

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 185

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding reform of the United Nations.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 1 (legislative day, JUNE 30), 2005

Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. NELSON of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding reform of the United Nations.

Whereas, on July 28, 1945, the Senate approved the resolution advising and consenting to the ratification of the Charter of the United Nations by a vote of 89 to 2;

Whereas recent events, including the United Nations oil-for-food scandal and sexual misconduct by United Nations peacekeepers, have led to declining public confidence in the United Nations;

Whereas there is broad international agreement that the United Nations must reform its existing policies, practices, and institutions in order to better manage the interests of its 191 members and address the current threats to international peace and security;

Whereas the future direction of the United Nations has recently been addressed in the report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, issued on December 2, 2004, the report of the Secretary-General entitled "In Larger Freedom: Toward Development, Security and Human Rights for All", issued on March 21, 2005, and the report of the congressionally mandated Task Force on the United Nations, convened by the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), entitled "American Interests and UN Reform", issued on June 15, 2005;

Whereas these reports call for comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including overhauling basic management practices and building a more transparent, accountable, efficient, and effective organization;

Whereas these reports highlight the deficiencies in the United Nations human rights bodies, in particular the practice of allowing countries that have violated human rights to sit on United Nations bodies that were established to monitor, promote, and enforce human rights;

Whereas these reports highlight many serious problems with the United Nations peacekeeping operations that need to be addressed while the peacekeepers are deployed in critical situations around the world;

Whereas these reports discuss the question of United Nations Security Council reform in an attempt to increase the effectiveness and credibility of the Security Council and to enhance its capacity and willingness to act in the face of threats;

Whereas the USIP Task Force emphasized the importance that any reform of the United Nations Security Council

must enhance its effectiveness and not in any way detract from the Security Council's efficiency and ability to act in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations; and

Whereas the United Nations has an important role to play in providing a forum for countries to discuss issues and resolve differences and to address the pressing humanitarian issues and security threats of the day: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) declares that a credible, effective, and re-
3 formed United Nations can play an important role
4 in helping promote global peace and security;

5 (2) reaffirms that reform of the United Nations
6 Security Council would necessitate a revision of the
7 Charter of the United Nations, which would con-
8 stitute a treaty revision requiring an affirmative vote
9 in the Senate by a two-thirds majority;

10 (3) states that the United Nations and its sub-
11 sidiary bodies and agencies must be reformed, re-
12 focused, and made more efficient, and must become
13 more transparent and more accountable;

14 (4) declares that oversight of the United Na-
15 tions must be improved, that the management sys-
16 tems and budgeting processes of the institution must
17 be updated and modified, and that protections for

1 whistleblowers employed by the United Nations must
2 be implemented;

3 (5) states that the United Nations Human
4 Rights Commission should be abolished and replaced
5 by a United Nations Human Rights Council or other
6 body composed of governments that are committed
7 to upholding human rights;

8 (6) declares that the reforms described above
9 must be implemented before the Senate will consider
10 changes to the Charter of the United Nations that
11 require the advice and consent of the Senate; and

12 (7) urges the Secretary of State—

13 (A) to provide the Senate the Secretary of
14 State's recommendations for reform of the
15 United Nations; and

16 (B) to consult fully and regularly with the
17 Senate as deliberations on United Nations re-
18 form progress.

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