

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 102

Relating to efforts to reduce hunger in sub-Saharan Africa.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 4, 2001

Mr. LEACH (for himself and Mr. PAYNE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Relating to efforts to reduce hunger in sub-Saharan Africa.

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This concurrent resolution may be cited as the “Hun-
5 ger to Harvest Resolution: A Decade of Concern for Afri-
6 ca”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

9 (1) Despite progress in recent years, sub-Saha-
10 ran Africa enters the new millennium with many of
11 the world’s poorest countries and is the one area of

1 the world where hunger is both pervasive and in-
2 creasing.

3 (2) 33 of the world's 41 poorest debtor coun-
4 tries are in sub-Saharan Africa, and approximately
5 291,000,000 individuals in sub-Saharan Africa,
6 nearly half of sub-Saharan Africa's total population,
7 currently live in extreme poverty on less than \$1 a
8 day.

9 (3) One in three people in sub-Saharan Africa
10 is chronically undernourished, and the number of
11 chronically undernourished people in the region has
12 doubled in the past three decades. One child out of
13 every seven dies before his or her fifth birthday, and
14 one-half of these deaths are due to malnutrition.

15 (4) Sub-Saharan Africa is the region in the
16 world most affected by global infectious disease, ac-
17 counting for one-half of infectious disease-caused
18 deaths worldwide, according to a January 2000 re-
19 port by the Central Intelligence Agency. Deaths
20 from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, cholera, and
21 several other diseases in sub-Saharan Africa exceed
22 those in all other regions.

23 (5) Sub-Saharan Africa is home to 70 percent
24 of adults and 80 percent of children living with the
25 HIV virus, and to three-quarters of the people

1 worldwide who have died of AIDS since the epidemic
2 began.

3 (6) According to the World Bank, the HIV/
4 AIDS pandemic has erased many of the development
5 gains of the past generation in sub-Saharan Africa
6 and now threatens to undermine economic and social
7 prospects for the next generation, with life expect-
8 ancy in parts of sub-Saharan Africa having already
9 decreased on average by 10-20 years as a result of
10 AIDS.

11 (7) Despite these development challenges, the
12 number of sub-Saharan African countries that are
13 moving toward open economies and more account-
14 able government has increased, and these countries
15 are together beginning to establish local solutions to
16 the problems of the region.

17 (8) To make lasting improvements in the lives
18 of their people, sub-Saharan African governments
19 need to be supported as they take meaningful steps
20 to reduce conflict, advance economic reform, stimu-
21 late growth, improve governance, and make essential
22 investments in people and infrastructure.

23 (9) Notwithstanding sub-Saharan Africa's enor-
24 mous development challenges, United States compa-
25 nies hold approximately \$15,000,000,000 in invest-

1 ments in sub-Saharan Africa, greater than United
2 States investments in either the Middle East or
3 Eastern Europe, and total United States trade with
4 sub-Saharan Africa currently exceeds that with all of
5 the independent states of the former Soviet Union,
6 including the Russian Federation. This economic re-
7 lationship could be put at risk without greater atten-
8 tion to growth and poverty-focused development in
9 sub-Saharan Africa.

10 (10) Bread for the World Institute calculates
11 that the goal of reducing world hunger in one-half
12 not later than 2015 is achievable through an in-
13 crease of \$4,000,000,000 in annual funding for ef-
14 fective, poverty-focused development from all donors.
15 If the United States were to shoulder one-fourth of
16 the aid burden—approximately \$1,000,000,000 a
17 year—the obligation of America would amount to a
18 penny per day per citizen.

19 (11) According to a recent nationwide poll by
20 the Program on International Policy Attitudes, 83
21 percent of Americans think that the United States
22 should be willing to commit to a joint plan for cut-
23 ting world hunger by one-half by the year 2015.

1 (12) Sustainable development and poverty re-
2 duction in sub-Saharan Africa cannot occur without
3 additional public and private sector investment.

4 (13) Failure to effectively address sub-Saharan
5 Africa's crisis of development could result in height-
6 ened instability on the continent, greater political
7 conflict, and increased poverty, increasing the pros-
8 pect of humanitarian intervention and potentially
9 threatening a wide range of United States interests.

10 (14) Efforts to reduce hunger and poverty
11 should begin in sub-Saharan Africa, where condi-
12 tions are both widespread and increasing. The right
13 to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness should
14 not be denied to people simply because they live on
15 an impoverished continent.

16 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

17 It is the sense of Congress that—

18 (1) a moral people cannot tolerate the existence
19 of hunger, poverty, and disease in any part of the
20 world;

21 (2) the United States should declare A Decade
22 of Concern for Africa and commit to increased levels
23 of effective, poverty-focused development assistance
24 to sub-Saharan Africa until significant progress is

1 made toward reversing current levels of hunger and
2 poverty;

3 (3) the President should work with the heads of
4 other advanced industrial countries and sub-Saharan
5 African countries, and with United States and sub-
6 Sharan African private voluntary organizations and
7 other civic organizations, to increase development as-
8 sistance for sub-Saharan Africa and ensure that
9 such assistance is used effectively to reduce hunger
10 and poverty;

11 (4) Congress should undertake a multi-year
12 commitment with other donors to provide the re-
13 sources necessary to cut hunger by one-half in sub-
14 Saharan Africa, with funding directed toward—

15 (A) health, including efforts to prevent,
16 treat, and control HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and
17 malaria, and promote maternal health and child
18 survival;

19 (B) education, with an emphasis on equal
20 access to learning for girls and women;

21 (C) agriculture, food systems, infrastruc-
22 ture and rural development;

23 (D) micro-finance development; and

24 (E) bilateral and multilateral debt relief
25 that enables sub-Saharan African countries to

1 invest in poverty-focused development, and
2 strengthens and expands democratic participa-
3 tion, free markets, trade, and investment;

4 (5) such funding should support both bilateral
5 and multilateral poverty-focused development efforts
6 in sub-Saharan Africa, including efforts by non-
7 governmental and private voluntary organizations,
8 including faith-based institutions; and

9 (6) the Administrator of the United States
10 Agency for International Development, in consulta-
11 tion with the heads of other appropriate agencies,
12 should annually prepare and submit to Congress a
13 report on the progress achieved in the implementa-
14 tion of paragraphs (3) and (4).

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