

## FEATURE

[ABC News](#)

# Trump bashes United Nations, world leaders in speech:

'Your countries are going to hell'

Trump slammed other countries, saying they need strong borders.

By [Alexandra Hutzler](#)

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*President Donald Trump addresses the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly, in New York City, Sept. 23, 2025.*

*Richard Drew/AP*

### Trump questions the purpose of the United Nations.

Addressing the UN General Assembly, Trump claimed he solved conflicts around the world while the UN did nothing asking, "What is the purpose of the United Nations?"

President Donald Trump delivered a combative speech to the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday morning, lambasting the

international body while touting the work of his administration.

Trump spared no criticism in the hourlong address, beginning with his predecessor former President Joe Biden before taking aim at world leaders on everything from migration to the Russia-Ukraine war.

"One year ago, our country was in deep trouble. But today, just eight months into my

administration, we're the hottest country anywhere in the world, and there is no other country even close," he said at the top of his remarks.

Trump touted the U.S. as having the "strongest" borders, military and relationships around the world.

The president then turned his attention to the United Nations, accusing it of not living up to its promise and even accused it of bringing on more problems.

"What is the purpose of the United Nations?" Trump asked. "It has such tremendous, tremendous potential. But it's not even coming close to living up to that potential. For the most part, at least for now, all they seem to do is write a really strongly worded letter and then never follow that letter up. It's empty words and empty words don't solve war. The only thing that solves war and wars is action."

Trump accused the organization of ignoring conflicts around the world that he claims he solved, casting himself as a peacemaker.

"Everyone says that I should get the Nobel Peace Prize for each one of these achievements," Trump said. "But for me, the real prize will be the sons and daughters who lived to grow up with their mothers and fathers because millions of people are no longer being killed in endless and inglorious wars."

Trump threatens Russia sanctions, but says Europe must do more

Trump said the United States is prepared to enforce a "very strong round of powerful tariffs" on Russia should Moscow not

be ready to make a peace deal.

But he said other countries need to pull back on buying Russian oil and energy products "otherwise we're all wasting a lot of time."

"Europe has to step it up. They can't be doing what they're doing. They're buying oil and gas from Russia while they're fighting Russia. It's embarrassing to them," Trump said.

Trump also took a moment to criticize China and India, calling them the main sponsors of the war in Ukraine because of their purchases of Russian oil.

The president has threatened for months to impose harsher economic penalties on Russia but has yet to do so. He didn't say on Tuesday what it would take for him to determine Russia doesn't want peace, though he said the war is "not making Russia look good, it's making them look bad."

Trump bashes world leaders on migration, green energy

Trump said other countries should be modeling the U.S. on the issue of immigration.



*President Donald Trump addresses the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly, in New York City, Sept. 23, 2025.*

*Jeenah Moon/Reuters*

Not only is the U.N. not solving the problems it should, too often it's actually creating new problems for us to solve," Trump said. "The best example is the No. 1 political issue of our time, the crisis of uncontrolled migration. It's uncontrolled. Your countries are being ruined."

To leaders gathered in the conference hall, Trump said: "Your countries are going to hell."

He also encouraged leaders to reject policies geared toward fighting climate change and global warming, falsely calling climate change "the greatest con job ever" and touting his administration's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement.

"If you don't get away from this green scam, your country is going to fail," Trump said.

Trump demands Hamas release hostages, disagrees on Palestinian statehood

On Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza, Trump said the world has to "come together" to "end the war in Gaza." He reiterated that he wanted to see the hostages released immediately, but offered no clear path forward on progressing negotiations.

Trump continued to express his disagreement with countries moving to recognize Palestinian statehood. Several key U.S. allies, most recently France, have announced they are recognizing a Palestinian state.

"Now, as if to encourage continued conflict, some of this body is seeking to unilaterally recognize a Palestinian state. The rewards would be too great for Hamas terrorists for their atrocities," Trump said.

Trump instead called for a united message from the body for Hamas to release hostages.



*President Donald Trump addresses the 80th United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters in New York City, September 23, 2025.  
Shannon Stapleton/Reuters*

"Those who want peace should be united with one message: release the hostages now. Just release the hostages now. Thank you," Trump said.

Trump warns drug smugglers, 'We will blow you out of existence'

The president highlighted his administration's recent strikes against alleged narcoterrorists from Venezuela, an unprecedented use of lethal military force against a criminal enterprise that [has raised legal questions](#).

"We've recently begun using the supreme power of the United States military to destroy Venezuela terrorists and trafficking networks led by Nicolas Maduro to every terrorist thug smuggling poisonous drugs into the United States of America," Trump said in his speech.

"To every terrorist thug smuggling poisonous drugs into the United States of America. Please be warned that we will blow you out of existence. That's what we're doing," Trump added.