

Republican Perspective
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PRINCIPLED REALISM

“We must pursue peace without fear, hope without despair, and security without apology.” Donald Trump, 45th President of the U.S.

President Trump visited the United Nations the last week in September to host the Security Council. His speech before the General Assembly did not receive as much media attention as the Judge Kavanaugh hearings. His comments provide an outline of a new U.S. foreign policy.

- *“We believe that when nations respect the rights of their neighbours, and defend the interests of their people, they can better work together to secure the blessings of safety, prosperity, and peace. That is why America will always choose independence and cooperation over global governance, control, and domination.”*

This is not isolationist. It is a rejection of Wilsonian globalist policies.

- *“I would like to thank Chairman Kim for his courage and for the steps he has taken, though much work remains to be done. The sanctions will stay in place until denuclearization occurs.”*

Trump made it clear that he has no illusions about the difficulty in reaching a verifiable agreement on North Korea's nuclear arms.

- *“The Iran deal was a windfall for Iran's leaders. In the years since the deal was reached, Iran's military budget grew nearly 40 percent. The dictatorship used the funds to build nuclear-capable missiles, increase internal repression, finance terrorism, and fund havoc and slaughter in Syria and Yemen.”*

The President placed the blame for the spread of terrorism throughout the Middle East squarely on Iran. He reinstated nuclear sanctions that had been lifted under the Iran deal. He will add additional sanctions on November 5th. The U.S. is working with countries that import Iranian crude oil to provide alternatives.

The U.S. is supporting the Gulf Cooperation Council, made up of six Middle Eastern countries—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman — to establish a regional strategic alliance to advance prosperity and stability. Egypt and Jordan are also participating.

- *“Many nations in this hall will agree that the world trading system is in dire need of change. For example, countries were admitted to the World Trade Organization that violate every single principle on which the organization is based...They engage in relentless product dumping, forced technology transfer, and the theft of intellectual property.”*

Trump highlighted the loss of manufacturing jobs to China since their membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO). Over 3,000,000 manufacturing jobs lost and the closing of 60,000 factories post China membership in the WTO.

- *“As far as America is concerned, the ICC [International Criminal Court] has no jurisdiction, no legitimacy, and no authority. The ICC claims near-universal jurisdiction over the citizens of every country, violating all principles of justice, fairness, and due process. We will never surrender America’s sovereignty to an unelected, unaccountable, global bureaucracy.”*
- *“I spoke before this body last year and warned that the UN Human Rights Council had become a grave embarrassment to this institution, shielding egregious human rights abusers while bashing America and its many friends.”*
- *“Our Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, laid out a clear agenda for reform, but despite reported and repeated warnings, no action at all was taken. So the United States took the only responsible course: We withdrew from the Human Rights Council, and we will not return until real reform is enacted.”*

Past Presidents have been reluctant to speak directly to the UN General Assembly about its corrupt agencies that need reform.

- *“We recognize the right of every nation in this room to set its own immigration policy in accordance with its national interests, just as we ask other countries to respect our own right to do the same — which we are doing. That is one reason the United States will not participate in the new Global Compact on Migration. Migration should not be governed by an international body unaccountable to our own citizens.”*

Trump realizes that border security is essential to a nation’s sovereignty. He argued that legitimate refugees should be resettled at a lower cost closer to their homes.

- *“America’s policy of principled realism means we will not be held hostage to old dogmas, discredited ideologies, and so-called experts who have been proven wrong over the years, time and time again.”*

Trump’s formula relies on upholding sovereignty and patriotism, or “principled realism,” as a means to maintaining international peace and prosperity.