

CANADA'S QUEST TO SECURE A SEAT ON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

On June 17, members of the United Nations General Assembly voted to elect two non-permanent seats to the Security Council. Canada lost its highly publicized bid for one of the seats by 20 votes.

The data show that all three candidates are strong supporters of the United Nations and its principles. Whether it is on the UNSC or not, Canada's contributions have made it one of the most respected UN Member States. Elections for the Western European and Other Group's rotating seats on the UNSC are held in every even-numbered year; Canada's next opportunity will come in 2022.

The United Nations Security Council



The Security Council (SC) is responsible for maintaining **international peace and security**. Unlike other organs of the United Nations, the Security Council is the only body that has the power to make decisions that Member States are obligated to implement. The SC has the power to impose sanctions and authorize the use of force.



The SC is composed of **15 members**: **5 permanent** and **10 rotating**. Permanent members include **China**, **France**, **Russian Federation**, **United Kingdom**, and **United States**. Non-permanent members of the Council are elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly. The rotating seats represent the five geographic regions of Member States. Canada will be competing for one of two **Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG)** seats.

Canada has been a member of the SC **6 times**, and held the seat once every decade during the 20th century after the creation of the Council. However, that trend has not continued into the 21st century. The last time Canada held the seat was from **1999-2000**. Canada's **2010** bid for a seat was unsuccessful with Portugal and Germany securing the Western European seats.

UNITED NATIONS

Infographic by: Xavier Delgado and Lauren Thomas

CANADA INSTITUTE

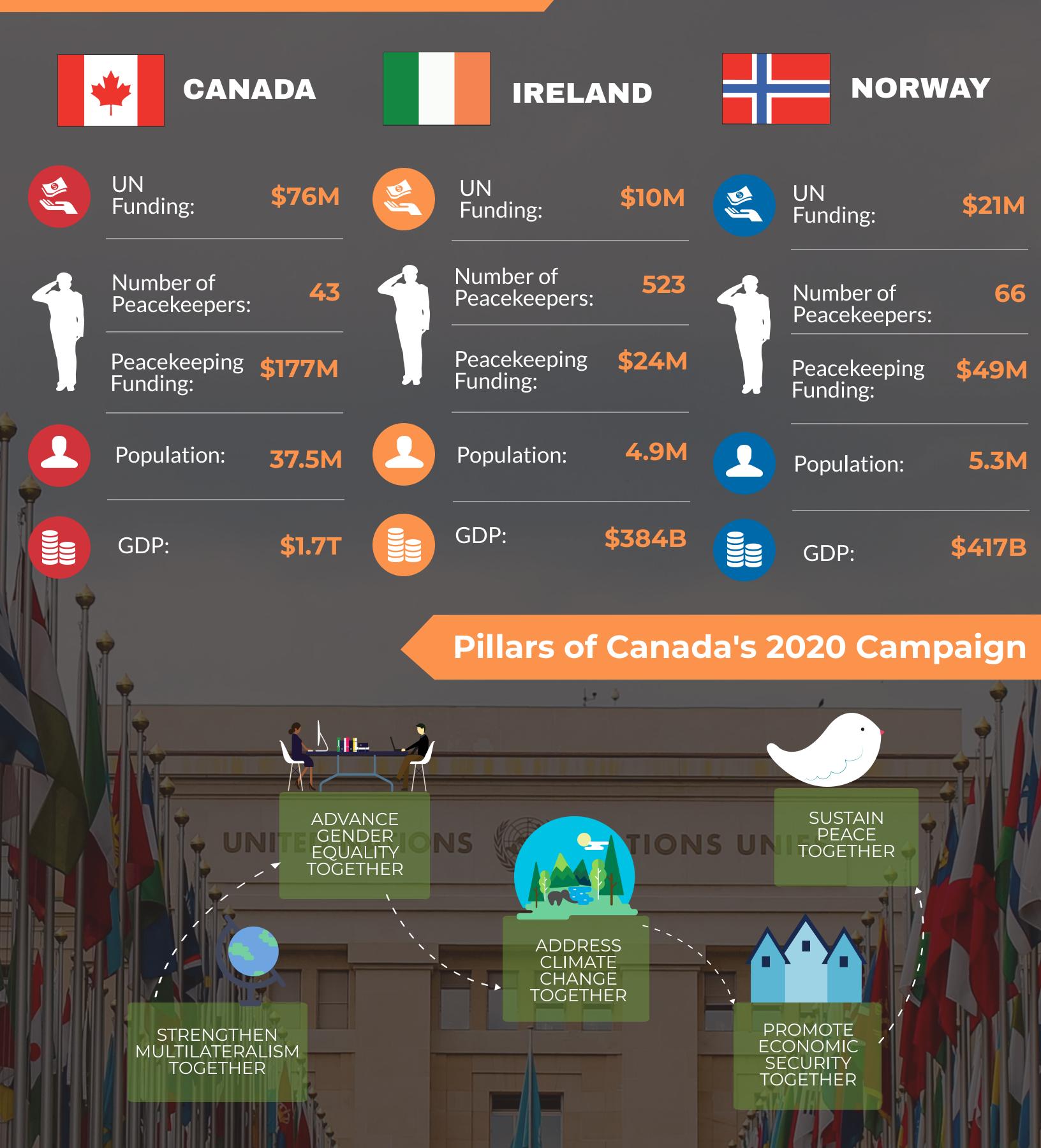
Wilson

Center



CANADA'S QUEST TO SECURE A SEAT ON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

How Does Canada Stack Up?





CANADA'S QUEST TO SECURE A SEAT ON THE **UN SECURITY COUNCIL**

Making Friends Winning Votes



PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU'S TRIP TO AFRICA

In February 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau met with African heads of state at the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa. Trudeau's visit was his third visit to Africa as Prime Minister, but his first to Ethiopia.



SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN AUTONOMY

The pro-Palestine voting bloc in the UN consists of about 80 states. Unlike the Harper Administration, Trudeau's government has voted in support of resolutions that back Palestinian self-determination in the General Assembly.



LEADERSHIP IN THE LIMA GROUP

Canada is a founding member of the Lima Group, which consists of 12 primarily Latin American states that are calling for a peaceful resolution to the Venezuela Crisis.

Sources:

https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/current-members https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/search/countryfield_member_state_value=CAN https://www.cgai.ca/un_security_council_elections_a_primer_for_canada https://www.un.org/en/ga/contributions/honourroll.shtml https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/troop-and-police-contributors https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/how-we-are-funded https://population.un.org/wpp/ Gross Domestic Product 2019, International Monetary Fund https://www.international.gc.ca/campaign-campagne/unsc-csnu/index.aspx?lang=eng https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2020/02/08/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-meets-president-rwanda-paul-kagame https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/palestine-israel-canada-un-1.5401124 https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/02/canada-to-host-ministerial-meeting-of-the-lima-group.html

