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Level 6

U.N. makes first ever cut in staff

30th December, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut.html>

The United Nations is cutting staff for the first time in its history. The U.N. General Assembly approved a staff cut for the first time since the international body was created in 1945. The decision means a reduction of 219 positions, which represents two per cent of all U.N. posts. In addition, the General Assembly authorised freezes on pay rises for one year and benefits for two years. It acted in response to pressures from member states to reduce spending. Many governments around the world say they are struggling to meet their share of contributions to fund the global organisation. Many nations are still suffering from austerity measures taken after the global financial crisis.

The United States' ambassador to the U.N. Joe Torsella said the cuts were "crucial" and would "eliminate unnecessary, duplicative or outdated posts". He told the General Assembly: "At a time when the budgets and crucial services of many...organisations have been squeezed, these measures will hold compensation costs in place, until we can act in the next session." He added: "Our shared goal should be to ensure that the United Nations can maximise the results that it delivers with the amount of resources that member states are collectively able to provide." The United States, which pays 22 per cent of the U.N. budget, is the biggest financial contributor to the United Nations.

Sources: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-12-27/united-nations-makes-first-staff-cut-since-1945-in-budget.html>
<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-12-27/united-nations-makes-first-staff-cut-since-1945-in-budget-deal>
<http://in.reuters.com/article/2013/12/27/us-un-budget-idINBRE9BQ0JX20131227>

WARM-UPS

1. THE UNITED NATIONS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about The United Nations. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

United Nations / staff cuts / pay rise / pressure / benefits / reduce spending / austerity / ambassador / crucial services / budgets / compensation / maximize results / provide

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. U.N. ROLES: Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Roles	What are they?	How can they be improved?
Health		
Education		
Peacekeeping		
Global security		
Human rights		
Humanitarian aid		

4. NECESSARY: Students A **strongly** believe the U.N. is necessary; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. U.N. SERVICES: Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- peacekeeping
- humanitarian assistance
- human rights
- cultural promotion
- landmine clearing
- world health promotion
- Security Council
- International Court of Justice

6. STAFF: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "staff". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. This is only the second time for the U.N. to announce job losses. | T / F |
| b. About two per cent of U.N. staff will lose their jobs. | T / F |
| c. There will be no pay rises (UK) raises (USA) for two years. | T / F |
| d. It is difficult for many countries to contribute financially to the U.N. | T / F |
| e. The US ambassador to the UN said many unnecessary jobs had to go. | T / F |
| f. The ambassador said this in a speech he made at the White House. | T / F |
| g. The ambassador said the UN needed to utilise its resources better. | T / F |
| h. Less than 20% of the UN budget comes from the USA. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. cutting staff | a. vital |
| 2. approved | b. actions |
| 3. body | c. give |
| 4. response | d. authorised |
| 5. measures | e. reaction |
| 6. crucial | f. make certain |
| 7. eliminate | g. axing jobs |
| 8. ensure | h. monetary |
| 9. provide | i. organisation |
| 10. financial | j. remove |

3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. cutting staff for the first time | a. to meet their share |
| 2. The decision means a reduction | b. measures |
| 3. freezes | c. services |
| 4. they are struggling | d. on pay rises |
| 5. austerity | e. that it delivers |
| 6. The United States' | f. of 219 positions |
| 7. crucial | g. contributor to the UN |
| 8. Our shared | h. in its history |
| 9. maximise the results | i. ambassador to the UN |
| 10. the biggest financial | j. goal |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut.html>

The United Nations is cutting staff for the first time in its history. The U.N. General Assembly (1) _____ a staff cut for the first time since the international body was created in 1945. The decision means a (2) _____ of 219 positions, which represents two per cent of all U.N. posts. In addition, the General Assembly authorised (3) _____ on pay rises for one year and benefits for two years. It acted in (4) _____ to pressures from member states to reduce (5) _____. Many governments around the world say they are (6) _____ to meet their share of contributions to (7) _____ the global organisation. Many nations are still suffering from austerity (8) _____ taken after the global financial crisis.

struggling
freezes
measures
approved
spending
reduction
fund
response

The United States' ambassador to the U.N. Joe Torsella said the cuts were "(9) _____" and would "eliminate unnecessary, duplicative or (10) _____ posts". He told the General Assembly: "At a time when the budgets and crucial services of many...organisations have been (11) _____, these measures will hold compensation costs in (12) _____, until we can act in the next session." He added: "Our shared goal should be to (13) _____ that the United Nations can maximise the (14) _____ that it delivers with the amount of resources that member states are (15) _____ able to provide." The United States, which pays 22 per cent of the U.N. budget, is the biggest financial (16) _____ to the United Nations.

ensure
contributor
outdated
place
collectively
crucial
results
squeezed

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut.html>

- 1) The United Nations is cutting staff for the first time _____
 - a. in its histories
 - b. in its history
 - c. in its historical
 - d. in its historian
- 2) the first time since the international _____
 - a. body was create it
 - b. body was created
 - c. body was creation
 - d. body was create
- 3) In addition, the General Assembly authorised _____ rises
 - a. freezes on pay
 - b. fleeces on pay
 - c. freeze is on pay
 - d. freezers on pay
- 4) Many governments around the world say they _____
 - a. are struggling
 - b. are struggling
 - c. are struggling
 - d. are struggling
- 5) Many nations are still suffering from _____
 - a. austerity measured
 - b. austerity measure
 - c. austerity measurements
 - d. austerity measures
- 6) Joe Torsella said the cuts _____
 - a. were crew shall
 - b. were crucially
 - c. were cruciate
 - d. were crucial
- 7) eliminate unnecessary, duplicative or _____
 - a. outdate it posts
 - b. outdated posts
 - c. out date it posts
 - d. outdated post
- 8) crucial services of many...organisations have _____
 - a. been squeezed
 - b. being squeezed
 - c. bean squeezed
 - d. be in squeezed
- 9) ensure that the United Nations can maximise the results _____
 - a. that it deliveries
 - b. that it delves
 - c. that it delivered
 - d. that it delivers
- 10) The USA, which pays 22 per cent of the U.N. budget, is the biggest _____
 - a. financially contributor
 - b. financial contributors
 - c. financial contributor
 - d. financially contributors

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut.html>

The United Nations is (1) _____ the first time in its history. The U.N. General Assembly approved a staff cut for the first time since the international body was created in 1945. The decision (2) _____ 219 positions, which represents two per cent of all U.N. posts. In addition, the General Assembly (3) _____ pay rises for one year and benefits for two years. It acted in response to (4) _____ states to reduce spending. Many governments around the world say they are struggling to (5) _____ contributions to fund the global organisation. Many nations are still suffering from austerity (6) _____ the global financial crisis.

The United States' ambassador to the U.N. Joe Torsella said the cuts were "crucial" and would "eliminate unnecessary, (7) _____ posts". He told the General Assembly: "At a time when the budgets and crucial services of many...organisations (8) _____, these measures will hold compensation costs in place, (9) _____ the next session." He added: "Our shared goal should be to ensure that the United Nations can maximise the (10) _____ with the amount of resources that member states (11) _____ to provide." The United States, which pays 22 per cent of the U.N. budget, is the biggest (12) _____ the United Nations.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut.html>

1. How many times in its history has the U.N. now made staff cuts?

2. How many jobs will go?

3. For how long will benefits be frozen?

4. What did member states pressure the U.N. to do?

5. What did many countries introduce after the global financial crisis?

6. Who is Joe Torsella?

7. Who did Joe Torsella talk to?

8. What has happened to the budgets and services of many organisations?

9. What does the U.N. have to do with the results it delivers?

10. What financial contribution does the USA make to the UN?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut.html>

1. How many times in its history has the U.N. now made staff cuts?
 - a) four
 - b) three
 - c) two
 - d) one
2. How many jobs will go?
 - a) 209
 - b) 219
 - c) 299
 - d) 2,019
3. For how long will benefits be frozen?
 - a) forever
 - b) indefinitely
 - c) three years
 - d) two years
4. What did member states pressure the U.N. to do?
 - a) reduce services
 - b) cut jobs
 - c) cut spending
 - d) become smaller
5. What did many countries introduce after the global financial crisis?
 - a) issue lots of money
 - b) invest overseas
 - c) spend on social infrastructure
 - d) introduce austerity measures
6. Who is Joe Torsella?
 - a) a reporter
 - b) the UN deputy Secretary-General
 - c) the US ambassador to the UN
 - d) The UN's ambassador to the USA
7. Who did Joe Torsella talk to?
 - a) the General Assembly
 - b) the White House
 - c) the Security Council
 - d) U.N. staff who lost their jobs
8. What has happened to budgets and services of many organisations?
 - a) they've disappeared
 - b) they've quadrupled in size
 - c) they've been squeezed
 - d) they've been inflated
9. What does the U.N. have to do with the results it delivers?
 - a) immortalise them
 - b) maximise them
 - c) amortise them
 - d) minimise them
10. What financial contribution does the USA make to the UN?
 - a) 22%
 - b) 20%
 - c) 18%
 - d) 15%

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut.html>

Role A – Security Council

You think the Security Council is the most important U.N. body. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): UNESCO, the General Assembly or the WHO.

Role B – UNESCO

You think UNESCO is the most important U.N. body. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): the Security Council, the General Assembly or the WHO.

Role C – General Assembly

You think the General Assembly is the most important U.N. body. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): UNESCO, the Security Council or the WHO.

Role D – WHO

You think the WHO is the most important U.N. body. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): UNESCO, the General Assembly or the Security Council.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'staff' and 'cut'.

staff	cut
--------------	------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• history• body• represents• acted• share• global	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ambassador• services• costs• act• delivers• 22
--	---

THE UNITED NATIONS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut.html>

Write five GOOD questions about The United Nations in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

THE UNITED NATIONS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the term 'staff cuts'?
- c) How important is the United Nations?
- d) Would you like to work for the United Nations?
- e) What do you think of the cut in staff?
- f) Are you surprised there haven't been any cuts in staff before?
- g) Should the U.N. streamline so nations don't need to spend so much?
- h) Is it fair to freeze the pay and benefits of U.N. staff?
- i) What are the most important roles of the U.N.?
- j) What would the world be like without the U.N.?

U.N. makes first ever cut in staff – 30th December, 2013
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THE UNITED NATIONS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) How could the U.N. reduce costs more?
- c) Should member countries have more control over the U.N. budget?
- d) Would the U.N. be as effective if U.N. posts were voluntary?
- e) How can the U.N. maximize the results it delivers?
- f) What's the biggest way in which the U.N. has helped the world?
- g) What criticism do you have of the United Nations?
- h) Is it right that the USA pays 22% of the UN budget?
- i) If the USA pays 22%, should they have more power in the UN?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the head of the U.N.?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut.html>

The United Nations is (1) _____ staff for the first time in its history. The U.N. General Assembly approved a staff cut for the first time since the international (2) _____ was created in 1945. The decision means a reduction of 219 positions, which (3) _____ two per cent of all U.N. posts. In addition, the General Assembly authorised (4) _____ on pay rises for one year and benefits for two years. It acted in response (5) _____ pressures from member states to reduce spending. Many governments around the world say they are (6) _____ to meet their share of contributions to fund the global organisation. Many nations are still suffering from austerity measures taken after the global financial crisis.

The United States' ambassador to the U.N. Joe Torsella said the cuts were "crucial" and would "(7) _____ unnecessary, duplicative or outdated posts". He told the General Assembly: "At a time when the budgets and crucial services of many...organisations have been (8) _____, these measures will hold compensation costs in place, until we can (9) _____ in the next session." He added: "Our shared goal should be to ensure that the United Nations can maximise the results that it (10) _____ with the amount of resources that member states are (11) _____ able to provide." The United States, which pays 22 per cent of the U.N. budget, is the biggest (12) _____ contributor to the United Nations.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. | (a) cutting | (b) culling | (c) cussing | (d) cunning |
| 2. | (a) head | (b) arm | (c) body | (d) leg |
| 3. | (a) complements | (b) resents | (c) presents | (d) represents |
| 4. | (a) melts | (b) freezes | (c) drips | (d) icicles |
| 5. | (a) from | (b) after | (c) at | (d) to |
| 6. | (a) stragglng | (b) snuggling | (c) struggling | (d) sagging |
| 7. | (a) vibrate | (b) eliminate | (c) compensate | (d) prevaricate |
| 8. | (a) squeezed | (b) splashed | (c) squashed | (d) smashed |
| 9. | (a) act | (b) perform | (c) play | (d) star |
| 10. | (a) supplies | (b) sends | (c) delivers | (d) posts |
| 11. | (a) reservedly | (b) whimsically | (c) timely | (d) collectively |
| 12. | (a) mercurial | (b) financial | (c) stoical | (d) phantasmagorical |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut.html>

Paragraph 1

1. approve a staff cut
2. which represents two per cent of all U.N. posts
3. authorised freezes on pay rises
4. in response to pressures
5. meet their share of contributions
6. austerity measures

Paragraph 2

7. The United States' ambassador to the U.N.
8. the cuts were crucial
9. eliminate unnecessary, duplicative or outdated posts
10. maximise the results
11. states are collectively able to provide
12. the biggest financial contributor

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () a reduction of 219 positions, which represents two per cent of all U.N. posts. In addition, the General Assembly authorised
- () freezes on pay rises for one year and benefits for two years. It acted in response
- () results that it delivers with the amount of resources that member states are collectively able to
- () to pressures from member states to reduce spending. Many governments
- () time when the budgets and crucial services of many...organisations have been
- (**1**) The United Nations is cutting staff for the first time in its history. The U.N. General Assembly approved a
- () around the world say they are struggling to meet their share of contributions to fund the global
- () unnecessary, duplicative or outdated posts". He told the General Assembly: "At a
- () organisation. Many nations are still suffering from austerity measures taken after the global financial crisis.
- () squeezed, these measures will hold compensation costs in place, until we can act in the next session." He added:
- () "Our shared goal should be to ensure that the United Nations can maximise the
- () provide." The United States, which pays 22 per cent of the U.N. budget, is the biggest financial contributor to the United Nations.
- () The United States' ambassador to the U.N. Joe Torsella said the cuts were "crucial" and would "eliminate
- () staff cut for the first time since the international body was created in 1945. The decision means

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut.html>

1. time Cutting history the staff in first for its.

2. of decision 219 means positions a reduction The.

3. to states member from Pressures spending reduce.

4. contributions of share their meet to Struggling.

5. taken crisis after the Austerity global measures financial.

6. duplicative , unnecessary Eliminate posts outdated or.

7. of Services squeezed been have organisations many.

8. will place hold compensation These costs measures in.

9. U.N. the that Ensure results the maximise can N.

10. members provide are collectively Resources able that to.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut.html>

The United Nations is cutting staff for the first time in *the / its* history. The U.N. General Assembly *approval / approved* a staff cut for the first time since the international *arm / body* was created in 1945. The decision means a *reduction / reduced* of 219 positions, which *represents / presents* two per cent of all U.N. posts. In addition, the General Assembly authorised *melts / freezes* on pay rises for one year and benefits for two years. It *acted / performed* in response to pressures from member states to reduce *spends / spending*. Many governments around the world say they are struggling to meet their *share / shore* of contributions to fund the global organisation. Many nations are still suffering from austerity measures taken after the global *financial / financially* crisis.

The United States' *ambassadorial / ambassador* to the U.N. Joe Torsella said the cuts were "crucial" and would "eliminate unnecessary, *duplicates / duplicative* or outdated posts". He told the General Assembly: "At a *time / era* when the budgets and crucial services of many...organisations have been *squeezed / pressed*, these measures will hold compensation costs *in / on* place, until we can act in the next *season / session*." He added: "Our shared goal should be to ensure that the United Nations can minimize / maximise the results that it *delivers / deliveries* with the amount of resources that member states are collectively *ability / able* to provide." The United States, which pays 22 per cent of the U.N. budget, is the biggest financial *attributor / contributor* to the United Nations.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut.html>

Th_ _n_t_d N_t__ns _s c_tt_ng st_ff f_r th_ f_rst t_m_ _n
_ts h_st_ry. Th_ _N. G_n_r_l _ss_mbly _ppr_v_d _ st_ff
c_t f_r th_ f_rst t_m_ s_nc_ th_ _nt_rn_t__n_l b_dy w_s
cr__t_d _n 1945. Th_ d_c_s__n m__ns _r_d_ct__n _f 219
p_s_t__ns, wh_ch r_pr_s_nts tw_ p_r c_nt _f _ll _N.
p_sts. _n _dd_t__n, th_ G_n_r_l _ss_mbly __th_r_s_d
fr__z_s _n p_y_r_s_s f_r _n_y__r _nd b_n_f_ts f_r tw_
y__rs. _t _ct_d _n r_sp_ns_ t_ pr_ss_r_s fr_m m_mb_r
st_t_s t_r_d_c_ sp_nd_ng. M_ny g_v_rnm_nts _r__nd th_
w_rld s_y th_y _r_str_ggl_ng t_ m__t th__r sh_r_ _f
c_ntr_b_t__ns t_ f_nd th_ gl_b_l _rg_n_s_t__n. M_ny
n_t__ns _r_st_ll s_ff_r_ng fr_m __st_r_ty m__s_r_s t_k_n
_ft_r th_ gl_b_l f_n_nc__l cr_s_s.

Th_ _n_t_d St_t_s' _mb_ss_d_r t_ th_ _N. J__ T_rs_ll_
s__d th_ c_ts w_r_ "cr_c__l" _nd w__ld "_l_m_n_t_
_nn_c_ss_ry, d_pl_c_t_v_ _r __td_t_d p_sts". H_t_ld th_
G_n_r_l _ss_mbly: "_t _ t_m_ wh_n th_ b_dg_ts _nd
cr_c__l s_rv_c_s _f m_ny...rg_n_s_t__ns h_v_ b__n
sq__z_d, th_s_ m__s_r_s w_ll h_ld c_m_p_n_s_t__n c_sts
_n pl_c_, _nt_l w_ c_n _ct _n th_ n_xt s_ss__n." H_
_dd_d: "__r sh_r_d g__l sh__ld b_ t_ _ns_r_ th_t th_
_n_t_d N_t__ns c_n m_x_m_s_ th_r_s_lts th_t t_d_l_v_rs
w_th th_ _m__nt _f r_s__rc_s th_t m_mb_r st_t_s _r_
c_ll_ct_v_ly _bl_t_ pr_v_d_." Th_ _n_t_d St_t_s, wh_ch
p_ys 22 p_r c_nt _f th_ _N. b_dg_t, _s th_ b_gg_st
f_n_nc__l c_ntr_b_t_r t_ th_ _n_t_d N_t__ns.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut.html>

the united nations is cutting staff for the first time in its history the un general assembly approved a staff cut for the first time since the international body was created in 1945 the decision means a reduction of 219 positions which represents two per cent of all un posts in addition the general assembly authorised freezes on pay rises for one year and benefits for two years it acted in response to pressures from member states to reduce spending many governments around the world say they are struggling to meet their share of contributions to fund the global organisation many nations are still suffering from austerity measures taken after the global financial crisis

the united states' ambassador to the un joe torsella said the cuts were "crucial" and would "eliminate unnecessary duplicative or outdated posts" he told the general assembly "at a time when the budgets and crucial services of many...organisations have been squeezed these measures will hold compensation costs in place until we can act in the next session" he added "our shared goal should be to ensure that the united nations can maximise the results that it delivers with the amount of resources that member states are collectively able to provide" the united states which pays 22 per cent of the un budget is the biggest financial contributor to the united nations

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1312/131230-united-nations-staff-cut.html>

The United Nations is cutting staff for the first time in its history. The U.N. General Assembly approved a staff cut for the first time since the international body was created in 1945. The decision means a reduction of 219 positions, which represents two percent of all U.N. posts. In addition, the General Assembly authorised freezes on pay rises for one year and benefits for two years. It acted in response to pressures from member states to reduce spending. Many governments around the world say they are struggling to meet their share of contributions to fund the global organisation. Many nations are still suffering from austerity measures taken after the global financial crisis. The United States' ambassador to the U.N. Joe Torsellas said the cuts were "crucial" and would "eliminate unnecessary, duplicate or outdated posts". He told the General Assembly: "At a time when the budget and crucial services of many... organisations have been squeezed, these measures will hold compensation costs in place, until we can act in the next session." He added: "Our shared goal should be to ensure that the United Nations can maximise the result that it delivers with the amount of resources that member states are collectively able to provide." The United States, which pays 22 percent of the U.N. budget, is the biggest financial contributor to the United Nations.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about the United Nations. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. THE UNITED NATIONS: Make a poster about the United Nations. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. CUTS: Write a magazine article about staff cuts at the U.N. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against them.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to the head of the U.N. Ask him three questions about The United Nations. Give him three ideas how to make it better. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b T c F d T e T f F g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. cutting staff | a. axing jobs |
| 2. approved | b. authorised |
| 3. body | c. organisation |
| 4. response | d. reaction |
| 5. measures | e. actions |
| 6. crucial | f. vital |
| 7. eliminate | g. remove |
| 8. ensure | h. make certain |
| 9. provide | i. give |
| 10. financial | j. monetary |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. One
2. 219
3. Two years
4. Reduce spending
5. Introduce austerity measures
6. The United States' ambassador to the U.N.
7. The U.N. General Assembly
8. They've been squeezed
9. Maximise them
10. A 22% contribution to its budget

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. d 2. b 3. d 4. c 5. d 6. c 7. a 8. c 9. b 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)