 22), or countering violent extremism (page 38), when the UN has the resources it needs to get the job done, our country is stronger and safer. That's why I'm here today to ask you to **fully fund our dues to the United Nations** (page 5).

3. PUT YOUR STORY BEHIND THE ASK

I got involved in UNA-USA when...

UN issues matter to me because...

In my personal experience as a UN advocate, I have...

Our nation's leadership at the UN is important to me because...

4. SUPPORT THE ASK WITH FACTS

Pick one or two to share. Find more facts in the Congressional Briefing Book using the (page #s).

Funding the UN has bipartisan support. This isn't just my opinion – a recent nationwide poll found that 7 out of 10 voters support paying our UN dues, including majorities of Republicans, Independents, and Democrats (page 12).

Funding the UN benefits the U.S. economy. The UN is a good deal for the U.S. economy. Since 2010, U.S. companies have received more than \$9.5 billion in contracts with the UN and our economy receives more revenue from the UN than the we actually spend on our UN regular budget and peacekeeping dues (page 11).

Funding the UN is cost-effective. According to the Government Accountability Office, UN peacekeeping missions are 8x less expensive than deploying U.S. forces alone (page 35). Furthermore, the UN Secretariat is streamlined and staffed by 38,000 personnel—less than the U.S. Department of Commerce (page 56).

Funding the UN helps achieve U.S. foreign policy goals. Ending extreme poverty and hunger, ensuring access to safe drinking water, combating infectious diseases, empowering women and girls, and promoting employment and economic growth are not only U.S. priorities—they are UN priorities enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals (page 29).

5. SAY THANK YOU AND REQUEST A PHOTO



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LOBBY DAY CHEAT SHEET

WHO AM I?

Shake hands, give your name, and tell the Member or staffer where you're from. Briefly say a bit about yourself and what your UNA-USA chapter does in the community/on campus, how you got involved with UNA-USA, etc. Mention any personal connections you might have with the elected official or their staff, as well as your education, neighborhood, and community involvement outside UNA-USA. Don't be afraid to ask the staffer general questions about their interactions with the UN, their boss's foreign policy priorities, etc.

WHAT DO I WANT?

I'm here to ask you to fully fund our dues to the United Nations.

WHY DO I WANT IT?

- *I'm a student majoring in environmental science and want our country to lead on the Paris Climate Agreement.*
- *I'm a former Marine and know that UN peacekeeping helps prevent wars and resolve deadly conflicts.*
- *I'm a teacher and support UNICEF's work helping children in the developing world access quality education.*
- *I'm a returned Peace Corps Volunteer and have seen how UNDP is working to end extreme poverty.*
- *I'm a nurse/doctor and want to ensure WHO has the resources it needs to stop the spread of Ebola.*
- *I'm a former refugee and wouldn't be living in this country if it wasn't for the help UNHCR provided me.*
- **The list goes on and on – find YOUR reason!**

WHY IS THIS WORTH IT?

- **I'm not alone in this request.** Seven out of 10 voters support paying our UN dues (page 12).
- **This is good for our economy.** Since 2010, U.S. companies receive more in contracts with the UN than we spend on the UN regular budget and peacekeeping dues (page 11).
- **This is a cost-effective investment.** Contributing to a peacekeeping mission is eight times less expensive than the cost of a unilateral U.S. military intervention (page 35).
- **The UN is a force multiplier.** Funding the UN helps achieve U.S. foreign policy, humanitarian, and development priorities (page 29).