

## I – INTRODUCTION

This publication is the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Report to the Congress on Voting Practices at the United Nations. It is submitted in accordance with Section 406 of Public Law 101-246. This law provides, in relevant part:

“The Secretary of State shall transmit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a full and complete annual report which assesses for the preceding calendar year, with respect to each foreign country member of the United Nations, the voting practices of the governments of such countries at the United Nations, and which evaluates General Assembly and Security Council actions and the responsiveness of those governments to United States policy on issues of special importance to the United States.”

This report reviews voting practices in the UN Security Council and General Assembly (UNGA) in calendar year 2007 and presents data in a variety of formats. All Security Council resolutions for the entire year are described, and voting on them is tabulated (Section II). The report also statistically measures the overall voting of UN member states at the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly in autumn 2007 in comparison with the U.S. voting record (Section III). In addition to an alphabetical listing of all countries, the report presents the voting record in a rank-ordered listing by voting coincidence percentage and geographic regions, by selected bloc groupings, and in a side-by-side comparison with the amount of U.S. aid given to each country in fiscal year 2007. It also lists and describes UNGA resolutions selected as important to U.S. interests, again with tables for regional and political groupings (Section IV). It then presents all data by country (Section V). Finally, an annex is included to present the voting patterns on General Assembly resolutions relating to Israel and opposed by the United States.

The Security Council and the General Assembly deal with a full spectrum of issues—including threats to peace and security, terrorism, disarmament, economic and social development, humanitarian relief, and human rights—that are considered critical to U.S. interests. A country’s behavior at the United Nations is always relevant to its bilateral relationship. Nevertheless, a country’s voting record in the United Nations is only one dimension of its relations with the United States. Bilateral economic, strategic, and political issues are at times more directly important to U.S. interests.

## SECURITY COUNCIL

The Security Council held 202 meetings in 2007 and adopted 56 of the 57 resolutions that were considered. Voting coincidence percentages for Security Council members were high, with most resolutions adopted unanimously. The Security Council also issued 50 presidential statements, consensus documents issued by the Security Council President on behalf of the members.

### *Voting Practices in the United Nations—2007*

The United States did not exercise its veto power in 2007. Both China and Russia vetoed one resolution (Myanmar [Burma]). South Africa was the only other Security Council member to vote against a resolution (also Myanmar [Burma]). Indonesia and Qatar abstained on the Myanmar (Burma) resolution. China, Congo, Indonesia, Qatar, Russia, and South Africa abstained on Resolution 1757 (Lebanon). The only other abstentions were recorded by Russia, which abstained on Resolution 1762 (Iraq), 1775 (Criminal Tribunals), and 1776 (Afghanistan).

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly opened its 62<sup>nd</sup> session on September 18, 2007, and held 79 Plenary sessions before recessing on December 22, 2007. It adopted 246 resolutions. The subject matter of the resolutions covered the full range of UN concerns: security; arms control; economic, social, and humanitarian issues; human rights; budget and financial matters; and legal concerns. The resolutions that were the subject of recorded votes again primarily addressed arms control, the Middle East, and human rights.

Of the 246 resolutions adopted in Plenary, 170 (69 percent) were adopted by consensus, a slightly higher percentage than in 2006. Additionally, 59 of 61 decisions (97 percent) were adopted by consensus. (Decisions are less formal than resolutions and generally cover matters of lesser importance, including procedural issues.) Combining the 170 of 246 resolutions adopted by consensus and the 59 of 61 decisions adopted by consensus, the overall percentage of resolutions and decisions adopted by consensus was 75 percent.

## VOTING COINCIDENCE WITH THE UNITED STATES

On non-consensus issues, i.e., those on which a vote was taken, the average overall General Assembly voting coincidence of all UN members with the United States in 2007 was 18.3 percent, down significantly from 2006, when it was 23.6 percent, and continuing a downward trend of more than a decade. In 1997, for example, overall voting coincidence with the United States was 46.7 percent, in 2002, 31.2 percent. This decline in voting coincidence with the United States on non-consensus issues in the years since 1995 reverses the steady and dramatic increase in the years immediately following the end of the Cold War. The lowest coincidence rate was 15.4 percent, recorded in 1988.

The following table illustrates the gradual decrease in overall voting coincidence with the United States since the post-Cold War high of 50.6 percent in 1995. This decrease has also been generally reflected on votes related to arms control, human rights, and the Middle East. In 2007, the most significant change in coincidence was on arms control, which fell to its lowest level since 1995. Since 1995, the trend on Middle East issues has been generally downward, though in 2007 coincidence increased slightly.

Year	Arms Control	Middle East	Human Rights	Overall Votes
2007	10.3%	11.3%	31.9%	18.3%
2006	29.5%	10.7%	28.2%	23.6%
2005	31.7%	10.8%	35.8%	25.0%
2004	17.9%	9.8%	44.9%	23.3%
2003	30.7%	16.5%	34.3%	25.5%
2002	41.9%	32.4%	23.7%	31.2%
2001	50.4%	29.0%	33.9%	31.7%
2000	66.1%	11.9%	55.7%	43.0%
1999	57.9%	22.7%	52.5%	41.8%
1998	64.0%	22.5%	62.8%	44.2%
1997	65.8%	26.2%	61.9%	46.7%
1996	62.3%	28.3%	68.3%	49.4%
1995	60.9%	35.2%	81.0%	50.6%

When consensus resolutions are factored in as votes identical to those of the United States, a much higher measure of agreement with U.S. positions is reached. This figure (73.5 percent in 2007), falls well below the 85–88 percent range recorded since the statistic was first included in this report in 1993. It was 75.4 percent in 2006, 77.6 percent in 2005, 81.3 percent in 2004, and 80.7 percent in 2003. (See Section III - General Assembly - Overall Votes for additional comparisons.)

The coincidence figure on votes considered important to U.S. interests (36 percent) is significantly higher than the percentage registered on overall votes (18.3 percent). (See Section IV- Important Votes, for a side-by-side comparison of important and overall votes for each UN member.)

As in past years, Israel (86.4 percent on votes only, 96.2 percent including consensus resolutions) had the highest level of voting coincidence with the United States in the General Assembly. The top ten countries in order of coincidence were: Israel, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Micronesia, Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, France, and Monaco.

All the tabulated regional and other country groupings registered a decrease in overall voting coincidence in the General Assembly in 2007. These tabulations, which also feature coincidence rates including consensus resolutions, can be found in Section III. Traditional voting allies such as the Western European and Others Group (WEOG), the European Union (EU), Eastern Europe (EE), and the Nordic countries, are part of the general downward trend, as reflected in the following table.

*Voting Practices in the United Nations—2007*

Year	<u>General Assembly Voting Coincidence</u>			
	WEOG	EU	EE	Nordic
2007	41.3%	40.0%	34.1%	38.2%
2006	44.9%	42.9%	37.9%	42.0%
2005	46.4%	45.2%	40.4%	44.7%
2004	45.9%	44.3%	38.0%	42.6%
2003	46.1%	45.5%	38.7%	44.4%
2002	49.9%	49.5%	43.7%	48.0%

Lower overall coincidence rates were also recorded in 2007 for the African Group, the Asian Group, and the Latin American and Caribbean Group, as well as countries represented in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Islamic Conference, the Non-Aligned Movement, and NATO.

Voting coincidence among regional and other country groupings on Important Votes (see Section IV) was slightly higher in 2007.

The following five bar graphs depict voting trends over the last five years. Voting coincidence with the United States, in terms of both overall and important votes, is broken down by year for issues, geographic groups, and political groups.