

108TH CONGRESS
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S. RES. 375

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding initiatives for Greater Middle East reform and modernization including a Twenty-First Century Trust.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 9, 2004

Mr. LUGAR submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding initiatives for
Greater Middle East reform and modernization including
a Twenty-First Century Trust.

Whereas one of the greatest threats in the 21st century is the
nexus between terrorism and weapons of mass destruc-
tion, which is fueled by failed states and instability that
arises in large part from extremist organizations from the
Greater Middle East region including nations of the Mid-
dle East, North Africa, and Central and South Asia;

Whereas the United States must promote security and sta-
bility in this troubled region where demographics, reli-
gious extremism, autocratic governments, isolation, stag-
nant economic systems and war have often overwhelmed
the talents of the people and the wealth of the region's
natural resources;

Whereas poverty and economic underdevelopment do not cause terrorism, but, by promoting economic prosperity, political reform, peace and security in the Greater Middle East, the United States and the international community can help reduce the potential that such countries become a source of international terrorism;

Whereas advancements in communications, transportation, health and educational opportunities have yet to reach large percentages of the people of the Greater Middle East;

Whereas reform and modernization must come from the people and nations within the Greater Middle East and cannot be imposed from countries or individuals outside;

Whereas the best way to achieve these goals is to cooperate with our traditional partners and with other countries, specifically in the Greater Middle East on a new paradigm of reform and development;

Whereas the Arab Human Development Report of 2003 commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme identified the lack of knowledge, freedom, and the empowerment of women as the most serious challenges to development;

Whereas the United States launched the Middle East Partnership Initiative in 2002 to support economic, political, educational reform and the empowerment of women in the Middle East and has undertaken similar programs in North Africa and Central and South Asia that are creating educational and economic opportunity, fostering private sector development, and strengthening civil society;

Whereas other members of the Group of Eight (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, and the United Kingdom), and the European Union have established and supported similar programs and objectives; and the European Union, in particular, established the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in Barcelona in 1995 which includes development of economic and financial cooperation and greater emphasis on social, cultural, and political issues;

Whereas many nations of the Greater Middle East have individually and multilaterally expressed their interest and intentions to move towards implementing governmental and civil society modernization and reform, and many such countries have declared their commitment to support universal principles of democracy, human rights, and individual freedoms, including freedom for women;

Whereas the Alexandria Library in Egypt hosted a conference in March 2004 entitled Critical Reforms in the Arab World: From Rhetoric to Reality to bring together members of civil society in the Middle East including intellectuals, business people, and academics and the conference participants made a statement declaring that they “are fully convinced that reform is a necessary and urgent matter,” and that they embraced “without ambiguity, genuine democracy”;

Whereas the Arab League Summit in May 2004 resulted in an assertion of the firm resolve of these nations to reaffirm human rights and freedoms and to carry on reform and modernization, including consolidation of democratic practice, broadening participation of all components of civil society and widening women’s participation in the

political, economic, social, cultural and educational fields;
and

Whereas the members of the Group of Eight met in Sea Island, Georgia in June 2004 and committed to cooperate with the countries of the “Broader Middle East and North Africa” to assist in advancing their aspirations for political, economic and social reforms: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON GREATER MIDDLE**
 3 **EAST INITIATIVES FOR REFORM AND MOD-**
 4 **ERNIZATION, INCLUDING A TWENTY-FIRST**
 5 **CENTURY TRUST.**

6 It is the sense of the Senate that—

7 (1) in June 2004, the President encouraged the
 8 Group of Eight (the United States, Canada, France,
 9 Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, and the United
 10 Kingdom) to outline a plan to engage with the coun-
 11 tries of the “Broader Middle East and North Afri-
 12 ca” in a way that allows such countries to establish
 13 priorities for reform and modernization in the new
 14 millennium;

15 (2) reforms in the countries of the Greater Mid-
 16 dle East, including nations of the Middle East,
 17 North Africa, and Central and South Asia, must be
 18 generated from within by the people and govern-
 19 ments of such countries, and can only be effective if

1 undertaken in the context of people taking charge of
2 their own futures;

3 (3) the President should seek to build on the
4 initiatives of the Group of Eight and establish spe-
5 cific mechanisms for accomplishing the goals of re-
6 form and modernization of the Greater Middle East
7 such as establishment of a Greater Middle East
8 Twenty-First Century Trust, as described in section
9 2; the two-way nature of the functions of such a
10 Trust confers “ownership” of the processes of re-
11 form in the countries of the Greater Middle East
12 and will invite renewed dialog;

13 (4) the members of the Group of Eight and the
14 nations of the Greater Middle East region should
15 follow-up the G–8 Summit with official and private
16 meetings, conferences, and other events to further
17 explore and implement initiatives, including estab-
18 lishing terms of reference for a Greater Middle East
19 Twenty-First Century Trust;

20 (5) the members of the Group of Eight can help
21 effect long-term political and economic change in the
22 Greater Middle East by leveraging financial con-
23 tributions from Europe, Asia, and the wealthy coun-
24 tries of the region, and by providing the imprimatur
25 of the broad international community;

1 (6) the President should use his considerable le-
 2 verage with allies inside and outside the region to
 3 assist in the promotion of democratic reforms and
 4 political freedom; and

5 (7) recognizing that social and political change
 6 would be more difficult in an atmosphere of violence,
 7 the President should work with other industrialized
 8 democracies and with the countries of the Greater
 9 Middle East to promote peace and maintain a stable
 10 environment for long-term progress.

11 **SEC. 2. MODEL FOR ESTABLISHING A GREATER MIDDLE**
 12 **EAST TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY TRUST.**

13 The Senate urges the President to consider gener-
 14 ating support for a Greater Middle East Twenty-First
 15 Century Trust (hereinafter referred to as the “Trust”) in
 16 coordination and partnership with the members of the
 17 Group of Eight and the countries of the Greater Middle
 18 East in a quest for political, economic, and educational
 19 reform and for modernization in such countries. The Trust
 20 could be organized with the following guidelines:

21 (1) Donors to the Trust could pool resources to
 22 deliver grants and work together to define the fund-
 23 ing criteria for the Trust based on high priority
 24 needs identified by the recipients of such grants.

1 (2) The contributors to the Trust could include
 2 wealthy countries of the Greater Middle East, such
 3 as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and others willing to in-
 4 vest in their own futures and take a stake in the
 5 Trust's success.

6 (3) The Trust could be sensitive to cultural con-
 7 cerns of the people and governments of the countries
 8 of the Greater Middle East and could respect Is-
 9 lamic financial principles to ensure that the Trust
 10 will be accepted in the region.

11 (4) The Trust could reflect advances in under-
 12 standing of international development and be based
 13 on the models of the Africa Action Plan of the
 14 Group of Eight, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS,
 15 Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Millennium Chal-
 16 lenge Corporation, which represent a new form of
 17 social compact between governments and donors that
 18 does not superimpose a plan from donors but, in-
 19 stead, works with the recipient countries to plan and
 20 set priorities for assistance.

21 (5) Contributors to the Trust could use inde-
 22 pendent indicators to judge if a candidate country is
 23 making strides to promote the rule of law, political
 24 and civil rights, combat corruption, and modernize
 25 economic and education systems.

1 (6) The Trust could be a vehicle for action that
2 would set broad goals and criteria and should in-
3 clude specific programs developed and offered by the
4 countries that will receive assistance from the Trust.

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