



Written by [Peter Rykowski](#) on January 9, 2026

Trump Withdraws U.S. From 66 International Organizations

In a major step toward restoring U.S. sovereignty, President Donald Trump has ordered the United States' withdrawal from 66 international organizations.

On Wednesday, Trump signed a memorandum titled "[Withdrawing the United States from International Organizations, Conventions, and Treaties that Are Contrary to the Interests of the United States](#)," which directs his administration to "take immediate steps to effectuate the withdrawal of the United States" from 66 international organizations that, according to a White House [press release](#), "operate contrary to U.S. national interests, security, economic prosperity, or sovereignty."



AP Images

The affected international organizations [include](#) 31 entities affiliated with the United Nations, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, International Law Commission, Peacebuilding Commission, UN Democracy Fund, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Population Fund, and UN Register of Conventional Arms. It also includes 35 international organizations not directly affiliated with the UN, including the 24/7 Carbon-Free Energy Compact, Commission for Environmental Cooperation, Global Forum on Migration and Development, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, and Partnership for Atlantic Cooperation.

In a [statement](#), Secretary of State Marco Rubio declared:

The Trump Administration has found these institutions to be redundant in their scope, mismanaged, unnecessary, wasteful, poorly run, captured by the interests of actors advancing their own agendas contrary to our own, or a threat to our nation's sovereignty, freedoms, and general prosperity. President Trump is clear: It is no longer acceptable to be sending these institutions the blood, sweat, and treasure of the American people, with little to nothing to show for it. The days of billions of dollars in taxpayer money flowing to foreign interests at the expense of our people are over.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General António Guterres issued a [statement](#) expressing disappointment for Trump's memorandum and declaring, "The United Nations has a responsibility to deliver for those who depend on us. We will continue to carry out our mandates with determination."



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Previous Administration Actions

Trump's memorandum is not his or his administration's first action to withdraw the United States from international organizations or [reject UN initiatives](#). The memorandum actually follows up from an [executive order](#) that Trump signed on February 4, 2025, withdrawing the United States from the UN Human Rights Council, defunding the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and reviewing U.S. membership in the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) specifically and all other international organizations generally. (On July 22, the State Department [announced](#) the United States' withdrawal from UNESCO.)

Additionally, on Trump's first day back in office, he signed executive orders withdrawing the United States from the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) and [Paris Agreement](#), as well as a [memorandum](#) threatening to oppose the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Global Tax Deal. And in July 2025, Rubio and Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. [announced](#) the United States' formal rejection of the WHO's 2024 amendments to the International Health Regulations, ensuring they would have no force or effect in the country.

Other Trump administration actions include [pausing funding](#) for the World Trade Organization (WTO), [forcing](#) the UN's International Maritime Organization to pause a proposed global tax on shipping, and — for the first time — [formally denouncing](#) the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Wednesday's memorandum, however, arguably is the administration's most significant action yet — and the most significant action since the United States helped found the UN in 1945 — to reassert U.S. sovereignty and push back against globalist organizations that threaten American independence and promote collectivist and globalist policies.

Mixed Messages

Despite these actions, Trump has also expressed support for a strengthened UN. For example, at his address to the UN General Assembly on September 23, 2025, he [implied](#) support for a more powerful UN system, [declaring](#) that the globalist body “has such tremendous, tremendous potential, but it's not even coming close to living up to that potential. For the most part, at least for now, all they seem to do is write a really strongly worded letter and then never follow that letter up. It's empty words and empty words don't solve war.”

Trump also [expressed support](#) for “enforc[ing] the Biological Weapons Convention” and expressed his hope that “the UN can play a constructive role” in this effort. And following his address, Trump [told](#) Guterres during a meeting that “our country is behind the United Nations 100 percent.”

In November 2025, Trump [praised](#) the UN Security Council for voting to create a Board of Peace, which he claimed he would chair, to oversee the peace process in Gaza. He has also [repeatedly](#) expressed [support](#) for NATO — a [subsidiary](#) of the United Nations — including Article 5, which obliges the United States to go to war if another NATO member is attacked.

These statements indicate that despite Trump's actions opposing the UN and other international organizations, he is not fundamentally opposed to them, and even supports granting them greater power over member states. For this reason, it is essential that Congress enact legislation to permanently withdraw the United States from all international organizations, and that ordinary Americans persistently advocate for U.S. sovereignty.



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Get US Out!

Legislation has been introduced in Congress to get the United States out of the entire UN system. The Disengaging Entirely From the United Nations Debacle (DEFUND) Act of 2025 ([H.R. 1498](#) and [S. 669](#)) is sponsored by Representative Chip Roy (R-Texas) and Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah). The House companion currently has [17 co-sponsors](#), while the Senate companion has two [co-sponsors](#). If enacted, the DEFUND Act would fully withdraw the United States from all UN entities, completely defund the globalist body, and prevent the U.S. president from unilaterally rejoining it.

Although the DEFUND Act is the most comprehensive legislation, other bills to withdraw the United States from international organizations have been introduced, including:

- [H.R. 54](#), the WHO Withdrawal Act, sponsored by Representative Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.), which would codify Trump's order withdrawing the United States from the WHO;
- [House Joint Resolution 93](#), sponsored by Representative Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.), which would withdraw the United States from the WTO; and
- [H.R. 6508](#) and [S. 2174](#), the Not A Trusted Organization (NATO) Act, sponsored by Representative Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) and Lee, respectively, which would withdraw the United States from NATO.

Enacting any of these bills would amount to a major restoration of American independence from the grip of globalism.

To ensure that Congress votes on these bills, it is essential that ordinary Americans take vigilant, concerted action by persistently calling and meeting with their U.S. representatives and senators and educating their fellow citizens about the need to *Get US Out!* of the UN and other international organizations. It's ultimately up to us — through building an educated electorate — to ensure that our leaders uncompromisingly defend our Republic and God-given freedoms.

To urge your U.S. representative and senators to Get US Out! of the United Nations, visit The John Birch Society's legislative alert [here](#). To urge them to Get US Out! of the WHO, WTO, and NATO, visit the respective JBS legislative alerts [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).



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