

Resolve the crisis:

# Don't Shut Down the UN



## ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

### RESOLVE THE CRISIS: DON'T SHUT DOWN THE UN

Thanks to your support, the crisis at the United Nations has been diffused, and the spending cap was lifted, allowing the organization's life-saving activities to continue functioning without interruption.

But there is important work still to be done. With your help, we will continue working to motivate the world's leaders to work together to strengthen the organization and ensure nations are supporting the organization financially and politically.

### WHAT WAS THE CAMPAIGN?

"Resolve the Crisis: Don't Shut Down the UN" was a collaborative effort launched by the Better World Campaign to engage individuals and organizations committed to averting a political crisis at the United Nations. We urge those that govern the United Nations - its 191 Member States - to take the steps necessary to ensure that the reform process continues and there is no interruption in the UN's operations because of a lack of necessary budgetary authority or resources.

The campaign did not take a position on these issues of disagreement among Member States, but urged nations to exercise the necessary leadership, flexibility, diplomacy, and cooperative spirit needed to resolve those differences and ensure a strong and effective UN.

All Member States bear a shared responsibility to ensure the uninterrupted functioning of the world's primary platform for international cooperation, peace, and prosperity and to promote continued efforts to improve the efficiency of UN operations.

### WHY IS THE CAMPAIGN WAS NECESSARY?

A gulf has emerged between the UN's principal donor nations and the G-77, a majority bloc at the United Nations.

There are a variety of legitimate perspectives on the causes of the crisis that threatened continued UN operations in June and the UN's financial and political base in the future. Most immediate are the following:

On December 23, 2005, the UN General Assembly adopted a two-year budget for the United Nations' basic operations. However, by agreement of the Member States, the UN's budget was limited to \$950 million, enough money to fund the UN until June. This six-month spending cap was established to provide time for further progress on reform.

While additional reforms have been made, the General Assembly recently reached an impasse in the reform process. On May 8, 2006, the General Assembly adopted a resolution that significantly slows the reform process and rejects certain proposals for management flexibility and budgetary procedures proposed by the Secretary-General. This presents a problem because many governments have expressed an intent to link the release of UN dues to progress on reform.

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On June 28, 2006, Member States agreed to lift the budgetary cap on the UN's spending, allowing the organization to continue functioning and carrying out its operations. However, the road forward on strengthening the institution remains somewhat tenuous.

It will be necessary for Members States to reach agreement on core upgrades to the UN system so that the UN is able to best meet its mandates and perform critical missions of relevance to all peoples of the world - from development projects to the UN's life-saving humanitarian work to ongoing efforts essential for international peace and security.

## OUR MESSAGE

Our message is simple: failure to nurture, preserve, strengthen, and adequately fund the UN does not serve the interests of any nation or group of nations and would reflect poorly on all world leaders and governmental representatives. A UN shutdown — of diplomacy, reform, or operations — would represent a failure of all nations to take the necessary steps, make the necessary compromises, and undertake the necessary actions to ensure that the UN's vital and irreplaceable efforts continue uninterrupted.

The United Nations has stood as a beacon of global peace and progress for over 60 years. Given the world's large and growing agenda requiring international cooperation, now is not the time to undermine the foundations of the UN.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please join us in our efforts to stave off future threats to the United Nations by staying informed and engaged through the Better World Campaign. You can learn more about the U.S. - UN relationship and the work of the United Nations by visiting [www.betterworldcampaign.org](http://www.betterworldcampaign.org).

Thank you to all of those who signed the online petition—we look forward to your engagement in future initiatives!