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Providing for the United States to assume a strong leadership role in implementing the decisions made at the Earth Summit by developing a national strategy to implement Agenda 21 and other Earth Summit agreements through domestic policy and foreign policy, by cooperating with all countries to identify and initiate further agreements to protect the global environment, and by supporting and participating in the high-level United Nations Sustainable Development Commission.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 24 (legislative day, MARCH 3), 1993

Mr. PELL (for himself, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. WELLSTONE) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

JOINT RESOLUTION

Providing for the United States to assume a strong leadership role in implementing the decisions made at the Earth Summit by developing a national strategy to implement Agenda 21 and other Earth Summit agreements through domestic policy and foreign policy, by cooperating with all countries to identify and initiate further agreements to protect the global environment, and by supporting and participating in the high-level United Nations Sustainable Development Commission.

Whereas the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as

“UNCED”), known as the Earth Summit, assembled in June of 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the largest summit of heads of state in history and outlined a comprehensive action plan (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as “Agenda 21”) for environmentally sustainable development (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as “sustainable development”);

Whereas the United States has a strong national interest in the environmental sustainability of global economic development;

Whereas Agenda 21 offers a significant starting point for continuing progress in avoiding environmental degradation and social and economic disintegration in the 21st century;

Whereas the role of the United States should be one of leadership and positive action in the implementation process of Agenda 21 and all other decisions of UNCED;

Whereas Agenda 21 urges all governments to adopt national strategies for sustainable development;

Whereas Agenda 21 urges all countries to “make significant progress” in incorporating environmental costs into economic decisions, to undertake research or sustainable production methods and consumption patterns, and to undertake other actions to make their economies more environmentally sustainable;

Whereas Agenda 21 calls for a “supportive international climate for achieving environment and development goals” by “providing adequate financial resources to developing countries and dealing with international debt” and calls for “the reallocation of resources presently committed to military purposes” to support United States policies and

the efforts of developing countries to implement Agenda 21;

Whereas UNCED recommended that a high-level United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as the “Commission”) be established by the 47th United Nations General Assembly to provide a vital forum to review progress made by considering reports from national governments, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations;

Whereas many opportunities for agreements concerning more extensive actions on critical issues remained unresolved at UNCED and will require further attention by the nations of the world; and

Whereas the ultimate success of achieving sustainable development and a healthy environment at the national and international levels depends upon actions taken at the State and local community levels, and on actions by schools, public offices, businesses, and citizens: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 Effective follow-up to achieve the many goals of the agree-
 4 ments reached at UNCED will depend on the overall di-
 5 rection and action by the President and the Congress on
 6 the following:

7 (1) The President and the Congress should
 8 adopt a national strategy for environmentally sus-
 9 tainable development, based on an extensive process

1 of nationwide consultations with all interested orga-
2 nizations and individuals, including State and local
3 governments, nongovernmental organizations, busi-
4 nesses, and labor groups.

5 (2) The President and the Congress should en-
6 courage and facilitate, at all levels of community and
7 sectors of society, appropriate means for adopting
8 individual Agenda 21 plans of action, including the
9 establishment of local, county, State, business, and
10 other boards and commissions for achieving sustain-
11 able development. Each Member of the Congress
12 should help initiate this process within their States
13 or districts.

14 (3) The President, Secretary of State, and the
15 Congress should formulate initiatives and policies to
16 help developing countries develop the capacity to im-
17 plement Agenda 21. The Congress should restruc-
18 ture United States foreign assistance to provide a
19 fundamental mandate for sustainable development.

20 (4) The President should establish an effective
21 mechanism to plan, initiate, and coordinate United
22 States policy for implementing Agenda 21. Respon-
23 sibility should be vested in a duly constituted office,
24 headed by an appropriate high level official, and the
25 necessary staff support structure should be provided.

1 (5) In order to contribute to a transition to an
2 environmentally sustainable United States economy,
3 the research and policy initiatives urged in Agenda
4 21 should be pursued, including research on environ-
5 mentally sustainable consumption patterns, identi-
6 fication of a strategy to eliminate or reduce sub-
7 sidies for unsustainable natural resource exploi-
8 tation, and move toward pricing policies that more
9 truly reflect environmental costs.

10 (6) The Congress should adopt a system to re-
11 allocate an appropriate amount of savings from re-
12 duced defense spending in order to achieve the goals
13 of Agenda 21 for global environmental protection
14 and sustainable development over the next decade.

15 (7) The President should promote and actively
16 participate in new and existing multilateral efforts
17 aimed at creating a more favorable international eco-
18 nomic climate for developing countries to practice
19 sustainable development. Such efforts should in-
20 clude—

21 (A) reduction in developing country debt,
22 linked with environmental policy reforms;

23 (B) focusing the work of multilateral donor
24 consultative groups which now exist for each of
25 some eighty developing countries on evaluation

1 of, and support for, their national sustainable
2 development strategies; and

3 (C) increasing loans and concessional as-
4 sistance to developing countries where imple-
5 mentation of national sustainable development
6 strategies are underway.

7 (8) The United States should actively support
8 the Commission authorized by the 47th United Na-
9 tions General Assembly. The United States should
10 seek a strong role for the Commission in the United
11 Nations system to monitor and evaluate progress in
12 meeting the goals identified in Agenda 21 and other
13 decisions at UNCED. The United States should pur-
14 sue a strong sustainable development mandate for
15 all relevant activities of the United Nations and a
16 catalytic role for the Commission in coordinating
17 and facilitating the implementation of that mandate.

18 (9) The President should affirm strong United
19 States commitment to the Commission by—

20 (A) appointing a high-level representative
21 or delegation from the United States to the
22 Commission, including, as appropriate, rep-
23 resentation at the ministerial level and Congres-
24 sional and non-government observers, and

1 (B) supporting the United Nations Sec-
2 retary General for Policy Coordination and Sus-
3 tainable Development in coordinating the imple-
4 mentation of Agenda 21 in the United Nations
5 system and heading the secretariat support
6 structure for the Commission;

7 (10) The President should submit a national re-
8 port to the Commission on—

9 (A) activities the United States has under-
10 taken to implement Agenda 21, both domesti-
11 cally and internationally, on progress made to-
12 ward fulfilling other commitments undertaken
13 at UNCED; and

14 (B) other environmental and developmental
15 activities the United States has undertaken to
16 strengthen agreements reached at UNCED.

17 The President should strongly encourage all United
18 Nations members to submit such national reports.

19 (11) The United States should support rules of
20 procedure for the Commission which ensure the ac-
21 tive participation of nongovernmental organizations,
22 based on the procedures used in UNCED as agreed
23 in paragraphs 38.11 and 38.44 of Agenda 21, and
24 should also encourage the active participation in the
25 Commission of representatives of the international

1 financial institutions, GATT, regional and
2 subregional development banks and financial institu-
3 tions, and regional economic integration organiza-
4 tions.

5 (12) The President should submit an annual re-
6 port to the Congress on the steps taken by the Unit-
7 ed States to implement Agenda 21 and the rec-
8 ommendations made by this resolution, and should
9 make information regarding such steps available to
10 Members of the Congress upon their request.

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