

Statement of Jeremy Carl
Nominee for Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of International
Organization Affairs (IO)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
February 12, 2026

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee – I am honored to appear before you today as President Trump’s nominee for Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of International Organization Affairs at the Department of State.

I am deeply grateful for the trust placed in me by the President to advance America’s interests at the United Nations and broader multilateral system. If confirmed, I will work to advance this vision by holding the UN and international organizations accountable, promoting transparency, and ensuring that U.S. taxpayer contributions to these organizations deliver tangible results that align with our national interests.

I would like to begin by acknowledging three people who are sadly no longer with us, as without them, I would not be sitting here before you today. In my career, I have had the tremendous privilege of learning at the side of the late Secretary of State George P. Shultz, whom I served as his right-hand man for almost a decade while a research fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. During my time with Secretary Shultz, I collaborated with some of America’s greatest diplomats, both political appointees and career officials, whose work was an inspiration. I also wish to acknowledge the late Kenyan professor Calestous Juma of Harvard University, who was my first mentor in this field when I was a graduate student, my first professional champion, and the first person who allowed me to work with the UN system. Third, I would like to thank the late Charlie Kirk, who was a peerless leader of the conservative movement, a longtime supporter of me and my work, and a champion of my candidacy for this position. The loss that I feel from his passing, both personally and professionally, is incalculable.

I wish to also thank all of my colleagues at the Claremont Institute, in particular, Claremont President Ryan Williams, who has been so supportive of my work, and of me personally. And I would like to thank Senator Daines of this committee, whom I have been privileged to get to know well over the past several years, and who has been a constant source of encouragement and sound advice as I have navigated this process.

Finally, and most importantly, I'd like to thank my wife and my five children for their support. If I am confirmed, they are the people who will suffer the most by my largely being absent from our home in Montana while I am working in Washington, DC and abroad. And yet, they have been unfailingly supportive of me and my desire to serve under President Trump and Secretary Rubio.

As President Trump has said, the UN has potential. But it needs renewed focus, as it has strayed far from its original purpose of solving international disputes peacefully. The United States must lead in the effort to demand accountability and results from the UN, and to move the institution back towards its founding purpose.

If confirmed, I will work to refocus the UN System on its foundational mission. International organizations exist to advance the interests of sovereign nations. They are not global legislatures or independent sources of moral, political, or legal authority. By restoring the UN's credibility and effectiveness, we can better protect U.S. interests and foster a more stable and secure world.

The inefficiencies and bureaucratic sprawl within the UN and other international organizations have long been a source of frustration for member states, including the United States. These institutions are often burdened by duplicative mandates, bloated budgets, and a lack of accountability for results. This undermines their ability to deliver on their missions and erodes the trust of the nations that fund them. If confirmed, I will prioritize management reform to streamline operations, eliminate waste, and ensure that these organizations operate with the efficiency and effectiveness that our country's taxpayers deserve. I will advance reforms for greater transparency, performance-based budgeting, and a culture of results-driven accountability, including in UN peacekeeping operations.

A leaner, more focused UN is in America's interest, and I look forward to working with colleagues at our U.S. missions in New York and other UN capitals to achieve that goal – one that the Mission teams are already excelling at. In December, U.S. leadership resulted in historic staffing and budget cuts at the UN: a 15% reduction in budget and elimination of 2,900 positions.

The United States is the largest financial contributor to the UN system and many other international organizations. Yet too often, our resources are used to support programs or agendas that run counter to our values and interests. Frequently, allies vote against our positions in the UN while privately indicating their agreement

with us. This is unacceptable. American taxpayers should not fund initiatives that undermine America's interests.

Our determination was made clear on January 7, when the President announced the United States would withdraw from 66 organizations and entities deemed to be redundant in scope, mismanaged, or incompatible with U.S. foreign policy. The United States should only engage in international organizations when it advances America's national interests.

If confirmed, I will work to ensure that every dollar the United States contributes to international organizations is spent wisely and is aligned with our national priorities. This includes redirecting funds away from programs that fail to deliver results or support adversarial agendas and toward initiatives that advance U.S. security, prosperity, and leadership. By taking a principled and strategic approach to our funding, we can ensure that America's voice and values remain at the forefront of the multilateral system.

Distinguished Members of this Committee, I am confident that with strong leadership and a clear vision, we can ensure that international organizations once again serve as effective tools for advancing peace, security, and prosperity. I pledge to work to restore the effectiveness and integrity of international organizations while ensuring they serve the purposes for which they were created. As Secretary Rubio has said – America First does not mean America alone. Our role in the multilateral system will indeed be changing, but it does not mean we won't be active in it.

If confirmed, I will dedicate myself to this mission, working in close partnership with Congress to uphold the values and priorities of the American people. Thank you for your time, your questions, and your consideration of my nomination.