



Multilateral Aid Review Act of 2017

Background: United States government agencies collectively spent over \$10 billion on funding multilateral entities in fiscal year 2016. It is in the best interest of the United States to assess the value of these investments to build a critical mass of data to support effective multilateral bodies and maximize the impact of our limited foreign assistance dollars. The Trump administration is in the midst of conducting an internal review of funding to international organizations. It is critical that Congress play a role in this process to ensure a credible and rigorous analysis. Other countries, like the United Kingdom and Australia have conducted similar reviews of multilateral aid with compelling results.

Objectives: The Multilateral Aid Review Act will require a methodologically-based assessment to evaluate the effectiveness of United States investments in multilateral entities to:

- provide a tool to guide the United States Government’s decision-making and prioritization with regard to funding multilateral organizations, and to provide a methodological basis for allocating scarce budgetary resources to those that advance relevant United States foreign policy objectives;
- incentivize improvements in the performance of multilateral entities to achieve better on-the-ground outcomes in developing, fragile, and crisis-afflicted regions;
- protect United States taxpayer investments in foreign assistance by improving transparency with regard to the funding of multilateral bodies.

The Review will assess international organizations, multilateral development banks, global funds, and climate investment funds, and will provide an assessment based on:

- relationship of stated goals to actual results;
- accountability and transparency;
- alignment with United States foreign policy objectives;
- multilateral approach compared to bilateral approach;
- redundancies and overlap.

Multilateral Review Task Force and Peer Review Group: The review will be conducted by an interagency Multilateral Review Task Force chaired by the secretary of state with members appointed from the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Office of Management and Budget, and other relevant executive branch departments or agencies. To verify the credibility of the methods and conclusions of the Review, the bill also establishes a Peer Review Group of experts to consult regularly with the Multilateral Review Task Force and assess the findings of the of the Task Force. The Peer Review Group will consist of eight non-governmental experts appointed by congressional leadership.