

# NEWSBYTES

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

## UN Seeks Vast New Powers for Global Emergencies

Lawmakers and critics are sounding the alarm, but the White House supports the agenda



*Chinese communist party leader Xi Jinping virtually addresses the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly on September 21, 2021 in New York. (Spencer Platt/POOL/AFP via Getty Images)*

By Alex Newman

April 11, 2023

The United Nations is seeking vast new powers and stronger “global governance” tools to deal with international emergencies such as pandemics and economic crises, a new U.N. policy brief has revealed, and the Biden administration appears to support the proposal.

The plan to create an “Emergency Platform,” which would involve a set of protocols activated during crises that could affect billions of people, has already drawn strong concern and criticism from U.S. policymakers and analysts.

Among those expressing concern is House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Texas), whose committee oversees U.S. foreign policy and involvement in international organizations.

“We must be sure that any global protocol or platform operated by the U.N. respects U.S. national sovereignty and U.S. taxpayer dollars,” McCaul told The Epoch Times.

House Foreign Affairs Committee ranking member Rep. Mike McCaul (R-Texas) during a hearing on Capitol Hill on April 28, 2022. (Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images)

He also noted his concern that the proposed platform expands the authority and funding of the U.S. and the definitions of “emergency” and “crisis” to include, for instance, climate change.

U.N. documents and statements released in March by key leaders of the global organization make clear that climate change is a major piece of the U.N. emergencies agenda.

Other critics who spoke with The Epoch Times expressed concern about the influence of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) within the U.N., the global organization’s well-documented corruption problems, and its track record of dealing with previous emergencies.

“Allowing the U.N. to deal with this is the equivalent of putting the CCP in charge of global emergencies,” former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations Kevin Moley told The Epoch Times.

#### UN Vision for Global Crises Response

In a policy brief dubbed “Our Common Agenda” headlined “Strengthening the International Response to Complex Shocks – An Emergency Platform,” U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres laid out his vision for empowering the global organization to deal with global crises.

“The challenges we face can only be addressed through stronger international cooperation,” Guterres declared, calling for “strengthening global governance” for current and future generations.

The policy brief builds on an earlier “Common Agenda” document and comes as U.N. leaders outline the plans for a “Summit of the Future” set to be held during the General Assembly’s annual high-level meeting in September.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks during the 53rd annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Jan. 18, 2023. (Gian Ehrenzeller/Keystone via AP)

If it gets a green light from member states, the global emergency protocols would be “triggered automatically” in case of a global crisis, “regardless of the type or nature of the crisis involved,” the U.N. chief said.

The protocols would bring all sorts of institutions together, including national governments, international institutions, and the private sector. Ultimately, all would have to recognize the “primary role of intergovernmental organs [such as U.N. agencies] in decision-making,” the document states.

“The Emergency Platform, once convened, would be a tool for the United Nations system to implement decisions taken by relevant organs,” according to the policy brief.

### State Department Supportive

A spokesman for the U.S. State Department suggested that the Biden administration backs the plan.

“The administration has made clear its firm belief that U.S. national security is best served by engaging actively and comprehensively with the UN and other international organizations,” the spokesman told The Epoch Times in an e-mailed statement about the proposal.

“The U.N. is only as effective, transparent, and accountable as its membership demands, and the U.S. works tirelessly to ensure the U.N. meets those demands.”

The U.N. proposal was unveiled as multibillionaire Bill Gates, one of the most prominent voices during the COVID-19 crisis and a major financier of the World Health Organization (WHO) and vaccines, called for a global “fire department” to address international health emergencies.

Writing in The New York Times last month, Gates said a “Global Health Emergency Corps” could “spring into action at a moment’s notice when danger emerges.”

“The Global Health Emergency Corps will represent massive progress toward a pandemic-free future,” Gates wrote in the op-ed. “The question is whether we have the foresight to invest in that future now before it’s too late.”

### UN Emergencies Protocol

Guterres, who is asking governments to approve his plan later this year, said risks are growing and becoming more complex.

“Enhanced international cooperation is the only way we can adequately respond to these shocks, and the United Nations is the only organization with the reach and legitimacy to convene at the highest level and galvanize global action,” he said. “We must keep strengthening the multilateral system so that it is fit to face the challenges of tomorrow.”

Exactly what would constitute an emergency that would trigger the U.N. emergency response wasn’t made clear.

However, the document states that crises without “global consequences” would “not necessarily” be categorized as an emergency requiring U.N. intervention. In other words, some crises that don’t have global consequences might trigger a U.N. response.



The flag of the World Health Organization (WHO) at its headquarters in Geneva on March 5, 2021. (Fabrice Coffrini/AFP via Getty Images)

The report gives two examples of recent global crises that struck in the 21st century and that U.N. leaders believe support the case for coordinated global responses: the COVID-19 pandemic and the “cost of living crisis” of 2022.

Rather than offering specifics, the policy brief offers broad categories and types of emergencies that might activate the global protocols. These include climate or environmental events; environmental degradation; pandemics; accidental or deliberate release of biological agents; disruptions in the flow of goods, people, or finance; disruptions in cyberspace or “global digital connectivity;” a major event in “outer space;” and “unforeseen risks (‘black swan’ events).”

Frequently cited throughout the document is the global response to COVID-19. The U.N. chief, who famously led the Socialist International before taking his current post, said that a stronger and a more coordinated U.N. response would have resulted in more people receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

WHO leaders’ ongoing efforts to strengthen the U.N. health agency with a new international pandemic treaty and changes to International Health Regulations are touted as key mechanisms for emergencies.

Upon activation of the emergency protocols, government leaders, U.N. agencies, international financial institutions, the private sector, civil society, and experts would all be convened by the U.N. to respond.

The U.N. secretary-general would decide when to activate the protocols. He would also identify all participants and oversee their contributions to the response, the policy brief explains. Contributions mentioned in the document include everything from providing money to changing government policy.

### Agenda 2030 a Priority

Among the reasons for the urgency, the U.N. stated that international emergencies could undermine progress toward achieving the controversial Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, referred to by U.N. leaders as the “master plan for humanity.”

The 17 goals, which cover practically every area of life and have come under fire from critics, were signed by virtually all national governments in 2015, with strong support from the Obama administration and the CCP.

Although the U.S. Senate hasn’t ratified the global agreement as required for all treaties, it’s nonetheless being implemented worldwide, as policies in business and government are aligned with the agenda.

“Once a complex global shock occurs, a more timely, predictable, and effective international response could potentially mitigate some of the impacts on the Sustainable Development Goals and allow the process of recovery to start sooner,” the document states. “The proposal to agree on protocols to convene an Emergency Platform aims to achieve this.”

The impetus for the emergencies plan was a pledge by U.N. member states during the global organization’s 75th anniversary to strengthen “global governance.”

Other components of this strengthening—policies that parallel much of the “Great Reset” announced in 2020 by Guterres and others, such as Klaus Schwab, at the World Economic Forum—include a renewed “social contract.” The WEF is a “strategic partner” of the U.N. in implementing Agenda 2030, especially in terms of getting the private sector onboard globally.

# Anarchy Stirs in Israel

By Hal Lindsey

The president of Israel, Isaac Herzog, recently said, "Israel is in the throes of a profound crisis." He spoke of "civil war," and said, "The abyss is within touching distance."

Civil war? The abyss? Is it really that bad in Israel? It all centers on judicial reform. Extreme leftists protested proposed reforms by rioting in the streets. Others on the left protested peacefully but in large numbers. Like the nation's president, many speak of civil war and anarchy. Protests occurred in places you would never expect. Elite military officers walked off the job one Sunday in March. Many of Israel's reservists have refused to report for duty.

Meanwhile, Israel's enemies watch and feel emboldened. Terrorists rampaged within Israel, and a missile barrage hit from without. The result of all this has been to effectively thrust us forward on God's end-times timeline.

Benjamin Netanyahu's government won the majority in the last election partly because they promised the very judicial reforms now being protested. Voters chose the conservative coalition, not despite such reforms, but at least partly because of them. The reforms would allow the Knesset (Israel's parliament) to overrule Supreme Court decisions. The Knesset would also be given more of a say in who becomes a member of that court.

When Americans hear that a parliamentary body would have the ability to overrule the Supreme Court, they usually think, "That's unconstitutional!" They forget that Israel has no constitution. And Israel's present method for choosing members of the Supreme Court mostly leaves out any form of accountability to the people.

Even with its flaws, I prefer our system. When a Court vacancy occurs in the United States, the President nominates a replacement. The Senate can then either confirm the nominee or not. The people elect the President. The people also choose Senators. So, ultimately, members of the US Supreme Court, along with other federal judges, are chosen by elected representatives of the people.

It doesn't work that way in Israel. There, Supreme Court judges are chosen by something called the "Judicial Selection Committee." The majority in the Knesset only holds two of the nine positions on the committee. In other words, the people have almost no say in the matter at all.

Without a Constitution, Israel's courts have no guardrails. They began to realize their overwhelming power during the time of a man named Aharon Barak. He became a member of Israel's Supreme Court in 1978 and served as the Court's president from 1995 until 2006. He changed everything. He praised what he called, "judicial legislation." He called "judicial lawmaking... the task of a supreme court."

In other words, forget democracy. Forget government of, by, and for the people. Instead, an unelected few "legislate" for everyone else. Barak also eliminated previous constraints on the kind of cases the Court could take up. Presently, Israel is stuck with a court chosen by elites and not the people. That court can take up any issue it wants, overriding the will of the nation's elected leaders, while passing its own laws.

Does Israel need judicial reform? It absolutely needs it! We often call that nation the only working democracy in the Middle East. But Israel's Supreme Court presently has the same power as Iran's mullahs. They can undo anything Israel's democratically chosen representatives do and replace those

laws with laws of the court's own making. In the absence of a constitution, the answer seems to be to make the judiciary more accountable to the people through their elected representatives in the Knesset.

On March 27th, Prime Minister Netanyahu temporarily withdrew his reform proposals. Maybe during this pause, they can figure out a better approach. But make no mistake. Without reform, the 15 judges of Israel's Supreme Court hold absolute power. And that is incompatible with the basic premise of democracy.

A final word here. This is not the end of Israel. What Satan means for evil, God will use for good. And He will keep His promises.

### ***Economic Snapshot 2023:***

