

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 56

Urging the Government of Moldova to ensure a fair and democratic election process for the parliamentary elections on April 5, 2009.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 25, 2009

Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

MARCH 31, 2009

Reported by Mr. KERRY, without amendment

APRIL 1, 2009

Considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Urging the Government of Moldova to ensure a fair and democratic election process for the parliamentary elections on April 5, 2009.

Whereas Senate Resolution 60, 110th Congress, agreed to February 17, 2005, expressed the support of the Senate for democratic reform in Moldova and urged the Government of Moldova to ensure a democratic and fair election process for the parliamentary elections on March 6, 2005, by ensuring “unimpeded access by all parties and candidates to print, radio, television, and Internet media on a nondiscriminatory basis” and “the right of opposi-

tion candidates and workers to engage in campaigning free of harassment, discrimination, and intimidation”;

Whereas the Election Observation Mission of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) found that, while the parliamentary elections in 2005 generally complied with most of the OSCE commitments and other international standards, “they fell short of some that are central to a genuinely competitive election process”, in particular “campaign conditions and access to media”, confirming the “negative trends already noted in the 2003 local elections”;

Whereas the Election Observation Mission found that the local elections held in June 2007 in Moldova were generally well administered but “fell short of a number of OSCE commitments central to a competitive electoral process”, in particular by not fully respecting “the right of citizens to seek public office and equitable media access”;

Whereas Freedom House, a non-profit, nonpartisan organization working to advance the expansion of freedom, again in 2008 designated the political environment of Moldova as only “partly free”;

Whereas political liberties and civil rights are key indicators of eligibility for support from the Millennium Challenge Corporation, an entity of the United States Government, which is now considering a sizeable grant for the economic and political development of Moldova; and

Whereas recent actions by entities of the Government of Moldova raise serious questions about the readiness of the Government of Moldova to break free from the unfor-

tunate patterns established in the elections in 2003, 2005, and 2007 and to create the campaign conditions and access to media required for truly free and fair elections: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) reaffirms the strong, mutually beneficial re-
3 lationship that exists between the United States
4 Government and the Government of Moldova;

5 (2) recognizes that the development of a genu-
6 inely democratic political system in Moldova is a pre-
7 condition for the full integration of Moldova into the
8 Western community of nations and the provision of
9 assistance necessary to attain such integration;

10 (3) urges the Government of Moldova to meet
11 its commitments to the Organization for Security
12 and Co-operation in Europe, especially in respect to
13 the conduct of elections, by guaranteeing—

14 (A) unimpeded access by all parties and
15 candidates to public print, radio, television, and
16 Internet media on a nondiscriminatory basis;

17 (B) the ability of independent media to
18 cover campaigns on an unrestricted basis;

19 (C) the right of opposition candidates and
20 workers to engage in campaigning free of har-
21 assment, discrimination, and intimidation; and

1 (D) adequate means for citizens of
2 Moldova residing abroad to cast their ballots;
3 and

4 (4) in light of the steps taken by the Govern-
5 ment of Moldova, pledges the continued support of
6 the United States Government for the establishment
7 in Moldova of a fully free and democratic system,
8 the creation of a prosperous market economy, and
9 the assumption by Moldova of its rightful place as
10 a full and equal member of the Western community
11 of democracies.

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