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**AMERICANS GRADE THE UN:  
“GET IT TOGETHER OR GET OUT”**

**AMERICANS VOTE “NO CONFIDENCE” ON U.N.**

**A majority of Americans (57%) now believe the United Nations should be scrapped and replaced if it cannot be reformed and made more effective.** That result is from an extensive national benchmark survey about the UN on the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11, conducted by Luntz Maslansky Strategic Research.

The American people express serious reservations about UN objectives, results and activities. Overall, the country is evenly split when asked to evaluate the UN: 48% favorable, 45% unfavorable. And while a large majority (73%) want the United States to “*take a more active role in the UN*” because “*it is the best way for us to influence world affairs,*” consider the following:

- 75% believe the UN is no longer “*effective*” and “*needs to be held more accountable.*”
- 71% believe the UN “*needs to be considerably reformed.*”
- 67% believe “*there are too many undemocratic nations in the UN that do not care about promoting democracy and freedom.*”
- Only 37% believe the UN is “*effective in PREVENTING wars and military conflicts.*”
- Only 32% believe the UN is “*effective in ENDING wars and military conflicts.*”

The rejection of the UN is bi-partisan. Democrats expressed negative evaluations of the UN performance only slightly below the national average, while Republicans were slightly above.

“*We live in an era of disappointment and dismay towards our governing institutions, but the hostility towards the UN goes even deeper,*” said Dr. Frank Luntz, author of the survey. “*America is a politically polarized country, but when Republicans and Democrats alike both agree that the UN has failed, that’s not only instructive, it’s significant.*”

The prognosis for opinion and credibility improvement is not good, either. Consider the following:

- Only 27% of Americans have a more favorable opinion of the United Nations since 9/11. By comparison, a majority (52%) now have less favorable impression of the international organization – a significant 2 to 1 negative ratio
- Just 24% believe the UN played an effective role in the Darfur genocide.

- Less than a majority (44%) think the UN handled the current Israeli-Hezbollah conflict effectively.

*“The problem for the UN isn’t just perception, it’s actual performance,”* said pollster Luntz. *“Whether it’s failure to protect human rights, stop a war, or even just prevent one, the American people are simply giving up on the UN. What happens with Iran may well be the UN’s last opportunity to restore any sense of credibility. An unsuccessful outcome could promote widespread calls for a new international organization.”*

There are several immediate policy questions and implications that the poll touched on – and all of them indicate an overwhelmingly unified public response. They include:

- Only 26% of the population believes America gets “good value for all the money we contribute to the United Nations every year.”
- Asked a slightly different way, a still strikingly low 31% believes the U.S. gets good value for the five billion dollar annual U.S. contribution to the UN.
- It is therefore not surprising that **71% of the population want America to cut its financial contribution to the UN.** A majority from every geographic, demographic, attitudinal and political subgroup wants to see reductions in American funding.
- It is also not surprising that 60% oppose the expansion of the UN space in New York City and a sizeable 73% oppose any American funding of an expansion effort.

*“Any politician who calls for additional taxpayer dollars for anything UN-related is going to run into the buzz-saw of an angry electorate,”* Luntz suggested. *“The public may still tolerate the UN – barely – but they won’t tolerate their hard earned dollars going to an organization they fundamentally dislike and distrust. The UN expansion project is a big political loser.”*

In an effort to understand the root cause of UN hostility, those polled were asked to give their number one complaint about the UN. Fully 40% referenced “financial corruption,” while 23% named the “oil for food” program. And when asked what the UN should be doing in the future, reform of the institution itself was the top response. Half (49%) first want to see an end to the corruption and mismanagement before anything else, 28% want the UN primarily to increase its focus on human rights, and just 13% think the institution should first prioritize addressing wars and military conflict.

Luntz offered the following conclusion: *“The calls of UN Ambassador Bolton for fundamental reform at the UN have near-universal support in America. The ‘oil for food’ scandal, serious financial mismanagement scandals, the recent mediocre performances in Darfur and the Middle East, the confusing bureaucratic structure of the U.N., and the lack of serious effort against terrorism and terrorist nations – all these elements contribute to America’s view that the United Nations is in dire need of reform, realignment, and a reality-check. Unless the U.N. can show marked improvement in accountability and performance, Americans will not hesitate to call for the replacement of the U.N.”*

*\*\*Eight hundred (800) telephone interviews were conducted nationwide with a randomly selected, representative sample concluding September 5, 2006. The margin of error is +/-3.5%.\*\**

**-- END --**

**UN NATIONAL SURVEY – SELECTED QUESTIONS**  
**SEPTEMBER 2006**  
**N= 800; Margin of Error +/- 3.5%**

1. And if you absolutely had to choose, what was the single worst day in American history?

Total	
53%	9/11
15%	PEARL HARBOR/DECEMBER 7, 1941
6%	DAY WE INVADED IRAQ
6%	GEORGE BUSH ELECTED PRESEDENT
4%	KENNEDY ASSASSINATION/ NOVEMBER 22, 1963
3%	START OF THE CIVIL WAR
2%	HURRICANE KATRINA
1%	BILL CLINTON ELECTED PRESIDENT
1%	START OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION
1%	FIRST ATOMIC BOMB
5%	OTHER
5%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

2. In your opinion, which nation or government is the single greatest threat to WORLD peace? I need you to pick only one nation or people you think is the single greatest threat to WORLD peace.

Total	
34%	IRAN
15%	NORTH KOREA
11%	IRAQ
11%	UNITED STATES
8%	CHINA
2%	ISRAEL
2%	OTHER
1%	RUSSIA
1%	SAUDI ARABIA
14%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

3. Looking back, do you think the events of 9/11 could have been prevented, or do you think the terrorists were eventually likely to succeed?

Total	
54%	LIKELY TO SUCCEED
41%	PREVENTED
5%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

4. And in the end, which of the following is most likely to prevent another 9/11 from happening?

Total	
63%	<b>BETTER INTELLIGENCE</b>
16%	<b>MORE DIPLOMACY</b>
16%	<b>PRE-EMPTIVE MILITARY ACTION</b>
6%	<b>DON'T KNOW/REFUSED</b>

5. First, overall, do you have a ... opinion of the United Nations?

Total	
48%	<b>FAVORABLE</b>
10%	<b>VERY FAVORABLE</b>
38%	<b>SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE</b>
45%	<b>UNFAVORABLE</b>
21%	<b>SOMEWHAT UNFAVORABLE</b>
24%	<b>VERY UNFAVORABLE</b>
8%	<b>DON'T KNOW/REFUSED</b>

6. And again overall, is your opinion of the United Nations ... since September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001 compared to before September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001?

Total	
27%	<b>FAVORABLE</b>
4%	<b>VERY FAVORABLE</b>
22%	<b>SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE</b>
52%	<b>UNFAVORABLE</b>
29%	<b>SOMEWHAT UNFAVORABLE</b>
23%	<b>VERY UNFAVORABLE</b>
21%	<b>DON'T KNOW/REFUSED</b>

7. And overall, do you think the United Nations generally supports or opposes American interests globally?

Total	
37%	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
10%	<b>NEUTRAL</b>
44%	<b>OPPOSES</b>
9%	<b>DON'T KNOW/REFUSED</b>

And who do you think would do a better job addressing the following challenges, issues and situations facing the world community...the United States or the United Nations. I need you to choose each time.

8. Protecting human rights

Total	
60%	<b>UNITED STATES</b>
35%	<b>UNITED NATIONS</b>
5%	<b>DON'T KNOW/REFUSED</b>

9. Protecting international peace and security

Total	
50%	UNITED STATES
45%	UNITED NATIONS
5%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

10. Preventing terrorism

Total	
62%	UNITED STATES
30%	UNITED NATIONS
8%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

11. And overall, more often than not, does the UN ... American national security interests?

Total	
50%	UNDERMINE
34%	PROMOTE
16%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

Now, I'm going to read you a series of statements people have made about the United Nations. After each, I'd like you to tell me if you ... with what I have read.

12. The United States needs to take a more active role in the UN. It is the **BEST** way for us to influence world affairs.

Total	
73%	<b>AGREE</b>
40%	STRONGLY AGREE
33%	SOMEWHAT AGREE
24%	<b>DISAGREE</b>
11%	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
13%	STRONGLY DISAGREE
3%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

13. The UN is no longer effective. It needs to be **SIGNIFICANTLY REFORMED**.

Total	
71%	<b>AGREE</b>
47%	STRONGLY AGREE
24%	SOMEWHAT AGREE
26%	<b>DISAGREE</b>
18%	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
8%	STRONGLY DISAGREE
3%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

14. The UN is no longer effective. It needs to be **HELD MORE ACCOUNTABLE**.

Total	
75%	<b>AGREE</b>
48%	STRONGLY AGREE
27%	SOMEWHAT AGREE
23%	<b>DISAGREE</b>
11%	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
12%	STRONGLY DISAGREE
3%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

15. There are too many undemocratic nations in the UN that do not care about promoting democracy and freedom.

Total	
67%	<b>AGREE</b>
42%	STRONGLY AGREE
25%	SOMEWHAT AGREE
25%	<b>DISAGREE</b>
15%	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
10%	STRONGLY DISAGREE
7%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

16. If the UN cannot be reformed and made more effective, it should be scrapped altogether and a more effective international organization should take its place.

Total	
57%	<b>AGREE</b>
35%	STRONGLY AGREE
22%	SOMEWHAT AGREE
38%	<b>DISAGREE</b>
15%	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
23%	STRONGLY DISAGREE
5%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

17. The UN is effective in **PREVENTING** wars and military conflicts.

Total	
37%	<b>AGREE</b>
9%	STRONGLY AGREE
28%	SOMEWHAT AGREE
59%	<b>DISAGREE</b>
22%	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
37%	STRONGLY DISAGREE
4%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

18. The UN is effective in **ENDING** wars and military conflicts.

Total	
32%	<b>AGREE</b>
10%	STRONGLY AGREE
22%	SOMEWHAT AGREE
63%	<b>DISAGREE</b>
27%	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
36%	STRONGLY DISAGREE
6%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

19. France has not been a world power for almost a century. They shouldn't be a permanent member of the Security Council – holding a powerful veto over world and American interests.

Total	
51%	<b>AGREE</b>
30%	STRONGLY AGREE
21%	SOMEWHAT AGREE
44%	<b>DISAGREE</b>
25%	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
19%	STRONGLY DISAGREE
5%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

20. The United Nations played an effective role in the **ISRAELI-HEZBOLLAH CONFLICT**.

Total	
44%	<b>AGREE</b>
15%	STRONGLY AGREE
29%	SOMEWHAT AGREE
44%	<b>DISAGREE</b>
20%	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
24%	STRONGLY DISAGREE
13%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

21. The United Nations played an effective role in the **DARFUR GENOCIDE**.

Total	
24%	<b>AGREE</b>
7%	STRONGLY AGREE
17%	SOMEWHAT AGREE
41%	<b>DISAGREE</b>
21%	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
20%	STRONGLY DISAGREE
36%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

22. The UN should be more active in the war on terrorism.

Total	
82%	<b>AGREE</b>
58%	STRONGLY AGREE
24%	SOMEWHAT AGREE
15%	<b>DISAGREE</b>
7%	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
8%	STRONGLY DISAGREE
3%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

23. The UN is anti-Israel.

Total	
38%	<b>AGREE</b>
18%	STRONGLY AGREE
20%	SOMEWHAT AGREE
43%	<b>DISAGREE</b>
22%	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
21%	STRONGLY DISAGREE
20%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

24. The U.S. receives good value for **ALL THE MONEY** we contribute to the United Nations every year.

Total	
26%	<b>AGREE</b>
11%	STRONGLY AGREE
15%	SOMEWHAT AGREE
65%	<b>DISAGREE</b>
20%	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
45%	STRONGLY DISAGREE
10%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

25. The U.S. receives good value for **THE FIVE BILLION DOLLARS** we contribute to the United Nations every year.

Total	
31%	<b>AGREE</b>
15%	STRONGLY AGREE
16%	SOMEWHAT AGREE
60%	<b>DISAGREE</b>
19%	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
41%	STRONGLY DISAGREE
10%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

26. Today, the United States is the largest contributor to the United Nations, currently contributing 22% of the UN's regular budget. In your opinion, should the amount the United States contributes be ...?

Total	
13%	<b>INCREASED</b>
4%	INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY
9%	INCREASED SLIGHTLY
10%	NO CHANGE
31%	DECREASED SLIGHTLY
40%	DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY
71%	<b>DECREASED</b>
7%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

27. The United Nations wants to almost double the operating space it has in New York City by building an additional building and renovating its existing structures. In general, do you ... the expansion of the UN in New York?

Total	
30%	<b>SUPPORT</b>
10%	STRONGLY SUPPORT
20%	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT
60%	<b>OPPOSE</b>
22%	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
38%	STRONGLY OPPOSE
11%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

28. And if you knew that the expansion and renovation of the UN would cost \$2.8 billion dollars and 22% of that amount, over \$600 million, would be paid for by the U.S. GOVERNMENT AND AMERICAN TAXPAYERS, would you ... this project?

Total	
21%	<b>SUPPORT</b>
7%	STRONGLY SUPPORT
14%	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT
73%	<b>OPPOSE</b>
15%	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
58%	STRONGLY OPPOSE
6%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

29. And if you had to choose, which is a more significant problem with the United Nations, that it is

Total	
49%	CORRUPT, MISMANAGED AND INCOMPETENT
23%	HOSTILE TO AMERICAN VALUES AND AMERICAN INTERESTS
18%	BOTH/NEITHER
10%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

30. Looking forward, which should be a greater focus of UN efforts and resources?

Total	
49%	ENDING THE CORRUPTION AND MISMANAGEMENT AT THE UN ITSELF AND IMPROVING ITS EFFECTIVENESS
28%	PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADDRESSING HUMANITARIAN ISSUES
13%	ADDRESSING WARS AND MILITARY CONFLICTS
10%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

31. All the facts I'm about to read you are true. Which ONE makes you feel most negative towards the UN?

Total	
40%	THE FINANCIAL CORRUPTION INVOLVING THE UN IS IN THE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS, MUCH OF IT PAID FOR BY AMERICAN TAXPAYERS.
23%	THE UN OIL-FOR-FOOD PROGRAM ILLEGALLY HELPED SADDAM HUSSEIN BUILD HIS MILITARY AND MADE DOZENS OF UN-ASSOCIATED PERSONNEL MULTI-MILLIONAIRES
10%	THE UN STILL REFUSES TO ADOPT AND APPLY AN OFFICIAL DEFINITION OF TERRORISM.
7%	56 OF THE 192 MEMBERS ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE ISLAMIC COUNSEL.
5%	OF THE 192 MEMBERS, ONLY 88 ARE CHARACTERIZED AS FULLY FREE AND DEMOCRATIC.
15%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED