

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS


EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Zachary Rutherford
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: April 12, 2025 Return: April 19, 2025
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
4. Departure City: Washington DC Destination: Dushanbe, Tajikistan Return City: Washington DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: UN Foundation, Eleanor Crook Foundtaion
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Meetings on US funded Programs including World Food Program, World Health Organization USAID, Meetings with the US Embassy Team,
7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box:*
 - a. a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - b. the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - c. page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; **and**
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Traveler:  Date: May 5, 2025

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Diana Harshbarger Date: May 5, 2025

Signature of Supervising Member: 

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: United Nations Foundation

2. Travel Destination(s): Dushanbe and Khatlon Region, Tajikistan

3. Date of Departure: April 12, 2025 Date of Return: April 19, 2025

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Zac Rutherford

Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$9,911.81	\$600	\$258.31	\$222.86 (translators) \$8.52 (museum fee)
Accompanying Family Member				

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. Signify statement is true by checking box.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: April 28, 2025

Name: Peter Yeo Title: Senior Vice President

Organization: United Nations Foundation

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: 1750 Pennsylvania Ave NW Suite 300 Washington, DC 20006

Telephone: 202-887-9040 Email: pyeo@unfoundation.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

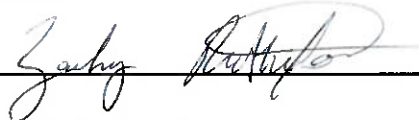
This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Zachary Rutherford

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: 

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Diana Harshbarger

Office Address: 167 Cannon HOB

Telephone Number: 202-225-6356

Email Address of Contact Person: zac.rutherford@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Zachary Rutherford
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: UN Foundation
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Tajikistan
4. a. Date of Departure: 04/12/2025 Date of Return: 04/19/2025
b. Yes No Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?
If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Yes No Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
 - (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: _____
 - (2) Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
 - (3) Yes No Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes No Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?
b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes No *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**
In my role as chief of staff to rep. harshbarger, I advise her on all legislative matters including foreign relations. This trip itinerary includes briefings with a number of outside stakeholders and will allow me to better understand subject matter related to my boss's activities.
9. **Yes No Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: 

Date: 04/26/25

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

United Nations Foundation

2. I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. **Check only one.** I represent that:

- a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
- b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
- c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: Eleanor Crook Foundation

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): _____

Please see attached.

5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: April 12, 2025 Date of Return: April 19, 2025

7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC

b. Destination(s): Dushanbe and Khatlon Region, Tajikistan

c. City of return: Washington, DC

8. **Check only one.** I represent that

- a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
- b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
- c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**
- a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____
-

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. **Check only one of the following.**
- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box; OR*
 - b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For *each* sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip *and* its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
Please see attached.
-

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: _____)
 - b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: _____)
 - c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

-

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
 - b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
 - 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____
\$80
 - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: **Please see attached.**
-

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name: Hilton Dushanbe City: Dushanbe, Tajikistan Cost Per Night: \$100
 Reason(s) for Selecting: Favorable rate and location.

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
 Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
 Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$9,500	\$600	\$400
For each Accompanying Family Member			


	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee		
For each Accompanying Family Member		

19. **Check only one:**

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**

- a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
- b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
- c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature:  Date: March 6, 2025
 Name: Peter Yeo Title: Senior Vice President
 Organization: United Nations Foundation
 Address: 1750 Pennsylvania Ave NW Suite 300 Washington, DC 20006
 Email: pyeo@unfoundation.org Telephone: 202-887-9040

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

**UN Foundation Congressional Learning Trip to Tajikistan
Answers to Primary Trip Sponsor Form Questions 4, 12, and 15b2**

4. Names and titles of all House invitees and explanation of why the individual was invited:

The following individuals have been invited to participate in this learning trip to Tajikistan because they work on issues related to U.S.-Central Asia relations, international development, agriculture, nutrition, global health, U.S. foreign policy, international organizations, and/or associated subjects.

Marshele Bryant, Senior Policy Advisor
Rep. Mike Quigley

Kody Keckler, Legislative Assistant
Rep. Mike Quigley

Patrick Mocete, Chief of Staff
Rep. Young Kim

Maeve Healy, Chief of Staff
Rep. Grace Meng

Tom Dinegar, Legislative Director
Rep. Grace Meng

Ted Verrill, Chief of Staff
Rep. Julia Letlow

Lindsay Linhares, Legislative Director
Rep. Julia Letlow

Chandler Smith, Legislative Director
Rep. Guy Reschenthaler

Edward Kim, Legislative Director
Rep. John Moleenaar

Madelyn Derks, Legislative Director
Rep. Mark Alford

Remy Fortin, Legislative Director
Rep. Bill Huizenga

Alec Daman, Senior Legislative Assistant
Rep. Bill Huizenga

Emma Bruce, Foreign Policy Advisor
Rep. Ami Bera

Anna McDonald, Foreign Policy Advisor
Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove

Jim Cho, Chief of Staff
Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove

Dan Scharfenberger, Chief of Staff
Rep. Tom Kean

Jenny Gorski, Chief of Staff
Rep. Michael Baumgartner

Brad Decker, Legislative Director
Rep. Keith Self

James McNamee, Legislative Director
Rep. Mike Lawler

Christopher Smith, Legislative Director
Rep. Ryan Mackenzie

Christina Rankin, Legislative Director
Rep. Gabe Amo

Alyssa Anderson, Chief of Staff
Rep. Juan Ciscomani

Caroline Bender, Deputy Chief of Staff
Rep. Juan Ciscomani

Ryan Dierker, Legislative Director
Rep. Chuck Edwards

Jessie Frank, Deputy Chief of Staff
Rep. Chuck Edwards

Bronwyn Lance, Chief of Staff
Rep. Chuck Edwards

Becca Flikier, Legislative Director
Rep. Lois Frankel

Brian Arata, Legislative Director

Rep. Glenn Thompson

Skylar Borchardt, Legislative Director
Rep. Angie Craig

Miranda Ganter, Legislative Director
Rep. Jahana Hayes

John Altendorf, Legislative Director
Rep. Brad Finstrad

Megan Wenrich, Legislative Director
Rep. Jefferson Shreve

Eric Bryant, Chief of Staff
Rep. Kweisi Mfume

Lilah Pomernace, Chief of Staff
Rep. Pramila Jayapal

Catherine Treadwell, Chief of Staff
Rep. Cory Mills

Bryan Brody, Legislative Director
Rep. Ronny Jackson

Gus Desch, Legislative Assistant
Rep. Warren Davidson

Bethany Schrock, Legislative Director
Rep. Jim Baird

Alex Cisneros, Legislative Director
Rep. Young Kim

Alex Keledjian, Policy Advisor
Rep. Young Kim

Gisselle Reynolds, Legislative Director
Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart

Diala Jadallah, Chief of Staff
Rep. Lattefah Simon

Mark Dreiling, Chief of Staff
Rep. Don Bacon

Cameron Madsen, Legislative Director
Rep. Michael McCaul

Brandon Cockerham, Chief of Staff
Rep. Jim Baird

Giulia DiGuglielmo, Legislative Director
Rep. Darrell Issa

Olivia Speno, Legislative Assistant
Rep. David Valadao

John Mark Kolb, Deputy Chief of Staff
Rep. Maria Salazar

Zac Rutherford, Chief of Staff
Rep. Diana Harshbarger

12. Description of the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip and its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

The UN Foundation (UNF) works to educate all Americans, including the U.S. Congress, on the importance of a strong U.S.-UN relationship, with a focus on interconnected issues such as global health, nutrition, sustainable development, and good governance. This learning trip provides an opportunity for policymakers to better understand bilateral and multilateral efforts to strengthen health systems in Tajikistan, respond to food insecurity and nutrition challenges, and promote economic growth and development.

The Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF) was founded in 1997 with a single goal: to eradicate global malnutrition. ECF invests in research that proves what methods work, policy analysis to drive systems reform, and advocacy that makes the case for urgent action to address this global crisis. In 2017, the Foundation pledged \$100 million towards the elimination of global malnutrition.

UNF is organizing all aspects of the program/logistics. UNF handles all outreach to congressional offices and is the contact for planning purposes. UNF received a grant from ECF to partially support this trip. ECF has not played any role in organizing this trip and has not been involved in the selection or invitation of the trip participants.

15b2. Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:

Over the last 30 years, Tajikistan has made significant, albeit uneven, progress in its development. Emerging in 1997 from a devastating five year long civil war following the breakup of the Soviet Union, the country has achieved relative stability and somewhat steady economic growth, leading to investments in hydropower projects and improvements in agricultural productivity, as well as expanded access to education and healthcare among urban

populations. Despite these successes, however, Tajikistan still remains the poorest country in Central Asia and is facing significant risks that could slow or reverse its development journey, including a severe reliance on remittances, under employment and unemployment, limited industrialization, persistent food insecurity, communal trans-boundary tensions, and increasing vulnerability to natural disasters.

During the course of five days in Dushanbe and the Khatlon Region, the delegation will meet with the UN Country Team, U.S. Embassy, and Government of Tajikistan in Dushanbe and the field to see firsthand how the UN and its partners are working to address these fundamental issues and assisting Tajikistan on its path towards long-term self-stability.

In addition, the delegation will explore Tajikistan's nutrition and food security challenges, where nearly 75% of the population live in rural settings and lack regular access to diverse and nutritious foods. As of 2024, approximately 30% of Tajikistan's population is undernourished and about 1/3 of children under the age of five are experiencing severe food poverty. Anemia is also readily prevalent, with reports indicating that around 35% of women of reproductive age suffer from iron and other micronutrient deficiencies. The delegation examine how the UN, private sector, and the Government of Tajikistan are combatting these health threats on multiple fronts, including through the delivery of lifesaving ready-to-use therapeutic and supplementary foods, as well as efforts to foster resilient food systems, reduce unsustainable agriculture practices, and increase access to nourishing diets.

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Ranking Member

John H. Rutherford, Florida
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia



ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Keelie Broom
Counsel to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
<https://Ethics.House.gov>

April 4, 2025

Mr. Zachary Rutherford
Office of the Honorable Diana Harshbarger
167 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Rutherford:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Tajikistan, scheduled for April 12 to 19, 2025, sponsored by United Nations Foundation and Eleanor Crook Foundation.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House employees may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$480] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

¹ Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or ohsstaff@mail.house.gov. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,



Michael Guest
Chairman



Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:nl



Agenda for UNF Congressional Learning Trip to Tajikistan

April 12-19, 2025

****All Times Local****
+9 hours from Washington, DC

Saturday, April 12 --- Washington, DC/Travel

9:40pm Depart Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) via Turkish Airlines #8
Flight time 10h 10m

Sunday, April 13 --- Travel/Istanbul/Travel

2:50pm Arrive Istanbul (IST) for connection
Layover 3h 25m

6:15pm Depart IST via Turkish Airlines #254
Flight time 4h 45m

Monday, April 14 --- Travel/Dushanbe

Attire: Casual/Business

1:00am Arrive Dushanbe International Airport (DYU)

1:30am Transit via hired car to Hilton Dushanbe

2:00am Check into Hilton Dushanbe

11:00am – 11:45am **Welcome Working Breakfast, led by UN Foundation**

The delegation will hold a brief working breakfast to review the day's programming and answer any questions regarding the structure of the Resident Coordinator's Office and the UN Country Team in Tajikistan.

Location: Private Room, Mezzanine Floor, Hilton Dushanbe

11:45am – 12:00pm Transit via hired car to UN in Tajikistan Office

12:00pm – 12:15pm **UN Department of Safety and Security and U.S. Regional Security Office Briefing**

The delegation will receive a briefing from the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and the U.S. Embassy Regional Security Office

(RSO). The two offices will detail the current security situation in Tajikistan and provide guidance on any safety protocols that must be adhered to during the course of the learning trip.

Location: UN House 5/1 Lohuti Street Dushanbe, Tajikistan 734013

12:15pm – 1:30pm **Meeting with UN Country Team, led by Kavilmadam Ramaswami Parvathy, UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan**

The delegation will meet with the UN Country Team to contextualize the major development challenges in Tajikistan and provide a general overview of how the 18 UN agencies, programmes, and funds in Tajikistan work together and actively partner with the Government of Tajikistan and the U.S. to advance inclusive human development, improve health outcomes, promote economic growth, strengthen sustainable agricultural practices, and manage disaster risk reduction.

Note: BRING YOUR PASSPORTS

Location: UN House 5/1 Lohuti Street Dushanbe, Tajikistan 734013

1:30pm – 2:00pm Transit via hired car to U.S. Embassy Dushanbe

2:00pm – 3:00pm **Meeting with U.S. Country Team**

The delegation will meet with the U.S. Country Team to discuss U.S.-Tajikistan relations, and how the U.S. and UN work together to address issues related to economic development, countering violent extremism, energy access, humanitarian assistance, food security, and related issues.

Location: U.S. Embassy Dushanbe

3:00pm – 3:30pm Transit via hired car to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs

3:30pm – 4:30pm **Meeting with Sirojiddin Muhridin, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Jamshed Homidzoda, Head of Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

The delegation will meet with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss U.S.-Tajikistan relations and the Government of Tajikistan's strategic partnership with the United Nations.

Location: HQHM+R36, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

4:30pm – 5:00pm Transit via hired car to Hilton Dushanbe

- 5:00pm – 6:30pm Executive Time
- 6:30pm – 7:00pm Transit via hired car to U.S. Ambassador’s Residence
- 7:00pm – 8:30pm **Welcome Reception, hosted by Manuel Micaller, Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Tajikistan**
- The delegation will attend a welcome reception at the U.S. Ambassador’s Residence, led by Amb. Manuel Micaller and the U.S. Country Team, during which they will discuss U.S.-Tajikistan relations and brief the delegation on additional bilateral and multilateral support issues.
- Location: Residence of the Ambassador of the United States of America*
- 8:30pm – 9:00pm Transit via hired car to Hilton Dushanbe
- Overnight Hilton Dushanbe
Ayni Street 48, Dushanbe 734024, Tajikistan

Tuesday, April 15 --- Dushanbe

Attire: Business casual.

- 9:00am – 10:00am **Breakfast Briefing with Eri Dwivedi, UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Deputy Representative in Tajikistan and Masumi Maehara, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF Tajikistan**
- The delegation will have a working breakfast with UNICEF leaders and specialists to learn about the nutrition challenges in Tajikistan and how UNICEF is supporting the Government of Tajikistan to improve child survival with a thorough identification of the critical health system bottlenecks to effective coverage, access, and demand for the evidence-based maternal and child health interventions.
- Undernutrition remains a significant public health challenge in Tajikistan, causing preventable deaths and delaying children’s physical and cognitive development. As many as 21% of children under five are stunted (have chronic malnutrition), including 6% who are severely stunted; meanwhile wasting (acute malnutrition) currently stands at 3%, including 1% severely wasted; and underweight at 6%. Many women and children also suffer from micronutrient deficiencies, reflected in high rates of anemia and iodine deficiency.
- Location: Private Room, Mezzanine Floor, Hilton Dushanbe*
- 10:00am – 10:30am Transit via hired car to Istiqlol Medical Center

10:30am – 12:00pm **Visit to Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) Treatment Center and Maternity Ward, Istiqlol Medical Center**

The delegation will be introduced to UNICEF’s “baby-friendly hospital” initiative and receive a tour of Istiqlol Medical Center’s severe acute malnutrition (SAM) center, as well as the nearby maternity ward. They will learn about the hospital’s capacity to screen, diagnose and treat cases of malnutrition in babies and small children, and how new mothers receive education and support for successful breastfeeding techniques.

Location: Istiqlol Medical Center, Building 7A, Karaboev Avenue 54/1, Dushanbe

12:00pm – 12:05pm Transit on foot to Istiqlol Medical Center’s Immunization Room

12:05pm – 12:45pm **Visit to Immunization Room and Early Childhood Intervention Ward**

The delegation will learn how WHO is playing a key role in strengthening Tajikistan's national immunization system and supporting nationwide vaccination campaigns. WHO has significantly enhanced immunization capacity in Tajikistan and facilitated the introduction of three additional vaccines into the national schedule in recent years—an important milestone for public health which has already saved thousands of lives.

The delegation will additionally be briefed on how UNICEF is supporting the national scale-up of integrated care for child development, mother and child handbook and infant and young children module, including capacity development resources leveraging and policy advocacy.

Location: Istiqlol Medical Center, PHC 15, Karaboev Avenue 54/1, Dushanbe

12:45pm – 1:00pm Transit via hired car to Hua Restaurant

1:00pm – 2:30pm **Working Lunch with Arthur van Diesen, UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Representative in Tajikistan; Adham Musallam, World Food Programme (WFP) Country Director; and Aghasi Harutyunyan, UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Representative in Tajikistan**

The delegation will have a working lunch with the heads of UNICEF, WFP, and FAO in Tajikistan to learn how the UN is working collaboratively to treat children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition, severe acute malnutrition, and micronutrient deficiencies; improve the incomes of smallholder farmers, and increase the production and consumption of nutritious foods while supporting the diversification

of livelihoods for increased household and community resilience to shocks and stressors.

Location: Hua Restaurant

2:30pm – 3:00pm Transit via hired car to National AIDS Center

3:00pm – 3:45pm **Briefing at National AIDS Center (Tajikistan Ministry of Health) and Meeting with Civil Society Organizations Supporting People Living with HIV, led by Aziza Hamidova, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) Country Director in Tajikistan**

The delegation will meet with leaders and specialists from Tajikistan’s National AIDS Center, which is part of the Republican AIDS Center (RAC), to learn about significant progress made in developing national HIV programs and strategies, strengthening laboratory services, introducing and informing the population about best practices in HIV prevention, integrating HIV with other services, and collecting and providing statistical data for decision-making.

They will also meet with civil society organizations that provide essential services to communities of people living with HIV. Support from the U.S. Government is critical to the functioning of these organizations. In Tajikistan, 61% of the national HIV program is funded by external sources. U.S. Government funding amounts to approximately 20% and is the second largest contribution after the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which represent around 40% of the total resources.

Location: National AIDS Center, 48 Dekhoti Street

3:45pm – 4:00pm Transit via hired car to State Enterprise of Orthotics and Prosthetics (SEOP) Center

4:00pm – 5:00pm **Visit to State Enterprise of Orthotics and Prosthetics (SEOP) Center, Supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), led by Judith Sprunken, Technical Officer, WHO Country Office, Tajikistan**

The delegation will visit SEOP to learn about efforts to ensure people with disabilities and other physical limitations are able to access assistive technologies (wheelchairs, hearing aids, prosthetics, eyeglasses, etc.).

While SEOP attempts to reach as many individuals as possible, demand for these products consistently exceeds the supply, resulting in a long waiting list and unmet needs. WHO, along with vital support from

USAID, has worked with the Ministry of Health to improve the availability of assistive products and related services across the entire country, by making these available at the local (primary) health care level.

At the SEOP, the delegation will learn more about these successes as well as the future plans and tour the prosthetics production facility/workshop where orthopedics are designed, manufactured, and patients receive basic rehabilitation services, including wheelchair fitting, assistive product distribution, and patient rehabilitation sessions.

Location: HR6J+73J, Dushanbe

5:00pm – 5:30pm Transit via hired car to Hilton Dushanbe

5:30pm – 7:00pm Executive Time

7:00pm – 8:30pm **Dinner at Hilton Dushanbe**

Location: InAzia, Ground Floor, Hilton Dushanbe

Overnight Hilton Dushanbe
Ayni Street 48, Dushanbe 734024, Tajikistan

Wednesday, April 16 --- Dushanbe/Travel/Khatlon Region

Attire: Field Dress.

7:30am – 8:00am Breakfast at hotel

8:00am – 10:20am Transit via hired car to Dusti

1-Hour Food Security and Nutrition Background Briefing Provided Enroute to First Destination, led by Adham Musallam, WFP Country Director

Enroute to Dusti, Adham Musallam, WFP Country Director, will provide the delegation with background on the nutrition situation in the Khatlon Region.

Khatlon, despite being a major agricultural region, has the highest rates of undernutrition in Tajikistan, including stunting, wasting, and underweight children and micronutrient deficiencies, particularly in vitamin A and iron, are widespread. A large portion of the population in Khatlon lives below the poverty line, limiting their access to nutritious food and contributing to food insecurity, while seasonal variations in agriculture and reliance on imported foods have further exacerbated food insecurity and nutrition challenges in the region.

10:20am – 11:05am **Visit to Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) Treatment Center, Supported by WFP**

The delegation will visit a MAM treatment center in Dusti district, which has the highest prevalence of wasting (a child who is too thin for his or her height) in Tajikistan. The project was previously funded by USAID (2017-2021) and currently funded by WFP. Through the program, children aged 6-59 months suffering from moderate acute malnutrition are identified and treated by providing them with a ready-to-use supplementary food called Acha Mum. In addition, relevant staff at Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs) counsel parents/caregivers of the targeted children on proper infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices. The success of the program is demonstrated by the fact that more than 99% of the children enrolled in the program are fully cured of MAM.

Location: Rural Health Center Markaz, Dusti District, Khatlon Region

11:05am – 11:35am Transit via hired car to Balkhi

11:35am – 12:05pm **Visit to Pre-Primary Education Center, Supported by UNICEF**

The delegation will visit a local pre-primary education center, which was established as a result of a 5-year UNICEF project, launched in 2024, designed to significantly improve young children's access to and participation in essential and inclusive pre-primary activities in Tajikistan.

Through this project, UNICEF and the Government are working to improve school readiness and pre-primary learning outcomes by providing play-based, inclusive, student-centered, Tajik-appropriate early childhood education. The approach is inclusive of all children, including girls, children with disabilities and developmental delays, and/or are from homes where their first language is different from the language of instruction. The projects aims to sensitize parents, caregivers, local governments, and frontline workers around the need to connect children in institutions with quality pre-primary learning opportunities and create conducive enabling environments that promote the deinstitutionalization of children with developmental difficulties and with learning, physical, psychosocial, mental, or other disabilities.

Location: School #50, Jaloliddini Balkhi, Khatlon Region

12:05pm – 12:20pm Transit to RHC Markaz, School #34

12:20pm – 1:05pm **Visit to School Feeding Program, Supported by WFP**

The delegation will tour a school in Balkhi District to observe its school meals program, which provides nutrition meals to 466 students (231 boys and 235 girls) to enhance food security and promote healthy eating habits. As part of the WFP initiative, the school canteen has been renovated and equipped with modern kitchen appliances. Additionally, a nutrition center has been established to educate students, teachers, and the broader community on proper nutrition and health dietary practices. The delegation will also review the Tree Plantation and Environmental Sustainability initiative. Within the school, a flourishing fruit garden with over 200 trees has been established, half of which were planted under WFP's Tree Plantation Project in 2014. The orchard supplies students with fresh apples, apricots, and berries, enriching their diet while fostering environmental sustainability.

Location: RHC Markaz, School #34, Jaloliddini Balkhi, Khatlon Region

1:05pm – 1:35pm Transit via hired car to WFP Bokhtar District Office

1:35pm – 2:05pm **Boxed Lunches at WFP District Office**

2:05pm – 2:20pm Transit via hired car to SES Building, Bokhtar

2:20pm – 2:50pm **Visit to Bokhtar Immunization and Cold Chain Systems Management Facility, Supported by WHO/UNICEF/UN Development Program (UNDP)**

The delegation will visit a local GAVI Health System Strengthening (HSS) project, implemented by WHO, UNICEF, and UNDP which focuses on strengthening Tajikistan's immunization infrastructure. This includes cold chain equipment procurement, construction of vaccine storage facilities, capacity building for health workers, and provision of immunization guidelines and SOPs.

Address: SES Building, Bokhtar City, Khatlon Region

2:50pm – 3:45pm Transit via hired car to Yovon District

3:45pm – 4:30pm **Visit to Vertical Agriculture and Riverbank Protection Projects, Supported by WFP**

The delegation will visit a residential vertical greenhouse—an activity implemented under the Tajikistan Food Security Safety Nets Activity

Project. The vertical greenhouse was constructed with the aim to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable households and give an opportunity to market excessive harvest. The establishment of the vertical greenhouse was through a cash-for-assets intervention, with community members receiving compensation for their assistance.

In the same neighborhood, the delegation will see the rehabilitation of an irrigation canal, an activity also implemented under the Tajikistan Food Security Safety Nets Activity Project. This initiative engaged 75 unemployed individuals (47 men and 28 women) in a two-month cash-for-assets program focused on cleaning and rehabilitating the canal. Participants received cash-based transfers as compensation for their labor. As a result, 50 households (approximately 250 individuals) were prevented from future erosion during flash flooding events, enhancing agricultural productivity and water resource management in the area.

Location: Pakhtakor Village, Yovon District, Khatlan Region

4:30pm – 5:15pm Transit via hired car to WFP Agroforestry Site

5:15pm – 5:45pm **Visit to Agroforestry Site, Supported by WFP**

The delegation will visit a small shareholder agroforestry farm which received support via the Tajikistan Food Security Safety Nets Activity Project. Agroforestry supports food and nutritional security through the direct provision of non-food items and support of staple crop production. The agroforestry initiative empowers smallholder farmers to fulfill their daily food needs and earn additional income through crop sales. Two local independent farmers received 200 almond trees from WFP, which were planted in 2024, benefiting approximately 100 households.

Location: Chasmasor Village, Yovon District, Khatlon Region

5:45pm – 7:00pm Transit via hired car to Hilton Dushanbe

7:00pm – 8:15pm **Working Dinner Debrief with WFP Tajikistan Team**

The delegation will have a working dinner debrief with the WFP Tajikistan Team to discuss lessons learned during the day's visits.

Location: Hilton Dushanbe

Overnight Hilton Dushanbe
Ayni Street 48, Dushanbe 734024, Tajikistan

Thursday, April 17 --- Dushanbe and Vahdat

Attire: Casual.

8:30am – 9:15am **Working Breakfast Briefing with Ivan Saleyeu, Head of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) National Office in Tajikistan**

The delegation will have a working breakfast with Ivan Saleyeu, Head of the UNHCR National Office in Tajikistan, to provide context on the Afghan refugee situation in Tajikistan.

Tajikistan, with a border of around 800 miles with Afghanistan—the longest in Central Asia—has been deeply affected by the instability in its neighboring country for the past 40 years. As of June 30, 2024, Tajikistan hosts over 10,000 refugees and asylum seekers, with 78% of the country's refugee population residing in Vahdat, making the city a central hub for refugee assistance and integration efforts, highlighting the city's importance in ongoing humanitarian support. UNHCR, together with IOM, advocate for non-discriminatory asylum processes, socio-economic inclusion, and sustainable solutions, with the support of expanded partnerships.

Location: Hilton Dushanbe

9:15am – 10:00am Transit via hired car to Vahdat Youth Center

10:00am – 11:15am **Visit to Vahdat Youth Centre and Meeting with Young Afghan Refugees**

Vahdat, a town in western Tajikistan near Dushanbe, is the only municipality where the Government of Tajikistan permit Afghan refugees to permanently live. As a result, approximately 90% of Vahdat's 43,200 residents are originally from Afghanistan and are living in the country on a non-permanent basis, as Tajikistan offers no pathways to residency or citizenship to Afghan nationals.

Despite economic challenges and inadequate infrastructure, Vahdat has fostered social cohesion by providing education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities to refugees since the enactment of Government Resolution #325 in 2000, which the restricted residence of refugees was first enacted. To support the growing refugee population, the United Nations in Tajikistan has partnered with local and international stakeholders to improve infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, and women's centers, including the Vahdat Youth Center.

In partnership with the UN and with significant support from the municipal and federal government, the Vahdat Youth Center provides free extracurricular classes and services to over 2,000 youth and children in

Vahdat annually, half of whom are refugees, fostering inclusivity through volunteer engagement. Since establishing the first Computer and Technologies Center (CTA) in 2009, UNHCR has expanded educational and vocational opportunities of the Center by upgrading equipment and facilities.

Location: Youth Palace, Tugdona Street 51, Vahdat 735400

11:15am – 11:20am Transit via hired car to Auchan Supermarket

11:20am – 11:45am **Visit to Auchan Supermarket**

The delegation will visit a local branch of the Auchan Supermarket chain, which employs approximately 10 Afghan refugees, creating opportunities for self-sustaining economic mobility and community strengthening.

Location: Auchan Supermarket, Vahdat, Dushanbe Region

11:45am – 11:50am Transit via hired car to Vahdat School #3

11:50am – 12:20pm **Visit to Vahdat School #3 to Observe Water and Sanitation Renovation Project, Supported by UNICEF**

The delegation will visit a local primary school which had its sanitation, water supply, and waste disposal facilities renovated thanks to UNICEF and the U.S. Government. The renovation, which created a safer learning environment for at least 2,525 children (1,177 girls 1,348 boys) and more than 100 school staff, included water storage, connection of the school to centralized sewer network, rehabilitation/construction of indoor and outdoor toilets accessible for girls, boys; indoor and outdoor hand washing stations, menstrual hygiene management facilities.

Location: School #3, Vahdat District, Dushanbe Region

12:20pm – 12:30pm Transit via hired car to Ariana Learning Centre

12:30pm – 1:00pm **Visit to Ariana Learning Centre**

The Ariana Learning Center (ALC) was established in August 2020 by an Afghan female refugee and DAFI graduate residing in Vahdat. The Center, serves approximately 1,200 children and youth, including around 800 Afghan nationals and 400 local Tajik children. The ALC operates solely for educational purposes and maintains a strict policy of no religious affiliations. The educational programs at ALC include a wide range of subjects, including literacy, math, science, languages and arts, designed to bridge the educational gaps experienced by refugee children.

To leverage the resources, expertise, and opportunities of the private sector to advance socio-economic inclusion of refugees through skills learning, apprenticeship and employment, LoUs have been signed with such renowned companies as Hilton hotel, Dushanbe Serena hotel, Auchan and Coca Cola.

Location: Ariana Learning Center, Rudaki Ave 735400, Vahdat

1:00pm – 1:15pm Transit via hired car to Dunyoi Osh Restaurant

1:15pm – 2:15pm **Lunch and Focus Group Discussion with Afghan Refugees**

The delegation will have a working lunch with Afghan refugees living in Vahdat to learn about their experiences in Tajikistan and how UNHCR, the UN International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF, and other UN agencies are supporting livelihood, education, and protection efforts throughout the community.

Location: Dunyoi Osh Restaurant

2:15pm – 3:45pm Transit via hired car to Dushanbe Hotline Facility

3:45pm – 4:30pm **Visit to Countering Trafficking in Persons Hotline Facility, Supported by the UN International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

The delegation will visit the IOM-supported hotline center, which was established under USAID’s “Safe Migration and CTIP” project and designed to protect potential migrants from becoming victims of human trafficking. This hotline serves as a lifeline for individuals in crisis, offering essential consultations on legal migration practices and human trafficking prevention both within Tajikistan and abroad.

By witnessing its operations firsthand, the delegation will see how trained specialists identify and refer at-risk individuals to necessary support services, ensuring timely assistance. Additionally, a visit highlights the hotline’s impact in providing legal guidance, emergency response, and reintegration support, reinforcing the importance of sustained investment in such protective mechanisms.

A direct engagement with hotline staff and case studies of beneficiaries will showcase the real-life challenges faced by migrants, the effectiveness of the hotline’s intervention, and how it contributes to safer migration outcomes.

5:00pm – 5:30pm Transit via hired car to Hyatt Regency Dushanbe

5:30pm – 6:45pm Executive Time

6:45pm – 7:00pm Transit via hired car to CZN BURAK Restaurant

7:00pm – 8:30pm **Working Dinner with Salahuddin Sadi, World Health Organization (WHO) Representative, a.i. in Tajikistan; Nargis Rakhimova, UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Head of Tajikistan Office; Aziza Hamidova, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) Country Director in Tajikistan; and Lazima Onta-Bhatta, UNDP Resident Representative, a.i. in Tajikistan**

The delegation will have a working dinner with the heads of WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, and UNDP in Tajikistan to learn how the UN is working collaboratively to enhance health and well-being of the Tajik people, including through an ongoing EU-supported development program (running from 2021 to 2025) that is helping the government progress toward Universal Health Coverage.

Location: CZN BURAK, Rudaki Avenue 119, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Overnight Hilton Dushanbe
Ayni Street 48, Dushanbe 734024, Tajikistan

Friday, April 18 --- Dushanbe and Hisor

Attire: Casual.

8:30am – 9:00am Breakfast at hotel

9:00am – 9:30am Transit via hired car to Rudaki district

9:30am – 10:15am **Visit to the Republican Center of Livestock Biotechnology Institute for Livestock Production and Pastures (RCLB), Supported by FAO**

The delegation will visit the Livestock Biotechnology Institute, which aims to preserve and strengthen the national genetic diversity of farm animals in Tajikistan through the development, improvement and implementation of modern biotechnology advances in livestock breeding, dissemination of the best fodder production practices for small ruminants, as well as to improve pasture management systems.

During the visit, the delegation will learn about RCLB's artificial insemination program, which collects, stores, and distributes semen from pedigree animals to help local farmers improve their livestock genetics, thereby increasing productivity and resilience. The delegation will also

gain insights into farmer field schools, which educate farmers on best feeding practices, sustainable pasture management, climate adaptation, and GHG emission reduction strategies.

Location: Hazora village, Sarikishti jamoat, Rudaki district, Tajikistan

10:15am – 10:30am Transit via hired car to Hisor School #3

10:30am – 11:15am **Visit to Hisor School #3, Supported by UNICEF**

The delegation will visit a local middle school to learn about UNICEF’s work implementing an adolescent competency framework and promote Socratic learning methods that emphasizes the importance of critical thinking lessons for girls and boys.

Location: Hisor District

11:15am – 11:30am Transit via hired car to Hisor Fortress

11:30am – 12:15pm **Expert Guided Visit to Hisor Fortress**

The delegation will visit Hisor Fortress—one of the best-preserved archaeological sites in Tajikistan and a nearly unrivaled example of Tajikistan’s history dating back to approximately 500 BC. This visit will help the delegation better contextualize Tajikistan’s culture and characteristics—particularly its unique ethno-linguistic attributes—and provide them with an opportunity to interact with local residents, who will discuss tourism’s impact on the surrounding economy.

Location: Hisor Fortress, Hisor District

12:15pm – 1:00pm Transit via hired car to Serena Hotel

1:00pm – 1:45pm **Buffet Lunch**

Location: Serena Hotel, Rudaki Avenue 14, Dushanbe 734013, Tajikistan

1:45pm – 2:15pm Transit via hired car to Dushanbe

2:15pm – 3:00pm **Expert Guided Visit to National Museum of Antiquities of Tajikistan, led by A. Donish Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan Personnel**

The delegation will visit the National Museum of Antiquities of Tajikistan to learn more about the formation and development of Zoroastrian,

Buddhist, Hellenistic, and Islamic cultures and the role different faiths and religious practices played in shaping Tajik identity and political history.

Among its many offerings, the museum displays culturally significant artifacts of the Eneolithic and Bronze Age from the agricultural settlement of Sarazm, a site included in the UNESCO World heritage list. However, the most famous of the museum's holdings is the "Buddha in Nirvana," an almost 40-foot-long statue made of clay, which is today one of the largest ancient monuments of Buddhism in the world. The statute was uncovered in 1959 in the Buddhist monastery of Ajinateppa, which was active about 1500 years ago and located near Qurghonteppa in southern Tajikistan. The statue holds immense cultural and religious significance to Buddhists across Central Asia.

In 2001, on the eve of the tenth anniversary of Tajikistan's independence, U.S. Embassy Dushanbe sponsored a project to restore the ancient statue at a cost of \$30,000. The Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation also provided assistance to construct safe display cases for the museum's other exhibits.

Location: Academics Rajabov Street 7, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

3:00pm – 3:45pm

Visit to Tsum Central Market

The delegation will have an opportunity to peruse the multi-floor market where a wide variety of locally made arts and crafts are sold.

Location: Tsum Central Department Store, Rudaki Avenue 83, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

3:45pm – 4:00pm

Transit via hired car to Hilton Dushanbe

4:00pm – 5:00pm

Executive Time

5:00pm – 5:30pm

Transit via hired car to Istiqlol Park

5:30pm – 6:30pm

Expert Guided Visit to Istiqlol Museum and Independence Monument

The delegation will visit Istiqlol Museum, located in Independence Monument, and be instructed by a Tajik museum academic on the ancient history of Dushanbe and the development of the Tajik capital. The delegation will learn about the stage-by-stage growth of the city, the first modern buildings, its proclamation as the capital of an autonomous republic and then a union republic, and the first industrial and cultural institutions. They will additionally be instructed on the history of

Tajikistan’s independence from the USSR, the nation’s political structure, and guiding ideological principles.

Opened in 2022, the 121-meter height of the Istiqlol complex is a symbol of the 30th anniversary of state independence, with a primary goal to protect the historical and cultural values of the Tajik people, embody important pillars of statehood, further enhance the sense of national identity and strengthen the ideas of independence and freedom among the Tajik people.

Location: Rudaki Avenue 100, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

6:30pm – 7:00pm Transit via hired car to Plov

7:00pm – 9:15pm **Working Dinner Debrief with UN and U.S. Colleagues**

The delegation will have a working dinner debrief with UN and U.S. colleagues to discuss lessons learned, post-learning trip follow-up, and potential opportunities for continued engagement and coordination with the U.S. Congress and the UN in Tajikistan.

Location: Plov, Markazi Osh, HQ72+GQ9, Dushanbe

9:00pm – 9:15pm Transit via hired car to Hilton Dushanbe

Half-night Hilton Dushanbe
Ayni Street 48, Dushanbe 734024, Tajikistan

Saturday, April 19 --- Dushanbe/Travel/Istanbul/Washington, DC

12:30am – 12:45am Check out of hotel

12:45am – 1:00am Transit via hired car to Dushanbe International Airport (DYU)

3:00am Depart DYU via Turkish Airlines flight #255
Flight time 5h 25m

6:25am Arrive Istanbul (IST) for connection
Layover 9h 15m

3:40pm Depart IST via Turkish Airlines flight #7
Flight time 11h 5m

7:45pm Arrive IAD