

Opening Statement of Jeff Bartos
Nominee for U.S. Representative to the United Nations for Management
and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
July 9, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Hagerty and distinguished Members of the Committee. I am honored to appear before you today as the President's nominee to serve as the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for UN Management and Reform. Thank you to President Trump and Secretary Rubio for their confidence and for this opportunity to serve the American people.

Growing up in Reading, Pennsylvania, I dreamed of one day serving our country. Sheryl, my wife of almost 28 years, grew up in Allentown, Pennsylvania. We met in Charlottesville, VA, and raised our two daughters, Emily and Sarah, in the Philadelphia suburbs. Sheryl, Emily, and Sarah – I would not be here today without you, and I am grateful for your love and support (and patience). I am thinking today, as I do every day, of my mother Adrienne, who we lost to cancer in 2018. To my brother Todd (who is here with us), and to my father David and to Sheryl's parents, Lew and Roberta, who are watching online, thank you for your love and support.

After World War II, the United States -- along with the other 51 founding members of the UN, signed the UN Charter with the commitment to prevent future wars and to promote international peace and security. Unfortunately, over the past 80 years, the UN has strayed from its

foundational goals and lost sight of the principles it was established to defend. From UN bodies with overlapping mandates to the deep rot of its anti-Israel bias – the UN needs to get back to basics and recommit to the values enshrined in its charter.

If confirmed, I will work to implement President Trump’s America First foreign policy at the UN and to return the UN to its original mandate of promoting international peace and security with the goal, as set forth in the preamble of the UN Charter, “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.”

American taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability for the funding we provide to the UN and a commitment that their money is not funding waste, fraud, or abuse. American taxpayer dollars going to the UN should advance our national interest and contribute to making our country safer, stronger, and more prosperous. If confirmed, I will work to ensure stringent accountability, transparency, and reform at the UN, including eliminating redundancy, unnecessary activities, and creeping mandates. I will focus on streamlining the UN budget, reducing staff footprint, and pushing for more equitable burden sharing among Member States.

As the largest financial contributor to UN peacekeeping, the United States must demand the most efficient use of U.S. taxpayer dollars in peacekeeping operations. If confirmed, I will push for long-term structural financial efficiency in peacekeeping missions and increased burden sharing from nations that share our priorities for UN reform. I will work with my

colleagues to review the programmatic effectiveness of individual peacekeeping missions and ensure these mission mandates are realistic and achievable, with clear exit strategies for each mission. We must also ensure that the UN upholds its zero-tolerance policy for sexual exploitation or abuse, and uses all tools available to push for accountability. Our standard should be simple: one case of abuse is one too many.

U.S. representation in UN leadership and staffing is not commensurate with our financial contributions. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that more Americans are working at the UN. American citizens bring our values to their work in the UN system and are one of our best defenses against nations that seek to exploit and manipulate the UN for their own interests, especially China. If confirmed, I will demand the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and efficiency in UN hiring and invest in American citizen talent pipelines. I am eager to support the Trump Administration's strategy to place more American citizens in appointed and elected positions at the UN – something, Mr. Chairman, I know you and your colleagues would like to see as well.

As the UN turns 80 this year, the United States is not alone in recognizing the need for reform. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with other Member States in the Fifth Committee and the UN General Assembly to pursue these much-needed reforms.

It would be the honor of a lifetime to represent the United States at the UN in New York and to pursue the reforms needed to advance U.S. interests and to promote international peace and security.

Thank you again to you and your staff for all the time that you devote to this process. I am grateful for your advice and guidance, and I look forward to your questions.