

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 21, 2005

Ambassador John Bolton
United States Mission to the United Nations
140 East 45th Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

Ambassador Bolton:

In the coming days, the United Nations will vote on its biennial budget. This vote represents a unique opportunity for Congress, on behalf of the American people, to promote fundamental accountability reforms as an integral part of the UN governing and budgetary process.

The case for essential reform of the United Nations is readily apparent. Just in the past three years alone:

- The "Oil for Food" program has resulted in an ongoing multi-billion dollar scandal that reaches up to the highest levels of the UN structure;
- UN peacekeepers stationed to maintain order and civility have been found guilty of raping the very refugees they were sent to protect;
- Egregious discrimination against Israel has continued, including the exclusion of Israel from full and equal participatory rights in a UN regional group, and the removal of Israel from a map in a major UN meeting November 29, 2005;
- The world's worst human rights violators still sit on the UN's Human Rights Commission and pass judgment on democracies; and
- The UN has failed to take strong action to stop the genocide in the Sudan despite countless days of debate.

Consensus exists on the need for UN reform, and many UN reform measures have been proposed. Unfortunately, the recent UN World Summit did not produce tangible UN reforms, and we fear that the current momentum for UN reform will be lost if the UN adopts a 2-year budget which does not include key reform measures.

Therefore, we support your decision to vote against any budgetary matter unless and until significant reforms are also accepted, including a credible Human Rights Council that

does not include major human rights violators, an independent ethics office, expanded and strengthened financial disclosure requirements, enhanced resources and autonomy for the Office of Independent Oversight Services (OIOS), a review of UN mandates over five years old, fair treatment for Israel, and a plan to redeploy UN personnel to improve efficiency.

It is not our desire to withhold funding. On the contrary, we believe reform is essential for the UN's survival as an institution. We cannot afford to let this moment of opportunity for UN reform slip by.

Sincerely,

Norm Colonna

Carl Sauer

Sally Chabliiss

George Allen

Jon Kyl

Jim Lohpe

Paul A. Cohen

James D. ...

John Cornyn

Lamar Alexander