



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

November 22, 2011

**H.R. 2829
United Nations Transparency, Accountability, and Reform Act of 2011**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs
on October 13, 2011*

H.R. 2829 would require the Department of State to increase its oversight of the United Nations (U.N.) and would withhold assessed and voluntary contributions to the U.N. and its entities if certain conditions are not met.

The department conducts oversight of the U.N. and most of its entities through the U.N. Transparency and Accountability Initiative. H.R. 2829 would impose new oversight requirements on the department. Under the bill, the department would be required to obtain and maintain certain annual certifications from each U.N. entity that receives U.S. funding. In addition, the department would be required to report to the Congress in several instances, including:

- If an entity refuses or delays an inquiry by the department related to a certification or does not comply with its certification;
- If an entity or one of its employees, contractors, or representatives violates federal criminal law;
- If there is mismanagement, misfeasance, or malfeasance within an entity justifying disciplinary action;
- Regarding how entities spend U.S. contributions; and
- Detailing an itemized budget request for U.S. contributions to the U.N. regular budget.

Based on information from the department, CBO estimates that to implement the bill the State Department would hire two additional people at an annual cost of less than \$500,000, which would increase discretionary costs by \$2 million over the 2012-2016 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

The bill would withhold contributions to the U.N. and its entities if certain conditions—such as funding the U.N.’s regular budget through voluntary contributions instead of assessments—are not met. Under current law, there are no existing appropriations or specified authorizations of appropriations provided for 2012 or future years for contributions to the U.N. or its entities. Therefore, CBO would not attribute any savings to the bill’s provision that might result in withholding future contributions.

Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 2829 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D’Monte. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.