

## **Jeffrey Feltman**

Over 40 years of experience in addressing global challenges, in both national and multilateral settings.

### **Experience**

#### **John C. Whitehead Visiting Fellow in International Diplomacy, Brookings Institution (May 2018-present)**

Within Brookings' Foreign Policy Program, provide analysis and research regarding the actual and potential role for multilateral approaches for global challenges. A founding member of Brookings' cross-disciplinary Initiative on Nonstate Armed Actors and part of Brookings' Security, Strategy and Technology Talbott Center. Regularly requested to participate in Brookings' "deep dives" on issues as diverse as China's role in Africa to Iran's regional ambitions.

#### **Senior Fellow, UN Foundation (July 2018-present)**

Provide strategic direction on the Foundation's incorporation of peace and security issues into its agenda, historically focused on sustainable development approaches by the UN. Serve as a strategic sounding board, advisor, and generator of ideas for the Foundation's CEO on how to leverage U.S. leadership to promote a more effective, modern multilateral system.

#### **United States Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, U.S. State Department (April 2021-January 2022)**

As the first-ever U.S. envoy focused on this strategically important part of Africa, promote stability and security through enhanced partnerships on both sides of the Red Sea and beyond. Inter alia, designed and implemented U.S. policy approaches to the Ethiopian conflict and humanitarian crisis, Sudan's troubled transition, and Eritrea's negative influence in the region. Established direct channels between African and Middle Eastern leaders to open channels for de-escalation in Ethiopia, provide policy options regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, and establish regional and international consensus regarding the military overthrow of Sudan's government. Worked directly with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chair of the African Union, and other senior regional and international officials to build a shared approach to addressing the region's challenges.

#### **Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, United Nations (July 2012-April 1, 2018)**

As the most senior U.S. citizen inside the United Nations Secretariat, led the UN's Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the UN's foreign policy, conflict prevention, and mediation division. Served as the chief foreign policy advisor to the UN Secretary-General and travelled extensively in that capacity, including the first high-level UN political visit to Pyongyang, DPRK in eight years. Directed the development of DPA's first strategic plan, to inspire unity and provide direction to over 400 New York-based international staff members,

recruited globally, in 12 diverse functional and regional divisions. Served as the UN lead on decisions and policies regarding UN electoral assistance to member states globally.

Chaired the UN's Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, a coordinating body of 38 entities, and served as Executive Director of the UN's Counter-Terrorism Center. Expanded the Center's staffing and funding and redefined its mission to focus on UN value-added and eliminate duplication with others. Designed and won member state support to create a new, free-standing Office of Counter-Terrorism that absorbed the CT functions as of July 2017.

Frequently briefed the Security Council on peace and security matters and developed innovative "early warning" mechanisms for Council members. Through technical assistance, deepened DPA's relations with regional organizations, to increase UN credibility and leverage for conflict prevention and resolution. Put the UN's mediation activities on solid financial and political grounds through member state outreach and an expanded donor base, raising annual voluntary funds from \$15 million (2012) to more than \$30 million (2017). Supported national peace processes in countries as diverse as Nepal, Colombia, and Libya.

For DPA's core functions, managed a budget of approximately \$70 million annually, of which over 40 percent was raised annually through targeted fund-raising. Oversaw and provided strategic direction to 36 special political missions and envoys working on conflict resolution, mostly in Africa, the Middle East, and West Asia, with a budget of approximately \$600 million and staff of over 3600 people from across the world.

**Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, U.S State Department  
(August 2009-May 2012)**

Led the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA), overseeing diplomatic activities and relations with 18 countries (from Morocco to Iran) and the Palestinian Authority, including during the turbulent "Arab Spring."

Served as the Secretary of State's key advisor on NEA-related issues and as her liaison with Arab partners. Provided strategic guidance to 18 U.S. chiefs of mission. Designed Bureau restructuring to bring more focus and leadership to Iran-related work and to North Africa. Managed a foreign assistance budget of nearly \$7 billion.

**Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, U.S. State Department (February 2008-August 2009)**

Managed the bureau and led career development, assignments and counselling of Bureau and overseas staff. Served as State's designated representative in the interagency process on issues related to Iran and Syria. Was Acting Assistant Secretary from December 2008 until Senate confirmation as Assistant Secretary in August 2009, with duties as described above.

**U.S. Ambassador, U.S. Embassy, Beirut, Lebanon  
(August 2004-January 2008)**

Was Chief of Mission during Lebanon's "Cedar Revolution." Designed a government-wide U.S. response for increased U.S. engagement with, and investment in, Lebanon's institutions. With French partners, built an alliance for UN Security Council action to support Lebanon.

During the 2006 Israel-Hizballah war, oversaw Embassy Beirut's evacuation of over 15,000 American citizens, at the time the largest non-combatant evacuation in U.S. history.

**Deputy Coordinator for Northern Iraq, Coalition Provisional Authority, Irbil, Iraq  
(January 2004-May 2004)**

Focused on reconciliation between the Kurds of northern Iraq and Arabs and on linking institutionally and politically the Kurdistan Regional Government with Baghdad.

**U.S. Deputy Principal Officer, U.S. Consulate-General, Jerusalem  
(August 2001-December 2003)**

In the absence of a chief of mission, served as Acting Consul General from July 2002. As this period was marked by the intense violence of the Second Intifada, focused on efforts toward de-escalation and a return to a political process. The Consulate-General in Jerusalem (now closed) was charged with leading U.S. diplomatic efforts with the Palestinians.

**Other experience**

Served in diplomatic postings in Tel Aviv, Israel (2000-2001); Tunis, Tunisia (1998-2000); Tel Aviv, Israel (1995-1998), with a particular focus on the Gaza Strip; Budapest, Hungary (1988-1991); and Port-au-Prince, Haiti (1986-1987). Studied Arabic in Arlington and Amman, Jordan (1993-1995). Also served in Deputy Secretary of State Larry Eagleburger's office to coordinate assistance to Central and Eastern Europe (1991-1993).

Prior to joining the U.S. Foreign Service in January 1986, worked for two non-profits in New York, the American Council on Germany and the Executive Council on Foreign Diplomats.

**Affiliations**

Member, Board of Directors of the American Academy of Diplomacy, since November 2020.

Member, Board of Directors of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), since January 2023.

Distinguished Non-Resident Fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute, since September 2022.

Distinguished Non-Resident Fellow, International Peace Institute, since September 2025.

Member, Expert Advisory Council, American Task Force on Lebanon, since July 2025.

Member, Advisory Committee, Acordemos International (a Bogota-based mediation foundation), since July 2025.

Member, Policy Council, Una Chapman Cox Foundation, since April 2024.

Member, Board of Directors, Tenet Vocal Artists, since July 2026.

Served as the inaugural James N. Mattis Distinguished Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin, February 2023.

From December 2018 until December 2025, served on the Board of Advisors, Dialogue Advisory Group (an Amsterdam-based private mediation NGO).

From January 2019 until January 2024, served as a Senior Advisor to the European Institute of Peace.

From March 2019 until April 2025, served as member of the Board of Governors, Middle East Institute, and Co-Chair of MEI's International Advisory Council.

From January 2021 until January 2025, was a member of the Advisory Council of the Berghof Foundation (a Berlin-based conflict resolution foundation).

From October 2018 until March 2022, served as a Senior Advisor to Kissinger Associates. This includes briefing business executives on international developments.

Frequently invited as a speaker, participant or panelist by both U.S. and international groups, including a number of informal dialogues with Russians, Iranians, and others..

### **Awards and accomplishments**

2026 recipient of the American Bar Association's Frances Shattuck Security and Peace Award, honoring "a person who has demonstrated significant leadership and courage in advancing and defending security and peace the rule of law on the national or international level."

2022 recipient of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy's "Class of 1947 Memorial Award", created "to honor those whose careers have advanced in notable ways The Fletcher School's founding ideals and purposes."

Achieved the rank of Career Minister in the Foreign Service, the second-highest rank in the senior Foreign Service (equivalent to a three-star general in the U.S. military).

Two-time recipient of the Presidential Service Award. Received multiple State Department awards, including several Superior Honor Awards and the James Clement Dunn Award for Excellence. The American Foreign Service Association conferred the Christian A. Herter Award for Constructive Dissent and the Sinclair Language Award.

Received an honorary doctorate from Ball State University (May 2013).

### **Education**

Graduated from Greenville (Ohio) High School, class of 1977.

Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts (May 1983).

Bachelor of Science, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana (1981). Majors in art and history.

**Personal**

A native of Greenville, Ohio, and married to Mary Draper, a retired member of the U.S. Foreign Service.