



Citizens for  
Global Solutions

**CONGRESSIONAL**

**Candidate Questionnaire**

2008

## **GLOBAL SOLUTIONS PAC**

Please return the signed Questionnaire Response Form via fax or mail to the address listed below.

**Citizens for Global Solutions** envisions a future in which nations work together to abolish war, protect our rights and freedoms and solve the problems facing humanity that no nation can solve alone. This vision requires effective democratic global institutions that will apply the rule of law while respecting the diversity and autonomy of national and local communities.

We are a membership organization working to build political will in the United States to achieve our vision. We do this by educating Americans about our global interdependence, communicating global concerns to public officials and developing proposals to create, reform and strengthen international institutions such as the United Nations.

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# Citizens for Global Solutions

## 2008 Congressional Candidate Questionnaire

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### U.S. ROLE IN THE WORLD

In today's interconnected world, no country can effectively pursue its interests without the support and cooperation of others. From the environment to genocide to nuclear proliferation, the global problems we face today require all nations to work together.

The United States has a strong tradition of working multilaterally to address the world's most pressing problems. The U.S. helped to found the United Nations to prevent war, drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to protect all individuals and launched the Marshall Plan to help our allies rebuild their economies. According to our nation's conventional wisdom, working with others to solve global problems is in America's enlightened self-interest. For many decades, the U.S. has garnered a great deal of respect and admiration in the world for this international leadership role.

However, that respect and admiration is waning. Aggressive rhetoric towards other nations, obstructive policy regarding the environment, indifference to the concerns of allies, neglect of international institutions and, most of all, the war in Iraq have shaken the world's confidence in U.S. leadership. The NATO incursion into Afghanistan, which had the blessing of the Security Council and the broad backing of the international community, bolstered the U.S.'s claim to global leadership. However, taking military action in Iraq without authorization from the Security Council and irrespective of the reports of the International Atomic Energy Agency, sent a message that the U.S. believes it can impose its will through force, regardless of legal and diplomatic considerations. As a result, many countries increasingly see U.S. influence on global affairs negatively. Given the heightened tensions with Iran and North Korea over nuclear arms control issues, as well as the emergence of new threats and challenges to the U.S. and the international community, the next Congress must have a clear-eyed view on when the military option is appropriate.

Moreover, current U.S. policies do not reflect the view of the majority of Americans who support effective and pragmatic global cooperation to prevent international crises. In a 2006 Knowledge Networks poll, 75 percent of Americans agreed that "the U.S. should do its share in efforts to solve international problems together with other countries."

1. *The geopolitical landscape has shifted dramatically during the last two decades, as has global public opinion of the United States. What role should our nation play in the world today?*
2. *Under what circumstances would you vote to authorize the president to take military action?*

### UNITED NATIONS

In our increasingly interconnected world, international cooperation is the most realistic and effective way to address global problems. The United Nations stands today as the one place where the entire world comes together to promote the rule of law, protect human rights, end poverty, meet the threat of global terrorism and move us all toward a better, safer world. The United States played a major role in establishing and promoting the United Nations, and the majority of Americans support our involvement in it.

As the need for the United Nations increases, observers agree that it must be made more effective and relevant in order to successfully tackle the challenges of a new century. The U.N. Secretariat has already undertaken a series of reforms aimed at making the U.N.'s management structures more accountable, transparent and ethical. An Ethics Office was created to provide training to U.N. staff and to review the U.N.'s new financial disclosure policy, which widened the scope of individuals who must report and significantly lowers the bar for disclosure. An enhanced whistleblower protection policy, stronger than that of the U.S. government, has also been put into force. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon has stated that he will continue to revitalize the Secretariat and will also aim to retool the institution more fundamentally to deal with 21st century realities. Constructive U.S. leadership and diplomacy can go a long way toward advancing the U.N.'s important reform agenda.

Still, today's United Nations produces vital benefits for all who participate by facilitating better intergovernmental communication, protecting human rights, monitoring nuclear facilities throughout the world and improving international cooperation. U.N. specialized agencies make countless unheralded contributions to global prosperity, health and security. And, according to an independent report by the RAND Corporation, the U.N.'s peacekeeping and nation-building capacity is by far the most effective in the world.

Unfortunately, the United States is currently \$291 million behind in its contributions to the U.N.'s regular budget and is on track to owe more than \$1 billion in peacekeeping dues. This practice is inconsistent with the values and wishes of Americans who believe our country should keep its promises and fulfill the obligations that we undertake in the international community. Furthermore, the U.N.'s funding shortfall threatens to undermine its success and the momentum of its reform program.

3. *Do you support the full and timely payment of U.S. assessments to the United Nations and its special fund for peacekeeping missions?*
4. *Will you oppose legislation that withholds U.S. dues to the U.N.?*

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The energy choices of each nation affect the security, development and environmental prospects of all nations. Today, the world's reliance on fossil fuels is taking a severe toll everywhere. It deprives people of their lives and livelihoods by exacerbating climate change, stunting economic development and undermining international security.

Some policymakers talk about "energy independence," but in reality the U.S. cannot cut itself out of the global energy market. Even if such a feat were possible, doing so would only exacerbate the security, environmental and development problems facing the U.S. and the world that are fueled by current global energy consumption patterns. Fortunately, the U.S. can provide the vision and action necessary to turn around the world's current energy situation. Smart, forward-looking policies and investments now will help avoid future disasters and provide a more sustainable, safe and prosperous planet for future generations.

Solutions are within reach: Germany has already reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 19 percent from 1990 levels. Denmark now gets 20 percent of its electricity from wind and the U.K. will get 10 percent by 2010.

The Bali Roadmap that emerged from the most recent Conference of Parties to the U.N. Framework on Climate Change makes clear that the next president will have the opportunity to finalize a new climate agreement in Copenhagen in 2009. The Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the largest scientific peer review mechanism in history, has left little doubt that substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are needed to prevent catastrophic climate change. Americans want the U.S. to work hand-in-hand with other nations to stop global warming and build a new energy future.

5. *Do you support caps on greenhouse gas emissions?*
6. *Do you support U.S. participation in binding international climate agreements?*

## INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Human rights and universal equality under the law represent core values and traditions that Americans have held dear for generations. The United States has made promoting and protecting human rights – and the punishment for those individuals that disrespect these rights – a cornerstone of its foreign policy. Americans strongly support the legal prosecution of individuals who perpetrate the most heinous crimes anywhere in the world. The International Criminal Court (ICC) was established to investigate and prosecute individuals accused of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. It is the only permanent international court capable of trying individuals accused of committing these crimes in the event that national courts become incapacitated or ineffective and are unable or unwilling to ensure justice.

The ICC is playing an important role in bringing criminals to justice in cases of mass atrocities in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Darfur. It has also helped countries like Afghanistan and Colombia, which joined the ICC to strengthen the rule of law and democracy within their own borders. By joining the ICC, they are putting their leaders – as well as rebel groups, drug lords and warlords – on notice that the rule of law now applies to them too.

Instead of supporting the Court, and assisting ongoing investigations, the U.S. has sought to exempt U.S. personnel from the Court's jurisdiction by negotiating Bilateral Immunity Agreements (BIAs) with every country in the world. However, many nations have refused to sign a BIA with the U.S. because they believe that doing so would breach their legal obligations under the Rome Statute, the treaty that established the Court. Congressional appropriators have exacerbated the damage of this policy by prohibiting the disbursement of some economic and military assistance to countries that refuse to sign BIAs. This strong-arm tactic has alienated key U.S. allies, reduced U.S. influence in geopolitically strategic regions and tarnished the image of the U.S. as a champion of human rights and democracy.

Public opinion polls consistently show strong American support for U.S. membership in the ICC, which reinforces strongly held American values like accountability, due process and the rule of law. For example, 76 percent of Americans agree that "the U.S. should participate in the ICC." The U.S. has not yet ratified the Rome Statute which established the ICC and consequently is not a member of the Assembly of State Parties which governs the Court.

7. *Do you support U.S. cooperation with the International Criminal Court and ratification of the ICC's Rome Statute?*
8. *Will you vote to repeal conditioning of foreign assistance on the signing of Bilateral Immunity Agreements?*

## DARFUR/UNEPS

The crisis in Sudan's western province of Darfur began in early 2003 as a clash between the Sudanese government and rebel groups. Government-backed Janjaweed militias mounted a brutal campaign against anyone they considered ethnically related to the rebels, a campaign that killed hundreds of thousands of civilians, caused millions to flee their homes and wrought untold devastation. Despite a series of diplomatic promises to address the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, the situation continues to deteriorate and spread into neighboring Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR).

In July 2007, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1769, which authorized the establishment of a joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission (UNAMID). UNAMID has a strong mandate to protect civilians, provide security for humanitarian assistance, monitor implementation of agreements, assist in developing an inclusive political process, contribute to the promotion of human rights and rule of law and report on the situation along the borders with Chad and the CAR. At full strength, UNAMID will become the largest, most expensive and most logistically complex U.N. peacekeeping mission in history.

UNAMID is just one of 19 U.N. peacekeeping missions currently deploying over 80,000 personnel in areas around the globe including Africa, Europe and Eurasia, the Middle East and the Caribbean. United Nations peacekeeping affords the United States tremendous benefits in places where we are unable, or unwilling, to use U.S. troops to promote peace, ensure stability and oppose extremism.

Moreover, a study released in May 2005 by the RAND Corporation concludes that the United Nations has done an outstanding job leading such stability-building operations. Entitled "The U.N.'s Role in Nation-Building: From the Congo to Iraq," the report cites the U.N.'s low-cost structure, high success rate and, most importantly, "the greatest degree of international legitimacy" among peacekeepers as reasons for its achievements. The U.S. should be proud that it is the largest contributor to U.N. peacekeeping. Yet, U.S. arrears to the U.N. for peacekeeping activities are approaching \$1 billion, a debt that threatens the viability of all 19 missions, including UNAMID.

The example of Darfur also demonstrates the desirability of maintaining a standing international capability for peacekeeping operations to more quickly intervene in order to stop conflicts in their early stages, enforce peace agreements, prevent cross-border spillover and save lives. The task of building support and raising funds for each new U.N. peacekeeping mission under the current ad-hoc system has been compared to that of a volunteer fire chief who must raise funds, find volunteers and secure a fire truck to fight each new fire. The United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS) has been proposed as a permanent emergency response service designed to complement – not replace – existing peace operations. UNEPS would have a "first-

responder" capacity that would supplement the U.N.'s ability to provide stability, peace and relief in deadly emergencies. It would individually recruit and train 10,000 to 18,000 U.N. personnel with a wide range of skills, including civilian police, military judicial experts and relief professionals. This ensures that missions would not fail due to a lack of skills, equipment, cohesiveness, experience in resolving conflicts or gender, national or religious imbalance. It would permit national governments to support U.N. peacekeeping without worrying about whether their national military personnel would become casualties. Upon Security Council authorization, UNEPS would be immediately available to respond to a crisis. More than two-thirds of the American public supports the U.N. having this capacity. Pragmatic, far-sighted planning can help reduce the frequency, devastation and duration of conflicts around the world and save billions of dollars and millions of lives.

9. *Will you support and actively work to fully fund the U.S. contribution to U.N. Peace Operations in hot spots like Darfur?*
10. *Will you cosponsor a resolution in Congress supporting the establishment of a U.N. Emergency Peace Service if one is introduced?*

## DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Historically, the United States is second to none when it comes to helping less fortunate people around the world help themselves. Investing in development is not only the right thing to do; but it serves as an essential component of international security and helps diminish the appeal of terrorism and extremism by giving people a stake in their societies and helping them build strong, stable states. Giving people the chance to help themselves is what America is all about.

While the U.S. is outspoken about the importance of good governance, trade and investment, the U.S. lags behind its allies in its Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments, a kind of government-to-government aid that supports critical projects that cannot be supported any other way. The U.S. allocates less to ODA as a percentage of Gross National Income (GNI) than any other industrialized country. The U.S. gave \$22.7 billion in net aid in 2006, or 0.17 percent of GNI; \$27.6 billion in 2005 (0.22%) and \$19.7 (0.17%) in 2004. In comparison in 2006, Sweden gave 1.03 percent, Great Britain 0.52 percent and France 0.47 percent.

11. *Will you actively work to allocate an additional one percent of the U.S. budget to Official Development Assistance in order to begin to match the commitments of our G8 partners and other allies to help reduce hunger, poverty, disease and other agreed upon goals?*

## NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT

The spread of nuclear weapons since the adoption of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1970, and the volatility of current nuclear weapons, poses a distinctive challenge for the international community and the United States. Commitments made in the NPT have been breached by states owning nuclear weapons (including the United States), as well as by states that did not possess nuclear weapons at the NPT's inception. Under the NPT, the five original nuclear nations agreed to pursue complete disarmament and refrain from helping states without nuclear weapons attain them. The failure on all sides to follow the terms of this treaty has set the tone for previously non-nuclear states, such as North Korea, Iran, Israel, Pakistan and India, to attempt to join the nuclear club.

In addition, U.S. failure to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which prohibits nuclear tests and explosions, sends a message to the world that there is a lack of commitment towards achieving disarmament. Ratifying the treaty would prevent countries from pursuing new nuclear weapons and lay the foundation to total disarmament.

While it is evident that the non-proliferation and disarmament regime needs to be strengthened in order to address today's security threats, it remains the most robust and effective framework within which to address nuclear challenges. As described in the NPT, 86 percent of Americans believe in renewed and strengthened U.S. efforts toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. However, the current administration has advocated increasing our nuclear weapons program, not eliminating it. The United States could become a role model, using its actions and influence to peacefully curtail nuclear proliferation as it has in the past.

12. *Do you oppose the development of new nuclear weapons by the United States or any other nation?*
13. *Do you support U.S. ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty?*

## TORTURE

From the Geneva Conventions to the United Nations Convention Against Torture, the U.S. has played a key role in promoting the rule of law and championing human rights, including freedom from torture. International law is the framework that helps keep Americans safe when they go abroad to travel, or when called on to fight a war. Indifference to international laws not only undermines law and order around the world, it also gives some individuals latitude to commit moral offenses in the name of the United States.

The recent allegations that U.S. officials have committed acts of torture in Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo and secret prisons have diminished America's credibility and legitimacy as a champion of democracy and human rights. These allegations have damaged America's reputation and standing in the world, as well as its relations with other countries.

14. *Will you vote to prohibit interrogation practices that are inconsistent with the Geneva Conventions and deemed to be torture by the international community such as water boarding?*

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

15. *Have you made public statements, written articles or taken formal positions on any of the issues covered in this questionnaire or on any other foreign policy, national security or military intelligence issues? If so, please attach or provide reference.*
16. *If offered, would you accept Citizens for Global Solutions' endorsement for election?*
17. *If offered, would you accept a contribution from Global Solutions PAC?*

# Citizens for Global Solutions

## 2008 Congressional Candidate Questionnaire Response Form

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Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Name: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read the attached 2008 Congressional Candidate Questionnaire background information.  
(Note: Candidate must sign below)**

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please Print)*

**Please complete, sign and return the attached 2008 Congressional Candidate Questionnaire response form via fax or mail to the following address. Write any additional comments on a separate piece of paper.**

**For a PDF form you can fill in electronically then print, visit [www.globalsolutions.org/PAC](http://www.globalsolutions.org/PAC).**

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*For more information, contact Don Kraus, Citizens for Global Solutions Executive Vice President, at 202-330-4103 or [dkraus@globalsolutions.org](mailto:dkraus@globalsolutions.org).*

## U.S. ROLE IN THE WORLD

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## UNITED NATIONS

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Yes     No

4. *Will you oppose legislation that withholds U.S. dues to the U.N.?*

Yes     No

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

5. *Do you support caps on greenhouse gas emissions?*

Yes     No

6. Do you support U.S. participation in binding international climate agreements?

Yes  No

### INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

7. Do you support U.S. cooperation with the International Criminal Court and ratification of the ICC's Rome Statute?

Yes  No

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Yes  No

### DARFUR/UNEPS

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Yes  No

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Yes     No

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Yes     No

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