

# The United States of America

## Positions for the General Assembly Plenary

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### I. Establishing a Development Framework for Beyond 2015

The United States of America (United States) congratulates Member States on achieving targets on poverty, slums, and water ahead of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDG) deadline, however emphasizes that governments must not waiver in their commitments to meet the remaining goals agreed over a decade ago. **Internationally**, the United States draws attention to A/RES/55/2, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, committing world leaders to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women. The United States participated in a high-level United Nations Foundation working session in 2010, unveiling *Celebrate, Innovate and Sustain: Toward 2015 and Beyond*, strategies for the advancement of MDGs, highlighting innovative and sustainable approaches and effective partnerships between governments, the private sector, and NGOs as one of the most important ways to mobilize global action to eradicate poverty and disease. As the largest donor to global HIV/AIDS programs, the United States launched the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), leading efforts to combat HIV/AIDS (MDG 6) through bilateral and multilateral investments of over 32 billion USD. In May 2009, the United States was elected to the Human Rights Council (HRC), a three-year term, with a full-time American ambassador. The HRC membership engaged the United States in creating strong cross-regional coalitions, overcoming objections by Member States such as China and Cuba, the allowance of healthier relations for Israel, and a reduction in the imbalance in the HRC's work. The United States endorses A/RES/65/154, establishing 2013 as the International Year of Water (MDG 7), and furthermore takes note of Secretary-General's message on World Water Day, stating "there are little more than 1,000 days left before the MDG deadline, but with renewed effort we can finish the job started at the beginning of the Millennium." The United States also holds an active seat on the Secretary-General's high-level panel on post-2015 development agenda, regarding the vision and shape of a post-2015 development agenda that will help respond to the global challenges of the 21st century, building on the MDGs with a view to ending poverty. **Regionally**, the North American Free Trade Agreement between the United States, Canada, and Mexico (NAFTA) entered into force in 1994, creating the world's largest free trade area. The United States and other regional partners established the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), creating new economic opportunities by eliminating tariffs, opening markets, and reducing barriers to services (MDG 8). The United States is an observer of the Western European and Other Groups (WEOG) and in cooperation with the European Union (EU), held meetings of the EU-US High Level Consultative Group on Development Cooperation. The global partnership produced the establishment of a task force of health experts within the framework of the EU's policy on Global Health and the U.S. Global Health Initiative, prioritization indicators to monitor greater gains in global health and strengthening health systems in partner countries in the developing world, and further exploration of possible joint EU and U.S. positions in global health-related initiatives and issues, with a focus on women and child health and on the crisis of health workers (MDG 4 and 5). As a member of the Organization of American States (OAS), the United States supports the Four Pillars: democracy, human rights, security, and development, to address a variety of topics including human and sustainable development, mitigation, education, and women. **Nationally**, the U.S. House of Representatives introduced H.R. 6644: Global Partnerships Act of 2012, setting forth provisions regarding global poverty, human rights, and strategic partnerships. The bill targets themes which are specified through the MDGs, including global poverty reduction and food security (MDG 1), education (MDG 2), and gender equality (MDG 3). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) functions to protect human health and the environment by enacting and enforcing regulations, providing grants for non-profit, educational, and scientific studies, and informing the public on environmental protection make our communities and ecosystems diverse, sustainable and economically productive. In cooperation with the EPA, the Obama Administration finalized standards that will improve the fuel economy and the reduction of greenhouse gas emission, while saving consumers more than 1.7 trillion USD and reducing U.S. oil consumption by 12 billion barrels by Model Year 2025 (MDG 7). The United States proposes a six-point **Plan of Action** titled **E.V.O.L.V.E.**, geared beyond the 2015 MDG deadline: **E**ducating U.S. citizens and abroad on the purpose and progress of the MDGs; **V**erifying the developments Member States have recorded, preferably with statements by volunteering eyewitnesses; **O**rganizing current or establish databases for unaccomplished goals; **L**ocalizing volunteer efforts with grassroots NGOs; **V**alidating Member States' ambitions for uncompleted goals, in order to recognize if there is considerable financial aid and volunteers; **E**ndorsing fellow

Member States in either partnership or collaboration in their ongoing efforts to meet the MDGs in a post-2015 world.

## **II. Addressing Crisis Prevention and Disaster Risk Reduction: Ensuring the Ability to Operate Effectively in Times of Economic Turbulence**

The United States of America (United States) has been exposed to devastating disasters, resulting in numerous hazards. As a result, the United States has become vested in the cause of ensuring the protection of its population by developing effective mechanisms for prevention and response. **Internationally**, the United States recognizes the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) and the outcomes of this global initiative. The United States appreciates the significance of the “Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation” and its Plan of Action: The Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, as well as A/RES/61/198. Since World War II, the United States Navy has made crisis response, humanitarian relief, and disaster assistance as components of its key mission. In 2007, the United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard announced the *Cooperative Strategy for Twenty-First Century Seapower*, driven by the notion that Member States must collaborate for providing most effective humanitarian assistance and disaster relief on a large scale, as well as secure the oceans and environment. In 2004, the Indonesian tsunami proved that collaboration of navies could be successful. Most recently, the United States responded to Japan in coping with the aftermath of the devastating 2011 earthquake and tsunami by sending the United States Navy and Marine Corps, aiding Japanese troops with supplies and equipment. In addition, water purification and delivery, medical assistance, hospital beds, and generators were provided. **Regionally**, the Western Hemisphere identifies economic prosperity, political stability, and environmental sustainability as a priority of the United States. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) reflects the commitment of the United States to maintaining a stable region, both in disaster response and prevention alike. As a result of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, USAID has provided economic revitalization by empowering farmers, tripling their yields, supporting the industrial park to provide 65,000 jobs, and launching corporate partnerships to give 800,000 Haitians banking services on their mobile phones. USAID has housed thousands of displaced Haitians and stabilized a cholera outbreak. Operation Unified Response was conducted by the United States military with the Joint Task Force Haiti, commanded by the United States Southern Command, to provide assets to fly in relief supplies and logistical guidance. Additionally, in Latin America, the USAID presence has reduced crime rates. Mexico has transitioned to a more open judicial system with the support of the United States, having higher prosecution rates. Certain regions of Peru, where the United States has helped farmers harvest legal crops have seen a 90 percent decline in cocoa production in the past decade. **Nationally**, the United States was reminded of the importance of the right to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” when Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005, causing massive damage and loss of life, obstructing these American ideals. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), an offshoot of the Department of Homeland Security, has been criticized for its ineffective response to Hurricane Katrina. However, the government reports a 2006 law that restructured the agency and, most recently, the arrival of FEMA Administrator W. Craig Fugate have strengthened the efficacy of FEMA. Prior to 2006, FEMA was required to receive a governor’s formal call for help before acting. Currently, FEMA staff is preemptively available on sight. FEMA works closely with local companies affected by disasters. The United States has since experienced numerous natural disasters, including hurricanes, wildfires and floods. The United States Coast Guard (USCG) has an elaborate severe weather preparedness and response plan, which was recently highlighted in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy. The National Guard and United States Armed Forces are all devoted to humanitarian relief efforts. The American Red Cross is mandated by the United States Congress to undertake disaster relief by providing feeding stations, shelter, cleaning supplies, comfort kits, first aid, blood and blood products, food, clothing, emergency transportation, rent, home repairs, household items, and medical supplies. There is excellent communication amongst public utility providers, which encourages sharing of resources during crises. Additionally, the exposure to such conditions has created a sense of responsibility in local communities, causing relief efforts on the local level to contribute to crisis prevention and disaster risk reduction. Moving forward, the United States recognized the need to ensure a safer global environment by utilizing currently available structures and resources, while prioritizing three crucial factors: **defense, democracy, and development**.