

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 19, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio:

The Administration's proposed "Board of Peace," an initiative that started as an organization to oversee a peace deal between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, has now morphed into an overt attempt to replace the United Nations with a new entity that President Donald Trump would control. While purporting to be a multilateral peace initiative, the Board's Charter is designed to elevate one individual above all others and to concentrate power in his hands. In the context of the Administration's broader assault on the United Nations and international institutions, the Board of Peace is a blatant power grab that will undermine both U.N. and U.S. influence throughout the world. The Board of Peace has gone off the rails, and I urge you to cancel or curtail this dangerous plan immediately.

Despite initially focusing on implementing the peace plan in Gaza, President Trump officially launched the Board at the World Economic Forum in Davos on January 22, 2026, with no mention of Gaza or any plan to confront the dire and deteriorating conditions there.¹ The Board's structure and decision-making framework bear no resemblance to the narrow transitional administration the United Nations Security Council originally endorsed to oversee Gaza's redevelopment through 2027.² Instead, the Charter radically expands the Board into a standing international body with sweeping authority and independent governing power. By overstepping its limited mandate, the Board of Peace is failing before it has even started.

Meanwhile, the Administration has failed to provide Congress with meaningful information about what the Board of Peace would actually do. In response to my November 21, 2025, letter, the State Department stated only that the Board would "oversee Gaza's reconstruction, economic recovery, and the coordination of public services and humanitarian aid," without clarifying how these important tasks would be accomplished.³ This omission is deeply concerning, given that the Charter makes clear that the Board would wield binding authority over budgets, international agreements, and peace-building initiatives, with power concentrated in the hands of its Chairman, Donald Trump.⁴ An international body with authority over reconstruction funds, humanitarian access, and public services would, in effect, exercise governing power, yet the Administration has offered no explanation of the Board's scope, limits, or accountability.

¹ Jacob Magid, *Full text: Charter of Trump's Board of Peace*, The Times of Israel (Jan. 18, 2026), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/full-text-charter-of-trumps-board-of-peace/>.

² United Nation Security Council, Resolution 2803 (Nov. 12, 2025), [https://docs.un.org/en/s/res/2803\(2025\)](https://docs.un.org/en/s/res/2803(2025)).

³ Letter from U.S. Department of State to Senator Edward J. Markey (Jan. 16, 2026) (on file with Office of Senator Markey).

⁴ Jacob Magid, *Full text: Charter of Trump's Board of Peace*, The Times of Israel (Jan. 18, 2026), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/full-text-charter-of-trumps-board-of-peace/>.

Additionally, the composition of the Board exposes a governance model deliberately built on financial privilege and political exclusion rather than humanitarian need or democratic legitimacy. According to the Charter, states contributing more than \$1 billion are exempt from the three-year membership limit that applies to all other members.⁵ International relations should not be operating on a pay-to-play basis. At the same time, the Charter provides no avenue for non-member participation whatsoever: membership is limited exclusively to states invited by the Chairman, Donald Trump, leaving others with no representation and no authority over decisions that could shape their future.⁶ A governing body that sidelines alternative views risks laying the groundwork for further conflict.

The Administration appears to be creating an opaque and unaccountable body dominated by a group of wealthy, powerful, and authoritarian actors. Extending invitations to officials of authoritarian regimes that repress, imprison, and kill their own people is unacceptable. Reports that Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has formally joined the Board and that Vladimir Putin has been invited to participate are insulting to the free world and show a profound disregard for human rights.⁷ Membership on this “Board of Bullies” would offer these despots’ regimes legitimacy on the world stage. As I write this letter, Vladimir Putin continues to kill men, women, and children in Ukraine, while targeting civilian infrastructure, including energy systems, in the dead of winter. The likes of Putin and Lukashenko have no place on a “Board of Peace.”

While purporting to be a multilateral international institution, the Charter vests ultimate authority with the Chairman, Donald Trump, giving him effective veto power over all the Board’s decisions and the unilateral ability to issue resolutions or binding directives on the Board’s behalf.⁸ This concentration of power means that no major action could proceed without the Chairman’s personal approval and that, on his own whim, he could direct the Board’s actions without any meaningful constraint. In practice, this Board would place one individual above all other participating states and dismantle the rules-based, multilateral framework that the United Nations was created to uphold. As if to highlight his complete control of the Board, Trump recently revoked the invitation to Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney after Carney urged other nations to resist Trump’s efforts to dismantle the post-World War II international order.⁹

Given the seriousness of these issues, I request that you respond in writing to the following questions by March 6, 2026:

⁵ Isabel Kershner, *\$1 Billion in Cash Buys a Permanent Seat on Trump’s ‘Board of Peace’*, N.Y. Times (Jan. 18, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/18/world/middleeast/trump-board-of-peace-gaza.html>.

⁶ Jacob Magid, *Full text: Charter of Trump’s Board of Peace*, The Times of Israel (Jan. 18, 2026), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/full-text-charter-of-trumps-board-of-peace/>.

⁷ Reuters, *Lukashenko join Trump’s ‘Board of Peace’ as US eases his isolation* (Jan. 20, 2026), <https://www.reuters.com/world/lukashenko-joins-trumps-board-peace-us-eases-his-isolation-2026-01-20/>; Rachel Hagan, *Putin invited to join US-led Gaza ‘Board of Peace’, Trumps says*, BBC News (Jan. 20, 2026), <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c24g6pj2071o>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Jasper Ward and Ismail Shakil, *Trump revokes Canada’s invitation to join Board of Peace*, Reuters (Jan. 22, 2026), <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/trump-says-he-is-withdrawing-canadas-invitation-board-peace-2026-01-23/>.

1. What is the asserted legal authority for creating, entering into, or recognizing the Board of Peace? Does the Administration consider the Charter—or any related instrument—to be a legally binding agreement, and if so, by what authority is it being concluded?
2. What criteria is President Trump using for inviting states to join the Board?
3. How does the Administration reconcile the proposed inclusion of Vladimir Putin and Alexander Lukashenko on the Board with existing U.S. sanctions, stated human rights commitments, and opposition to Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine?
4. Please identify all communications, briefings, or consultations the Administration has conducted with Congress regarding the creation, structure, or operation of the Board. If none has occurred, please explain why foreign governments reportedly received copies of the Board's Charter when Congress did not.
5. What role will Congress have in overseeing the Board's operations, and does the Administration intend to submit the Charter or any associated agreements to Congress pursuant to the Constitution, the Case-Zablocki Act, or other statutory requirements governing congressional review of international commitments?
6. Does the Administration view the Board of Peace as an alternative to the United Nations? What role, if any, does the Administration envision for the United Nations or its specialized agencies in relation to the Board's humanitarian, reconstruction, or governance functions?
7. Please identify all individuals, inside or outside government, who have participated in drafting, negotiating, promoting, or planning the Board, including Jared Kushner and Steven Witkoff. Describe any official positions they hold in relation to the initiative and identify the federal entity responsible for supervising their involvement.
8. What actual or potential conflicts of interest—including financial, business, or personal—have been identified for individuals involved in the Board's development, particularly Kushner and Witkoff? What steps has the Administration taken to mitigate actual or apparent conflicts? Is President Trump advancing this initiative in his personal capacity or as an action of the United States government?
9. When will the Board begin delivering measurable improvements in humanitarian access, medical care, and basic services for Palestinians in Gaza?
10. How would the Board address the immediate medical emergency in Gaza, including when and how it plans to coordinate urgent medical evacuations and reopen medical corridors?
11. What Palestinian representation will exist on the Board, and how will Palestinian perspectives be incorporated into its deliberations and decisions?

What was presented to the world as a temporary mechanism to help rebuild Gaza has instead become a vehicle for one-man rule over international decision-making, in direct contradiction of the U.N.'s foundational principles of collective governance, sovereign equality, and shared responsibility for peace and security. This is nothing less than a blatant power grab. The American people deserve clear and honest answers about the Administration's approach.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator