

Suggested Paths Forward

To build on the positive momentum from these meetings and deepen relationships with each office, it would be beneficial to:

- **Urge opposition to the rescission package and support for UN funding in FY 2026.** A direct ask is essential. Emphasizing how UN funding advances U.S. interests and Iowa interests, food security, security and safety, humanitarian response, and peacekeeping can help position this request as both practical and principled.
- **Share local and personal stories** that illustrate how international cooperation, through the UN, impacts Iowans directly. Whether through agriculture and food security, refugee resettlement, or peacebuilding, bringing these stories to life makes the value of global engagement more tangible.
- **Maintain consistent, continuous, and values-aligned communication.** These relationships grow stronger through ongoing dialogue grounded in shared principles such as dignity, safety, and opportunity. Framing conversations through the lens of Iowa values - such as the state motto, *“Our liberties we prize, and our rights we will maintain”* - can create deeper resonance and bipartisan connection. Over time, tools like briefings, email updates, or local constituent roundtables can help normalize and elevate the relevance of the UN in discussions about U.S. leadership and global engagement.
- **Highlight accountability and reform efforts within the UN to address concerns raised about transparency and fiscal oversight.** Several offices expressed concern about financial transparency within the UN. Being ready to highlight current reform efforts, oversight mechanisms, and how the U.S. plays a role in shaping UN accountability can help respond to skepticism with credibility and care.
- **Invite further dialogue.** Consider sending thank-you notes that include relevant articles, fact sheets, or stories related to the UN’s impact, and offer to serve as a local resource. This approach frames advocates not as partisans, but as thoughtful, informed partners in civic discourse.

Over time, this **relationship-centered and constituent - informed approach** can help foster deeper understanding of the UN’s role and the importance of sustained, principled U.S. engagement in global affairs, grounded in both local impact and shared global responsibility.

Why the UN Is Vital

The UN isn’t just an ideal - it’s a working system that:

- **Prevents Wars:** Peacekeeping missions help de-escalate conflict before it turns into full-scale war, reducing the need for American military deployments.
- **Saves Lives:** Agencies like the **World Food Programme (WFP)** and **UNICEF** deliver life-saving food, shelter, and medicine every day.
- **Protects Global Health:** The **World Health Organization (WHO)** coordinates rapid response to disease outbreaks, reducing pandemic risk for everyone—including Americans.
- **Supports Stability:** Humanitarian aid keeps fragile countries from collapsing, which in turn prevents forced migration, famine, and regional war.
- **Promotes Women’s Rights:** The **UNFPA** and **UN Women** combat child marriage, reduce maternal deaths, and promote gender equity.
- **Drives Economic Progress:** U.S. farmers, tech firms, and medical suppliers receive billions in contracts through U.N. procurement.
- **Disrupts human trafficking and fentanyl trafficking** through the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

In a **bipartisan appeal**, **40 Members of Congress** have called on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security and Department of State to fully fund U.S. commitments to the United Nations in the FY2026 budget, **“The UN continues to serve as a critical force-multiplier for the United States,”** lawmakers wrote, **“helping to make America stronger, safer and more prosperous with the support of international partners.”** [Download](#) the full text of the letter and a list of signatories.

The Real Impacts of U.S. Funding Cuts

Cutting U.S. support to the UN has dangerous ripple effects:

1. Constricting Humanitarian Aid

- The rescissions package slashes over \$361 million from FY24 and FY25 allocations to UN peacekeeping aimed at two key missions: [MONUSCO](#) in the DRC and [UNIFIL](#) in Lebanon.
- Without adequate resources, an estimated **12.8 million displaced people**, including **6.3 million children**, could be left without life-saving health interventions.
- Violence against women and domestic insecurity is a known driver of migration to the U.S. southern border.
- Without peacekeepers, violence escalates - and American military involvement becomes more likely.

2. Loss of Public Health Infrastructure

- WHO tracks 300+ disease outbreaks a year. Without U.S. funding, their ability to respond weakens.

4. Empowerment of Authoritarian Regimes

- As the U.S. pulls back, other countries increase their financial and political power inside the UN-reshaping it to reflect their values, not ours.

5. International Assistance Cuts Hurt American Farmers, Workers, and Businesses

- U.S. based organizations stand to **lose \$28.9 billion** from cuts to international assistance contracts and programs. (USAID StopWork, Accessed 3/4/25)
- **American farmers supply roughly 40 percent of international food assistance**, which creates a global demand for American made crops such as wheat, sorghum and soybeans. (CBS News, 2/12/25)
- In 2020 alone, the U.S. government purchased nearly **\$2 billion in food aid** from American farmers. (The Washington Post, 2/6/25)

6. Increased Global Instability

- Cuts to food, education, and aid programs in fragile regions can spark desperation, extremism, or violent conflict - all of which have long-term security consequences for the U.S.

7. Violation of U.S. Commitments

- Skipping UN payments breaks treaty obligations. We risk losing our vote in the General Assembly and our standing as a global leader.

What You Can Do Right Now

This is not just about policy. It's about real people and the kind of world we want to live in. Here's how you can help:

1. Contact Your Members of Congress

- Ask them to fund the U.N. fully and oppose rescissions.
 - [Find Your Legislator](#)

- www.unausa.org/advocacy

2. Use Your Voice

- Share facts and personal stories on social media.
- Write a letter to your local newspaper.
- Talk with friends, family, and coworkers—help them understand what’s at stake.

3. Stay Informed

- Learn more about the U.N.’s work and where U.S. leadership matters most:
 - [UN Peacekeeping](#) ○
 - [World Food Programme](#) ○
 - [World Health Organization](#) ○
 - [UN Refugee Agency \(UNHCR\)](#) ○
 - [UNFPA](#)

4. Get Involved Locally

- Join and participate in your local UNA-USA chapter: www.unausa.org/chapters
- Volunteer, host events, or support advocacy days.

5. Support Global Programs

- Donate to reliable U.N. agencies or nonprofits advancing humanitarian work.

This summit wasn’t just a policy event - it was a reminder of what’s possible when people come together with hope and purpose. I’m so grateful I had the opportunity to attend. Meeting other passionate advocates reminded me that this movement is full of everyday people who believe in justice, peace, and global connection.

We’re not powerless. We’re participants in shaping the future.

Let’s keep showing up - for each other, and for the world.