

November 12, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer:

We write today to ask that you continue to work to expedite Senate confirmation of nominees for critical diplomatic posts dealing with America's relationship with international organizations. These include, among others, Ambassador Michele Sison to be Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, Bathsheba Crocker to be U.S. Ambassador to the UN in Geneva, Chris Lu to be U.S. Ambassador to the UN for Management and Reform, Lisa Carty to be U.S. Ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Chesley Sullenberger to be U.S. Ambassador to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and Amb. Laura Holgate to be U.S. Ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

When President Biden took office in January 2021, he committed to restoring American leadership at the United Nations. Since then, the Biden Administration has taken a number of vital steps to reengage constructively with the world body, reversing the previous Administration's counter-productive decisions to withdraw from the Paris Agreement and World Health Organization, successfully running for a seat on the UN Human Rights Council, and committing to begin the process of paying back more than \$1 billion in arrears that the U.S. has accrued since 2017. We applaud these steps and look forward to supporting additional efforts aimed at shoring up U.S. multilateral diplomacy in the coming years.

It will be difficult though for the Administration to fully implement its expansive agenda at the UN and other international organizations if it lacks a full diplomatic team. Without Senate-confirmed diplomats representing U.S. interests at these bodies or coordinating our efforts from the State Department, the U.S. will find it more challenging to engage both in the day-to-day diplomatic spadework necessary to advance its immediate policy priorities and in longer-term strategic planning.

The UN and its specialized agencies are at the center of global discussions and action on a range of issues critical to U.S. national interests, from combating climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic to addressing international displacement and migration, from delivering lifesaving humanitarian assistance to supporting nuclear non-proliferation efforts. They are also a key front in U.S. competition with autocratic powers—particularly China and Russia—who seek to promote their own vision of multilateralism that undermines hard-fought international human rights norms. If the U.S. argument is to win the day and American interests and values are to be advanced, we need individuals with the confidence of the President in place to undertake the hard work of ensuring that these multilateral organizations fulfill their crucial mandates.

President Biden's nominees for these positions are all well-qualified, with years of experience in the private sector, government, and diplomacy between them. Unfortunately, some of them have languished on the Senate Calendar for months after being reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. While we recognize there are a number of other nominations and legislative matters demanding your attention and that you have pushed for confirmation of all State Department nominees, given the importance of these positions to U.S. diplomacy and national security, we request that you bring them up for a vote on the Senate floor as quickly as possible. Confirming these nominees is a critical step towards allowing America to fully resume its leadership role on the world stage.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Yeo".

Peter Yeo
President
Better World Campaign

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Pittman".

Rachel Pittman
Executive Director
United Nations Association of the USA