

Amendment 896 – Requiring Transparency by the United Nations

Establishes a deficit-neutral reserve fund to require the U.N. to be transparent and accountable for how it spends U.S. funding.

The United States taxpayer provides over \$5 billion annually to the United Nations—over 25% of all funding given to the U.N. system—yet the U.N. refuses transparency and accountability requests from its largest donor.

Recent U.N. audits indicate the U.N. fails to have even the most basic auditing standards, has a broken procurement system with, and lacks evidence that its programs are performing effectively.

The U.S. taxpayer is the U.N.'s largest donor.

The United States taxpayer provides the United Nations with over \$5 billion annually, representing up to twenty-five percent of all funds received by the United Nations even though the United States is but 1 of 192 United Nations members.

The U.N. is undermined by serious lack of fiscal and management controls which results in fraud, corruption, and gross mismanagement.

The Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, in 2008, found that the UNDP diverted development funds to the entity used by the North Korean regime to finance illicit missile sales and permitted the regime to use U.N. Bank accounts to freely transfer cash around the world.¹

The U.N. Procurement Task Force reported in 2008 that the United Nations Environment Program, which spends over \$1 billion annually and receives almost 10% of its budget from U.S. tax payers, conducts almost no auditing or oversight of its spending, has one auditor and one assistant to inspect its operations, and would take 17 years to audit its high-risk areas already identified.²

The U.N. Procurement Task Force also found that poor data collection across the United Nations System makes it impossible to determine whether a United Nations program is relevant or effective and U.N. resource allocation and performance assessments do not take into account whether or not results have been achieved.³

The United States Department of State reported in 2007 that the United Nations 2008/2009 Biennial Budget represents the largest increase in its funding request in United Nations history, in excess of \$5.2 billion and representing a 25% increase from the previous biennial budget. The Department also reported that, in the previous five years, the U.N. budget has grown at a record 17%, the Peacekeeping budget has

¹ "UNDP: A Case Study of North Korea," Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, January 24, 2008, <http://tinyurl.com/8w9et4>.

² Russell, George, "U.N. Reports Show Scrutiny in Short Supply at World Body -- but Reasons for it Abound," *Fox News*, October 29, 2008.

³ Russell, George, "U.N. Reports Show Scrutiny in Short Supply at World Body -- but Reasons for it Abound," *Fox News*, October 29, 2008.

grown by 40%, the U.N. Tribunals budget has grown by 15%, but the U.S. budget has only grown 7% during the same period.⁴

⁴ "Presentation of Ambassador Mark Wallace on the 2008/2009 U.N. Budget," State Department, December 11, 2007 - <http://tinyurl.com/993mba>