

**G2G Family Impact Summit**  
**Hosted by Atlantic Trust**

Lunch Keynote,  
Friday October 24, 2014  
Amir Dossal, Chairman, Global Partnerships Forum

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Thank you, Linda, for the kind introduction. Congratulations to you and Eric Propper, for putting together this wonderful forum.

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen and Happy UN Day! Let me start by commending Atlantic Trust, for their vision and commitment to bring you to the United Nations. I am delighted to welcome you and your families to the United Nations – your United Nations. We like to think of ourselves as a global Family, of which you are a part, so, a very warm welcome to all of you.

It is here, as we work together, that our common goal to create a better world for ourselves and for future generations can be achieved.

It is an honor to be able to give you a brief UN 101 and to share some of my experiences here at the UN over the last two decades, during which time many historic events have occurred, as well as share one of the more recently adopted ideas by the UN, which is the power of innovative public-private partnerships to help bring about transformational and sustainable social change.

My hope for today is to share with you what the UN is and what it is doing, so that when you leave, you will go away with a better understanding of the UN, and how it could be a potential avenue for meaningful change for your families to contribute a beneficial and lasting impact on our planet.

Now, for those of you who may not know, the United Nations takes up 18 acres of land on Manhattan Island. However, the UN is international

territory – which means, technically, we are neither in New York City nor the United States at the moment. Among other things, the UN has its own security force and its own post office.

Although we are not in the US right now, the United States of America has always been a major force in the UN. The term “United Nations,” was coined by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1941. American businessman and philanthropist, John D. Rockefeller, purchased and donated the land. The lead architect was also an American, Wallace Harrison. The US dollar is the UN currency.

The United Nations Charter, its “constitution”, was inaugurated 69 years ago, on October 24, 1945, an event we celebrate each year. So again, a very Happy UN Day to you all! The purpose of the Charter and the United Nations Organization was to create a multilateral forum where representatives of the earth's “soon-to-be” over seven billion people could come to discuss and promote peace and security, economic and social well being, human dignity and prevent the world from ever having to again go through the scourge of world war.

Today 193 countries form the membership of the United Nations, a huge leap from the original 51 countries who signed in 1945, all of whom have committed to the preservation of peace through international cooperation and collective security. The last to join was the Republic of South Sudan on July 14, 2011. There are 6 official languages.

The United Nations reaches every corner of our globe, and means many things to the billions of people who live on our planet. While it is best known for its peacekeeping, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance, there are many ways the United Nations and its respective entities affect our lives and make the world a safer, more equal and better place to live.

Due to its global-scale, the UN itself is a huge organization comprised of many individual programmes, funds and agencies - each with its own function. In an effort to make things a bit clearer, I’m going to give you a basic run through of what is really important.

The United Nations has 6 principal Organs; all tasked with different agendas, yet all integral to the function of the UN.

First is the General Assembly, which is the main deliberative organ, and is the only organ where all the 193 Member States are equally represented with one vote each. It has six commissions including: disarmament, international civil service, international law, international trade law, conciliation for Palestine and Peacebuilding.

Second is the Security Council, which is responsible for maintaining international peace and security. The council consists of 15 members states including, the Permanent 5, which are China, France, Russia, UK and the United States, all of which have veto power. The other 10 rotating members are elected for two-year terms; 5 new members every year. The Security Council is also charged with Peacekeeping Operations.

Third is the Economic and Social Council, which coordinates the economic and social efforts of the United Nations and works in consultation with non-governmental organizations. The Council has 54 members elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms.

Fourth is the Secretariat, which carries out the substantive and administrative work of the United Nations as directed by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the other Organs. The current Secretary-General, **SG** as we call him, is His Excellency Mr. BAN Ki-Moon. He is serving his second term, which will be completed in 2016.

Fifth is the Trusteeship Council, which was tasked with promoting the advancement of Trust Territories (territories transferred from the control of one country to another following World War I) and its inhabitants, and support them in the transition to self-governance or independence. The council has suspended operation since 1 November 1994 when Palau, the last remaining Trust Territory, gained independence.

And last, but certainly not least, is the International Court of Justice located at The Hague in the Netherlands. The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial arm of the UN, which is comprised of 15

judges, who are elected for 9-year terms. The court is charged with overseeing legal disputes between countries and provides advisory recommendations to the UN and its specialized agencies.

Now you might be wondering, what about UNICEF and UNESCO, or the other United Nations Organizations that are a bit more well known. These sectors fall under categories apart from the Principal Organs, however, their work is critical to the UN mission and the efforts to create a better world.











UN Fund and Programmes, includes the United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP), which works with all levels of people and partners in society to help build strong and resilient countries, and improve the quality of life for everyone. Separately, the UN Specialized Agencies and Autonomous Organisations, oversee the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the very busy World Health Organization (WHO), UNAIDS and United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

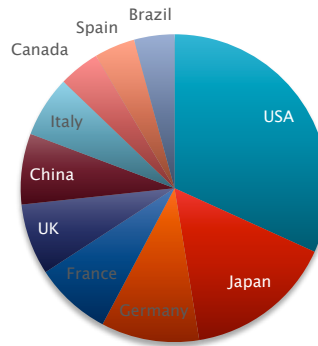
As you can already see from this brief introduction, the United Nations is a large network that is collectively working together to achieve a better quality of life for all – but one has to wonder, how can it pay for everything? Well, you may not be aware of it, but you are already contributors to these efforts. The United States, and its citizens, (and that includes YOU) is the largest contributors to the UN Regular Budget and Peacekeeping budget.

The main source of funds for the Regular Budget is the contributions of the 193 member states. The budget covers the costs of United Nations programmes in areas such as political affairs, international justice and law, international cooperation for development, public information, human rights and humanitarian affairs. The scale of contributions is based on the country's capacity to pay; the maximum a country can pay is 22%, the minimum is 0.001%. 10 members pay 75% of the budget.

### 3. Top ten contributors to the UN Regular Budget



|  |         |
|--|---------|
|  USA            | 22.0 %  |
|  Japan          | 10.83 % |
|  Germany        | 7.14%   |
|  France         | 5.59%   |
|  United Kingdom | 5.18 %  |
|  China          | 5.15 %  |
|  Italy          | 4.45 %  |
|  Canada         | 2.98 %  |
|  Spain          | 2.97 %  |
|  Brazil         | 2.93 %  |













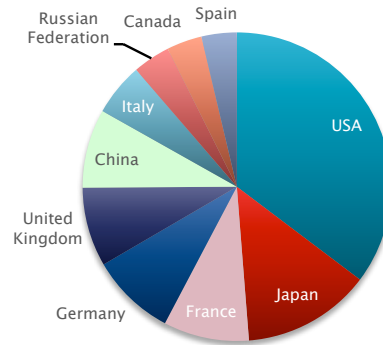
Source: [ST/ADM/SER.B/889](#), released 28 Dec 2013

The Regular Budget, however, does not include the cost of Peacekeeping efforts, which from 2014-2015 will cost roughly 7 billion dollars. The top three contributors are: The United States with 28.4%, Japan, 10.9% and France, 7.2%. Similarly, the UN has no military forces of its own, and relies on Member States to provide, on a voluntary basis, the military and police personnel required for each peacekeeping operation.

Although Member States are the only bodies that can contribute to the Regular and Peacekeeping budgets, stakeholders in both the public and private sector are also essential players in helping disseminate UN initiatives around the world. Now this idea of multi-stakeholder partnerships is relatively new, in comparison to the lifetime of the UN, and I am privileged to have been part of this shift. The event which set in motion this novel concept was Ted Turner committing \$1 billion dollars to support UN causes.

# Top ten contributors to the UN Peacekeeping Budget

|   |                    |        |
|---|--------------------|--------|
|  | USA                | 28.38% |
|  | Japan              | 10.83% |
|  | France             | 7.22%  |
|  | Germany            | 7.14%  |
|  | United Kingdom     | 6.68%  |
|  | China              | 6.64%  |
|  | Italy              | 4.45%  |
|  | Russian Federation | 3.15%  |
|  | Canada             | 2.98%  |
|  | Spain              | 2.97%  |



Together, these 10 member states pay just over 80% of the UN's peacekeeping budget

In September of 1997, Ted Turner was due to receive an award from the United Nations Association, so he went to see His Excellency Kofi Annan, who was the Secretary-General at the time, and said: "Kofi, I have looked at my balance sheet. In January 1997 I was worth US\$3 billion and now in September I am worth US\$4 billion. The additional US\$1 billion does not make a big difference to me. I have also noticed that my government has not paid its dues, so I would like to pay you the US\$1 billion."

Kofi Annan almost fell off his chair! He responded: "We cannot take money from you since we are a Member States led organization. Moreover, that would be abrogation of sovereign debt. This is an issue between the United States government and the United Nations." Ted would not take NO for answer: He replied: "I want to contribute to the well-being of the Planet, and I am committed to supporting the work of the United Nations."

Thinking about how best to deploy Ted's extraordinary gift was itself a significant challenge.

We came to the important realization, as your families can probably attest to, that the diverse social and economic challenges facing us today—ranging from sovereign debt crises, health and development issues, access to clean drinking water, food security, the health of our oceans, to global telecommunications protocols and micro finance, etc.—are far too complex to be solved unilaterally by single actors or sectors confronting or managing them alone. Instead, we needed a whole new paradigm that would involve multiple constituencies engaged collaboratively in support of common goals.

This was the genesis of the ***Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships Model***, dedicated to addressing needs of the underprivileged through a broad range of social programs and sustainable development activities.

Many others, including a number of companies, wanted to be part of this new and exciting initiative. Numerous organizations like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Coca-Cola, Dow Chemical and Microsoft, generously donated in total US\$560 million to the United Nations. They already understood that many of the drivers of long-term profitability and success in the private sector—such as access to energy, good governance, sustainable economic development—overlapped with UN priorities and the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

## **MDGs**

With a deadline of 22 September 2015, The MDGs would attempt to:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote Gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Global partnership for development

## United Nations' Eight MDGs



**2015**

## **SDGs**

Following the success of the Millennium Development Goals, back in January 2013, the United Nations General Assembly established the Open Working Group, comprised of 30-members, to begin working on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. The Open Working Group utilizes a constituency-based system of representation, which means most of the seats in the group are shared by several countries, enabling all members to actively participate.

During its genesis, members determined that the post-2015 agenda must be: action-oriented, global in nature, and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.



The post-2015 agenda is now referred to as - the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs. Sustainable development is defined as "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Thus, the central challenge of the post-2015 UN development agenda will be to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the worlds' people, of present and future generations, regardless of birth place, creed, gender, social status or level of education.

After a year and a half of far reaching discussions among all development stakeholders, the proposal for the SDGs has been completed, and includes 17 goals:

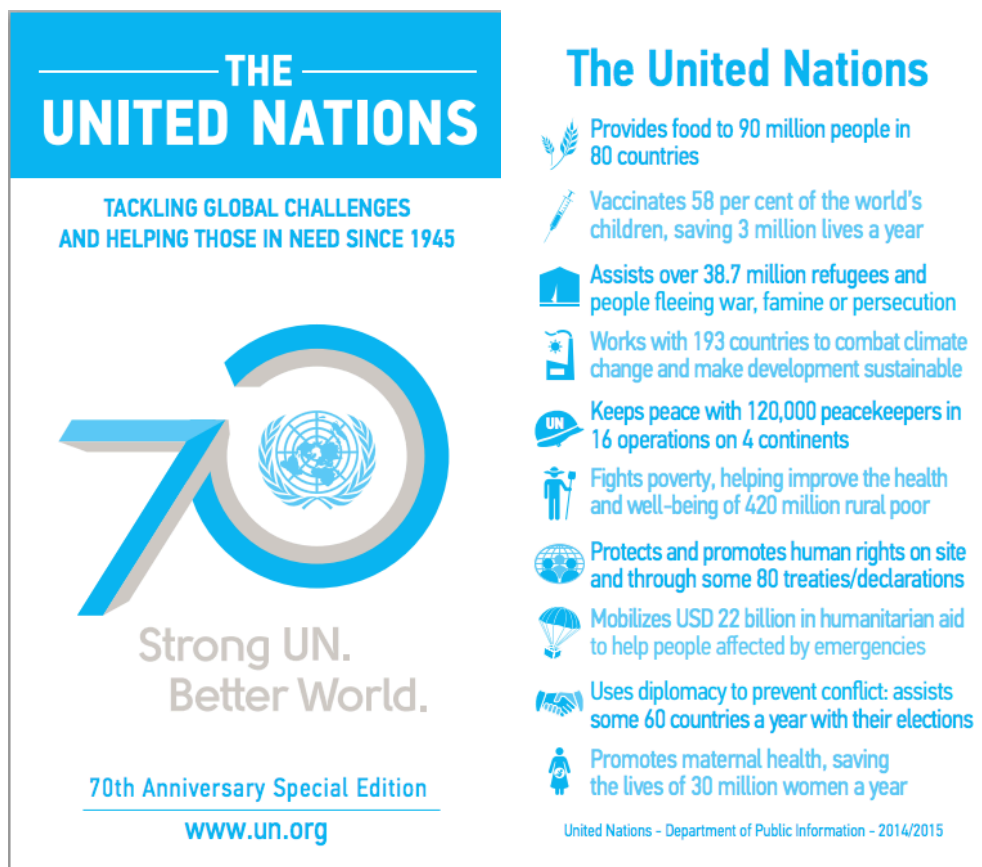
- Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts\*
- Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial

ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

While this coordinated effort has situated us with a plan of action for the coming years, it is important to remember that there is no universal blueprint of how to overcome these disparities and deficits, nor a manuscript on how to lead the world towards a shared and sustainable future for all. All we can do is join forces. It is through collaboration, by sharing experiences, both our success and failures, and lessons learned that we will continue to overcome the challenges of today, giving ourselves and future generations the opportunity at the highest quality of life.



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### The United Nations

- Provides food to 90 million people in 80 countries
- Vaccinates 58 per cent of the world's children, saving 3 million lives a year
- Assists over 38.7 million refugees and people fleeing war, famine or persecution
- Works with 193 countries to combat climate change and make development sustainable
- Keeps peace with 120,000 peacekeepers in 16 operations on 4 continents
- Fights poverty, helping improve the health and well-being of 420 million rural poor
- Protects and promotes human rights on site and through some 80 treaties/declarations
- Mobilizes USD 22 billion in humanitarian aid to help people affected by emergencies
- Uses diplomacy to prevent conflict: assists some 60 countries a year with their elections
- Promotes maternal health, saving the lives of 30 million women a year

United Nations - Department of Public Information - 2014/2015